



Welcome

PUSH THE BOUNDARIES

If I were to list the names Michael Weir, Jim Furyk, Ben Curtis and Shaun Micheel what would they mean to you? Now I'm pretty sure the golfers among you will be able to say that they are the winners of golf's four majors in 2003, but you have to admit that it helps that the names are listed together and in order.

If the names had been thrown at you at the beginning of the year I'm sure you would have heard of Jim Furyk, he was after all, already a Ryder Cup player and you may have known Michael Weir, as he had won the 2000 American Express Championship at Valderrama and was one of a very small band of top quality left handers. However, I'd bet bucket loads that Ben Curtis and Shaun Micheel could have walked past you in the clubhouse without a second look. They probably still could!

Talking of betting it would be interesting to learn what a 10p accumulator would have reached on a successful prediction of the 2003 Major Winners. Having said that I don't think you would have believed your crystal ball. Let's face it, no Tiger, Ernie, Phil, Vijay or Sergio, you've got to be kidding?

I'm equally sure that this time last year Ben and Shaun didn't have "Win a Major Championship" as one of their goals for 2003.

And I suppose that should be a lesson to us all. We may not know what we are capable of and it may be that if we were to push ourselves forward and accept challenges we might not be found wanting. Holding back because we might fail or, worse, be found out, is a failing we succumb to all too often as unfortunately we seem to think it's better to have abstained than to have tried and failed.

I find with the magazine that often people with a great tale to tell are reluctant to put pen to paper or digit to keyboard. Don't be. If what you want to say is worth saying we'll find a way of making it publishable. It's the same in other areas. Why not enter your club in the Environment Competition? What's the worst that can happen? I'll tell you. You don't get through the first round of judging but you will have spent time considering and assessing your club's current environmental projects and needs which must be a good thing. Why not investigate the Master Greenkeeper programme? You may have to collect a few more credits before being able to move to the next stage but by doing so you are already setting out on a voyage of self improvement. It's the same with preparing to move on in your career. Putting in the work will open doors.

The point is, as Ben and Shaun found out this year, you won't discover the limit to your expectations if you don't push them and you might have an awful lot more inside you that you ever believed.

The great thing is that trying doesn't do any harm but a great deal of good.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

RETIREMENT AFTER 51 YEARS

Etesia's UK Sales & General Manager, Robin Taylor, is retiring, following a career spanning 51 years devoted to the agricultural engineering and outdoor power equipment industries.

He joined Etesia in 1991, initially as Southern Area Manager before becoming Sales Manager and eventually rising to his current position. At that time Etesia was a new manufacturer which had entered the highly competitive UK garden machinery market just three years earlier.

"In those days, Etesia's UK operation mainly consisted of just me and a van covering the whole of the country, appointing dealers and doing demonstrations. We had just one product – the Hydro 100 ride-on mower. The machine had been developed as a result of extensive research and development – its unique feature was that it would cut and collect without clogging...even in the pouring rain! Some days I got very wet demonstrating - but the mower performed so well, it virtually sold itself!" recalled Robin.

For the past 12 years Robin has been responsible for firmly establishing Etesia. "Etesia owes a great debt of gratitude to Robin for his hard

work and diligence in setting up and expanding our UK operation. His wealth of experience, tenacity and tireless energy over the years have contributed to Etesia's success and recognition as a leading brand, especially in the commercial sector. We wish him a well-earned and very happy retirement," said Managing Director, Patrick Vives.



WORTHWHILE TRIP



As part of the planned expansion programme into Europe, Hunter Grinders were exhibiting for the first time at the Elmia Park & Golf Show in Jonkoping, Sweden. The show proved one of Hunters most successful and ended with Golf Maskiner, the well known distributor of grass care machinery, being appointed to handle Hunter products in Sweden.

Peter Jonsson, Managing Director of Golf Maskiner was pleased with the development.

"We like the product very much and can see a very healthy market in Sweden. Following discussions with the Company, we are confident that Hunter Grinders can offer us the sales and engineering back up that only comes from trained experienced staff. Since the show we have already confirmed three sales and anticipate many more for the coming year."

The enthusiasm for the Hunter Grinders machines was attributed to a number of factors

such as the rapidly expanding golf market in Sweden.

Many of the greenkeepers who attended the show were surprised and delighted to see another grinder manufacturer who advocated relief grinding as the preferred method for sustained accuracy and sharpness. They were also impressed with the robust construction of the Jupiter 2000 and the fact that it will relief, spin and sharpen cylinders and bottom blades on the one machine.

"We went to Sweden with a completely open mind" said Keith Cann-Evans, Managing Director for Hunter Grinders.

"The hands on knowledge of the visitors to the show and their well-founded enthusiasm for relief grinding was impressive. We are looking forward to establishing ourselves very quickly through Golf Maskiner as the leading supplier of mower grinders in Sweden."