



Welcome

A WARM GLOW BUT NO MORE

Well, did you follow the Ryder Cup? After two days of listening to the excellent coverage on Radio 5 Live I succumbed and tracked down the Sky television coverage in my local health club for the final evening – for us poor terrestrial TV beings it does lose a little impact not seeing it live – and I thought it was wonderful.

A huge winning margin in the end but still just enough of doubt to keep us on the edges of our seats until Monty did what Monty does when he is representing Europe.

Almost as soon as Bernhard Langer raised the Cup aloft we got the same old question from the pundits and commentators. What will this mean for European golf? It was the same when we won curling gold in the Winter Olympics and when our mixed doubles did well at badminton in the Athens games.

What will this mean for curling and badminton? Would everyone be heading to the nearest ice rink, not with skates but with one smooth soled shoe and a broom, or badgering the local village hall to mark out a court and invest in a net?

It was the same when England won the Rugby World Cup. We were going to be getting more youngsters wearing rugby shirts bearing the number 10 practicing goal kicking than football shirts carrying the number seven honing their free kicks.

Well we're a year on from that triumph in Sydney but there are still far more Beckham shirts in the high streets of Middle England than the slightly thicker one's bearing the name of Wilkinson.

We all know that in the short term we get a nice warm glow from such wins but in the long term they mean very little indeed. In many ways rightly so.

If golf was going to receive a huge boost because Europe won the Ryder Cup at Oakland Hills, in Detroit, the reverse would have to be true as well. If we'd been hammered 18.5-9.5 would golf have gone into the doldrums for a while? Would people have stopped turning up at clubs? Would people be selling their Pings and Calloways and looking to take up curling, badminton or rugby union instead? Would the revenue streams at clubs begin to dry up and cutbacks become the order of the day? Would jobs go? To begin with those of greenkeepers but then that of the Editor of Greenkeeper International because without a strong profession there would be no funding to produce a greenkeeping magazine.

Thankfully, for you and me, the answer is no.

Having 12 players, or in the case of the US 11 players and Tiger Woods, battling it out for points over a magnificently presented course provides huge drama and no little excitement but having our own futures dependant on the outcome is another matter all together.

Let's just enjoy the fact that for the moment we are on top and can send emails to our American friends with the short but pithy message "Na, na, ni, na na!"

Scott MacCallum
Editor

DARREN AND SIMON WIN SURREY BOWL

The Surrey Bowl knockout final was held at Foxhills Golf Club on September 1.

The finalists were Darren Woodward and Simon Kirkham, of West Surrey Golf Club, both playing off 7 handicap, and John Mathis off 1 handicap, from Southwood Golf Club, and Brian Turner off 3 handicap, from Sunningdale Golf Club.

In a keenly fought final, on a lovely summer's day (at last), Darren and Simon eventually ran out the winners by 3 and 1.

Congratulations to Darren and Simon but also to the runners-up John and Brian because it takes two teams to make a final.

I would also like to thank Dave Langheim and Dave Wyborn the two Course Managers and all the staff at Foxhills for all their help with the event, and giving us a course in great condition considering the weather of late. Thanks also to Lee West for running the event, and good luck in the new job.

Lastly, and a very big thank you must go to Bob Norris of TYM Tractors who stepped in at the eleventh hour to sponsor this event, thanks very much Bob and I hope we will be able to continue with your sponsorship again for next year.

Anthony Freeman
Surrey Chairman



Winners of the 2004 Surrey Bowl Darren Woodward and Simon Kirkham (left) with runners-up Brian Turner and John Mathis.



Section Chairman Anthony Freeman (left) receives a cheque on behalf of the Section from Bob Morris of TYM, the Tournament's sponsors.

ADDING A NEW FACE TO HQ STAFF

September saw BIGGA welcome a new employee. Steve Coates has joined the Association in the position of Assistant Accountant, where he will work with Tony Cocker.



Steve, 25, has previously worked at both DuPontSA, in purchase ledger, and at Pearsons & Ward, where he was a legal cashier.

Between these two vocations Steve was employed by Pocklington Coachworks. The firm built coaches and support vehicles for major Formula 1 teams including McLaren, Williams and Toyota, and also for Foggy Petronas, home of four times World Champion Carl Foggaty.

Steve studied at the University of Sunderland, where he gained a 2:1 in Geography and Business Studies. Currently he is studying for his AAT, where he is at the technician stage. An ambitious individual, after passing his AAT Steve plans to go for his ACCA.

Steve is engaged to childhood sweetheart Emma, and they currently live together in Pickering.

It's been an exciting month for Steve and Emma, as well as his new job they have also celebrated a new arrival to the family. Their toy poodle, Kerry, has recently given birth to pup Betty.

RECYCLED GLASS 'PROVED' TO HELP

The Sports Turf Research Institute found that replacing traditional sand on the golf course with sand derived from recycled glass improves the chances of those drawn to the bunker.

The two-year project found that the recycled glass sand provides a better performance level with a firmer footing underneath. For golfers, it means less plugging of the ball, a steeper angle of repose and reduced slumping, say WRAP.

Laboratory tests carried out during the trial showed that the recycled glass conformed to all necessary performance requirements, it said, and is capable of complying with United States Golf Association specifications.

WRAP said the glass-sand also proves beneficial for greenkeepers when used as a top dressing around divots, as it can blend into the ground better than traditional sand.

Andy Dawe, WRAP's materials sector manager for glass, said, "The trial undertaken by the STRI has been successful, confirming recycled glass derived sand is a quality alternative to traditional sand."

"At the same time, it offers greenkeepers a sustainable quality product, as well as a way to demonstrate their environmental awareness and responsibility," he added.

WRAP – the Waste and Resources Action Programme – has targets to directly facilitate the recycling of an additional 150,000 tonnes of glass into higher value markets by 2006.

