



Welcome

A MAN WITH TARTAN IN HIS VEINS

A Scotsman winning the US Open! Who'd have thought Michael Campbell would become the first Scottish Major winner since Paul Lawrie in the 1999 Open? Now I know strictly speaking Campbell is a New Zealander but he himself is quick to attribute his golfing prowess to his Scottishness. His great, great, great grandfather - not sure about the exact number of greats - was a man called Logan Campbell who travelled from Scotland to the land of the long cloud and settled in very nicely it would seem.

Like Lawrie before him Campbell did well even to be at Pinehurst having to go through pre-qualifying. He snatched one the last qualifying places at the first UK-based US Open Qualifier at Walton Heath, superbly presented by Ian McMillan.

To then take on and beat the big boys in the main event was quite an achievement but no more than you would expect from a man with tartan blood flowing through his veins.

Taking the Championship as a whole the USGA went some way to rescuing themselves following the self inflicted problems of the previous year at Shinnecock when, in their manic desire to protect Old Man Par, they made the course virtually impossible to play.

Indeed on one green you'd have had more chance of halting a droplet running down a window pane than of stopping a golf ball on the short stuff. The problem reached such heights that the USGA decided to water the green during play which goes against the rules of golf and is definitely unfair to those players who had already gone through.

Now this year the weather was extremely hot particularly in the early part of the week but they had to do the same again and water greens which were threatening to bake and become rock hard. Now, surely the trick is to anticipate the potential problems and prepare the course accordingly. Euan Grant, at St Andrews, tells me that he could get the greens stimping at 14 for this month's Open but because it can be windy and the ball can be blown around they keep them down at around 12. Pure commonsense!

It was also interesting to read about Ian Poulter complaining about the hole cups not being inserted properly after a perfectly good looking putt bounced out. By all accounts, according to the British press, he had a valid point.

I've been to the US Open once, back in 1994, and was amazed that in the Media Centre scores were written on the huge scoreboard manually and very, very slowly, years after a much more effective and quicker system was in use in Europe.

We can be all too quick to compare ourselves unfavourably against our American cousins but we shouldn't. Our know how and skills are up there with the very best.

We shall see a perfect example of that at The Old Course where we will also see how the new US Open Champion copes on his return home.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

JCB EXPANSION

JCB'S UK dealers are embarking on one of their biggest single investment programmes by setting up separate sales companies to concentrate on JCB compact equipment.

The project will see the number of dealer salesmen dedicated to selling JCB compact equipment increase to in excess of 50.

The dealers - Greenshields JCB Compact Equipment, Gunn JCB Compact Equipment, Holt JCB Compact Equipment, Scot JCB Compact, TC Harrison JCB Compact and Watling JCB Compact - will also create separate compact equipment showrooms at

selected depots covering England, Scotland and Wales.

The dealers' expansion follows a decision earlier this year by JCB to set up its own Compact Equipment Sales division for Europe.

"JCB's compact equipment sales have been growing rapidly in recent years and have now reached a level where the creation of new compact equipment sales companies, with a dedicated, specialised sales force, makes sense," said the JCB Sales MD, Françoise Rausch.

HUGE EFFORT AT WENTWORTH

Once again BIGGA Members who volunteered their services for the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth had the pleasure of being part of a great tournament on a Course superbly presented, as always, by Chris Kennedy and his Greenkeeping Team.

This year 15 BIGGA Members were on standby duty in case of bad weather on the Thursday and Friday of the event. As it turned out the weather was kind with only a distant threat of thunderstorms on the second day.

On the Saturday and Sunday 40 volunteers plus a few reserves were available as bunker rakers for

all the matches, played at times in very windy conditions, making scoring difficult. In the end Angel Cabrera was a worthy winner of the Championship.

I know Chris was very appreciative of all the team who gave up their valuable time to participate, some making journeys from as far as the West Country and the Midlands.

I would like to thank everybody for making my job so easy and representing our Association in a very professional manner.

Clive Osgood
South East Regional Administrator



The Wentworth Support Team with Championship winner Angel Cabrera

MORE DEALERS FOR KUBOTA

Kubota has appointed several additional dealers in southern England and Wales to strengthen its existing roster.

The line-up of new Kubota Construction Equipment dealers across southern England comprises Harper Plant of Salisbury, whose territory covers Hampshire and Dorset; Lister Wilder of Reading, with other depots at Cirencester, Devizes and Ockham, whose territory covers Avon, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Berkshire and Surrey;

and South West Plant Sales of Monkokehampton, whose territory covers Devon and Somerset.

Stubbing Brothers of Ventor has been appointed to cover the whole of the Isle of Wight, while Vincent Tractors of Fraddon now looks after Cornwall. In addition, existing Kubota dealer Leach Lewis Plant of Reading, with other depots at Witney and Sevenoaks, has had its territory extended to include Kent, Sussex and East Anglia.