

GILHOLM LIVERPOOL BOUND

Craig Gilholm has been appointed Links Manager at Royal Liverpool Golf Club. Craig started his new role on Monday June 6.

The new headman succeeds Derek Green, who died earlier this year after playing a major role in getting The Open back to Royal Liverpool. Craig, 33, has 16 years experience as a greenkeeper at Muirfield, with the last eight as Deputy Course Manager. He brings considerable experience of managing a top grade championship course and has recent knowledge of accepting the varied demands of the Open Championship, with the 2002 Open being held at Muirfield.

IOG'S GOSSET RETIRES

Patrick Gosset is stepping down this summer as Chief Executive of the Institute of Groundsmanship. Patrick joined the IOG in 1996 as its first Chief Executive.

"It has been a great experience working with so many people, both in the Institute and across the wider industry, who are so truly dedicated to their work and to the advancement of their profession," said Patrick.

Alex Millar, IOG National Chairman, added: "Patrick's departure at the end of July will be deeply felt across the organisation and his contribution will be greatly missed."

A new Chief Executive will be appointed in due course.



NO MORE WASTE

Course Care has installed a purpose made granulator at their Keighley base to process thousands of plastic chemical containers.

Instead of taking them to a landfill, the machine turns the plastic into chips which are re-processed and turned into useful rot proof items for use around the golf course, including fence posts, seating, walkway, sleepers, etc. The company are encouraging waste reduction by recycling and composting.

Their new composting machines will turn grass clippings, twigs, branches, leaves, green kitchen waste and all that cardboard from the pro shop into compostable material.

The company is also busy warning golf clubs of the changes to the Hazardous Waste Regulations that came into force in April. These regulations require all clubs that are producing hazardous waste to register with the Environment Agency.

US OPEN BEGAN IN ENGLAND

Malcolm Campbell, victorious at the US Open in June, actually started his Championship run at Walton Heath Golf Club by taking one of the last qualifying spots on a score of 139.

The first US Open Regional Qualifying to be held outside of the United States was hosted by Walton Heath on June 6. 53 European Tour players played 36 holes for nine places to play in the US Open.

The club was approached in the spring of 2004 by the USGA to host this inaugural event and have signed up for a two year trial period. From the club's view this was an easy tournament to host without the usual infrastructure that comes with

most Tour events. The crowds were allowed to walk the fairways and get up close to see the competitors play, which worked well.

The Walton Heath green staff were ably assisted with course preparations by greenkeepers from Queenwood, Hendon, Hankley Common, Tyrells Wood, Ashridge and Letchworth. No major requests were made in relation to the set up of the golf courses, apart from a stimpmeter reading of 10.5ft.

"This has been a fantastic tournament for the golf club to host and we look forward to hosting it again next year," said Ian McMillan, Course Manager.



The Walton Heath greens staff witnessed Michael Campbell's qualification on his way to US Open glory

SANDBURN SETS THE SCENE

Staff from irrigation and drainage company North Staffs Irrigation attended the opening of Sandburn Hall on Friday June 10, and were greeted with the sight of the new course looking its very best. The par 72, 6700 yard course is nestled in woodland on the outskirts of York.

Under the direction of irrigation consultants IrriPlan, North Staffs began work installing the irrigation system in April 2004. Water that's drawn from a bore hole near to the clubhouse is held in a water tank before being applied to the greens, tees and approaches using a Tonick 2-zone controller and Hunter sprinklers.

A series of man-made lakes cascade across the course, which is on an incline creating a four metre fall. A pumping transfer system directs water from the lowest of the lakes through 1100 metres of pipework before discharging it into the highest, which is directly outside the clubhouse.

Director Martin Hinchliffe commented: "Those who've been involved in creating it have looked beyond the irrigation system and used water creatively, with stunning results, to enhance the relaxing, picturesque setting for guests and golfers to enjoy."

