



## Welcome

### A GOLFER'S VIEW

Fancied a game at the weekend just past. I could sneak off because, well, the garden is looking after itself at the moment. No need to cut the grass - it hasn't grown in ages. It's going a little brown but, hey, can't do anything about that when the bans are in place can I? Pressure off!

No, a game of golf was called for, so off I went. Couldn't believe it! What a disgrace, the course was as bad as I've seen it for, well, since ever. Now I know what a good golf course should look like. We all do. We see them on the telly every week. Green! A golf course should be green. They even call the things we aim at but rarely find "greens". Well not at my place. Not any more at any rate.

Now our 1st is a short par-4. A nice starting hole, because if you don't get it off the tee very well - and who does when you've just fallen out of the car, grabbed your clubs from the boot, pulled on your shoes and built up a sweat running to catch up the rest of your fourball - you know a well struck 5-wood off a good lie will still get you on the dance floor in regulation.

Sure enough the tee shot scuttled off its usual 150 yards but, not so usually, it was straight and I thought "Whey hey, I'm on for a good 'un today." But when I got to the ball the first thing I noticed was the lie. Where was the juicy grass sitting under the ball, which creates the launch pad for my secret weapon - the trusty 5-wood?

It was like playing off the M25, but I don't mind telling you, I pride myself on my ball striking and this was one of my best. I nipped the ball off the surface so well, if it had been off the tummy of a sunbathing supermodel she wouldn't have known I'd been there. The ball didn't rise more than 20 feet and it was going like a rocket. I regained my balance and waited for the applause from my three partners who were further up the fairway. I was thinking birdie. I was thinking handicap reduction. I was thinking - why has it bounced straight through the green and gone up against the fence at the back?

Unplayable, it was. Unplayable! Took a drop, knocked it on and sure as night follows day, three putted. A seven!

Well, it didn't get any better, and it was roasting hot so I packed in at the 9th. I was frustrated and I was furious. Why is the course in such a state? I pay subs for all year golf and while I can accept a drop in standards when it snows or we've got thick frost, I can't for the life, of me understand why it's so rotten now, in the height of summer.

So what do I do with myself now? I can't even wash the car because of these blessed drought restrictions.

Anonymous Contribution as told to Scott MacCallum

Scott MacCallum, Editor

### COACHING DAY

The South West Section, are staging an L12 Coaching Day at Cumberwell Park Golf Club, on September 26, 2006. The day will take place from 9.30am until 4pm. Please contact Marc Haring, Education Officer, for further details on 01225 863322 or 07816 106146.

Cost will be in the region of only £20 thanks to sponsorship from the GTC. The day is open to members from other Sections, as well as the South West.



Will Harris, Machinery Manager at Minchinhampton, supervises trainee Chris Dodd, while preparing a machine for use

### VETERAN GOLFERS PROVE AGE IS NO HANDICAP

Veteran golfer Frank Rogers, proved that age is no handicap, by notching his first hole-in-one at the age of 76!

Frank, a retired Stonemason from Burland, near Nantwich, hit an ace during the Reaseheath Vintage Open - a tournament for golfers over 70.

The competition, organised by Golf Course Management and Sportsturf students at Reaseheath College, Nantwich, attracted almost 50 competitors from all over Cheshire including a contingent from Hazel Grove Golf Club.

The Stableford competition was held on the college's commercial 9-hole golf course. The competitors were also able to take part in chipping

and putting contests.

Winning lady was Joan Yarwood of Scaife Road, Nantwich, also a member of Reaseheath Golf Club, with 37 pts, while Monica Norman of Lochleven Road, Wistaston, a member of Brookfield Golf Club, was not far behind with 34 pts. Overall winner was Bill Harris of Merebank Road, Dane Bank, Crewe, who scored 42 pts, while Brian Gough, current Captain of the Reaseheath Golf Club, was runner up.

Proceeds from the day will be donated to the County Air Ambulance, which operates in an area including Staffordshire, Shropshire and Derbyshire.

### GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL WINS

Greenkeeper International has the finest front covers in the world.

That has to be the conclusion after the magazine won the 2006 International Photography Section of the American-based TOCA (Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association) Awards, with our 4x4 inspired cover of the August 2005 issue.



The cover was submitted by Greenkeeper International's Designer, Marie Whyld, and it competed with entries from all over the world.

"I'm delighted that the quality of Greenkeeper International has been recognised by TOCA and commend Marie for the winning front cover and her continued good work in the magazine," said Editor, Scott MacCallum.