



## Welcome

### PLAYING KING CANUTE WILL BE EXPENSIVE

Recent reports on the impact of coastal erosion have suggested that some of the country's finest links courses may have to lose holes and amend layouts to survive.

The Scotsman newspaper reported last month that many clubs have already spent considerable sums of money on coastal defences - including Royal Dornoch who last year spent £300,000 to protect their 10th hole - but that they may prove to be nothing more than short term measures.

Three options are given by the Earth Surface Dynamics Research Group - hard defences of rock armour and gabion baskets; replenishing sand that has been removed from dunes, and finally, and sadly the most foolproof, repositioning tees, greens and even entire holes inland to escape the sea. The first two options are seen as short term, with expensive defences potentially swept away entirely on the back of a single devastating storm, but the third has consequences for all golf lovers with a sense of history.

You don't have to think too long to come up with courses and holes which could - many experts will say "will" - be lost to the sea and to the game of golf. Such is their "on the edge" nature they would be among the most dramatic and famous holes in all of golf. Off the top of my head I can think of several on the Open rota including the par-3 11th on the Old Course where the green edges on to the Firth of Tay; the coastal stretch of holes at Turnberry, while some at Hoylake, where the Open was played earlier this year, are perilously close to the beach.

But it is not just the Open courses that would be affected. There are scores of clubs throughout the country where the signature hole is one where you tee off or putt out with the roar of the waves, the smell of the salt and the touch of the spray playing havoc with your senses. It makes you feel so alive, even if your golf is leaving you numb.

But what are the alternatives? Many clubs have gone down the hard defence route and have perhaps bought themselves some time, but it might be prudent to look at the other, less palatable options, and research where alternative holes might be sited when you are forced to face up to the inevitable.

That may mean eating into your practice range; draining land previously considered to be less than suitable or, looking beyond the club boundaries, investigating how much your neighbouring farmer would accept for the field which borders the course.

The implications are huge - re-routing layouts created by the masters of their art in the last century and beyond - but that may still be better than being left with the finest 17 hole course in the land.

Coastal erosion is something man has fought against for centuries and as King Canute found, when water started lapped over his wellies, standing against it can be a futile exercise.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

### HEALTH AND SAFETY

Golf clubs could soon be enjoying lower insurance premiums thanks to a joint initiative by the Association of Golf Club Secretaries (AGCS) and the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA).

The AGCS and BIGGA have both been giving Health and Safety advice and guidance to their members for some time. However, the two organisations felt that there was a need to have a standardised Safety Management System (SMS), that contained example risk assessments, that met the needs of all golf clubs, that was common throughout the industry, that was easy to update and was easily available to their respective members.

Not only that, they felt that introducing a standardised SMS could help with inspections by environmental health officers/HSE inspectors and lead to a management system that would be best

practice throughout golf in the United Kingdom. They also agreed that the SMS should be Internet based and that it should be available free to all members of their respective Associations.

The Chief Executive of BIGGA, John Pemberton and the National Secretary of the AGCS, Keith Lloyd agreed that the two Associations should pool their resources to produce an Internet based SMS that will help all golf clubs ensure that their clubs are safe and healthy places for employees and golfers.

Thanks to sponsorship by Ransomes Jacobsen, valuable help from both Brian Butler and Xact Consulting, advice from a wide range of Health and Safety consultants including Jon Allbut, and close cooperation between the two associations, the AGCS/BIGGA Safety Management System will be available on the Association's web sites from late January 2007.

### CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADER OPENS £15 MILLION FACTORY

Conservative Party Leader the Rt Hon David Cameron MP, has officially opened a new £15 million JCB manufacturing plant in India.

Employing more than 200 people, JCB Manufacturing Ltd is based in Pune and began producing components for JCB machines last year.

Mr Cameron, accompanied by Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne MP, cut a ribbon to mark the official opening of the new plant in the Talegaon Dabhade district of Pune.

Mr Cameron was visiting India in recognition of the country's increasing importance to the global economy and to Britain. He said: "This new JCB plant at Pune demonstrates the changes taking place not just in India but also in the global economy. It also highlights the benefit of a new relationship between India and Britain to meet the challenges of this changing world economy."

John Patterson, JCB Managing Director and CEO, said: "India is now JCB's second largest market and

sales here have quadrupled in the last five years. JCB is market leader in India and it's important we continue to invest heavily to keep pace with the growth we anticipate in the future."



JCB Chairman Sir Anthony Bamford pictured with David Cameron, Leader of the Conservative Party, at the factory's official opening

### DLF-TRIFOLIUM LEADS THE WAY

DLF-Trifolium Group, the Danish based and farmer owned grass seeds group with an annual turnover of approximately £270 million, consolidates its position as the world's largest grass seed company, through its acquisition of Advanta Seeds' grass seed activities within research, field production, seed conditioning and wholesale. The seller is Limagrain-Verneuil Holding, part of Group Limagrain, the French based and farmer owned seeds group with an annual turnover of approximately £1.1 billion, which in a simultaneous deal acquires the arable crops business of

DLF-Trifolium Group outside Denmark.

The takeover of Advanta Seeds' grass and clover business comprises of an annual sale of approximately 20,000 tonnes of clover and grass seeds.

"The acquisition of the grass seeds activities of Advanta Seeds complements our product portfolio and allows us to further benefit from economics of scale for the benefit of our owners and customers," says Truels Damsgaard, CEO of the DLF-Trifolium Group.