



## Welcome

### FAIRIES AT THE BOTTOM OF THE GOLF COURSE

Congratulations to Gerry Byrne and his team at the K Club who did a superb job in difficult conditions to produce a superbly conditioned course for the Ryder Cup. Having to cope with the tail end of a hurricane and torrential rain at some stage of each of the three competition days, it says much for Gerry that the course held up as well as it did.

Obviously there are many, myself among them, who would have preferred the match to be played on one of Ireland's classic courses - Ballybunion, Portmarnock or the like - but in today's money motivated environment that is no longer going to happen and it is the person with the deepest pockets who attracts the biggest events at the expense of courses which may well produce more interesting golf. Gerry made sure that K Club owner Michael Smurfit's dream became reality.

Indeed a traditional course hasn't hosted the match on this side of the pond since Walton Heath in 1981 - prepared by our own Clive Osgood - when the Ryder Cup was a much more low key affair. Since then it has been at The Belfry four times and Valderamma once and the next two venues are Celtic Manor, whose course is still to be completed, and the PGA Course at Gleneagles - oh how I wish it would be the traditional King's Course. After 2014, and its visit to Scotland, it's quite likely it won't hit these shores again for a number of years with Sweden and possibly Spain in line for matches. That would make it at least 2026 and you can be sure that the venue for that one is currently no more than a not yet formulated dream of some 15 year-old soon-to-be dot-com billionaire. It will quite likely be held on some reclaimed brown field site on the outskirts of Wandsworth.

Talking about the Ryder Cup, I was forced to text Radio 5 Live early on Saturday morning after I heard Nicky Campbell talking to the Director of Golf at the K Club about shaving the green surrounds and asking him whether he was responsible for the horticulture of the course. Nicky is renowned for the research he does before he goes on air but like many people when it comes to golf, different rules seem to apply and they believe they know far more than they actually do. I don't think my text made it to air, at least I didn't hear it, but hopefully Nicky will be made aware of its existence and realise that there is a profession involved in maintaining golf courses and it's not just a few of the less high profile colleagues of Alan Titchmarsh and Monty Don.

It just goes to reinforce to us the enormity of the task we face in raising the profile of greenkeeping and BIGGA. It's as though perfectly sane people believe that there are the golfing equivalent of fairies at the bottom of the garden, who emerge unseen to work miracles on golf courses and then disappear again until the next time.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

### SURREY BOWL

The final of the Surrey Bowl was played at Foxhills GC on the Longcross course on August 31. The finalists were Brian Turner and Paul Robinson from Worplesdon GC, and Darren Woodward and Simon Kirkham from West Surrey GC.

Brian and Paul went on to win the event quite easily by five and four - congratulations to them. The West Surrey guys, obviously disappointed, are proving to be Surrey's most consistent team reaching the final for the last three years, and winning in their first final.

The Longcross course was in good condition in spite of the difficult weather conditions experienced this year, and our thanks go to Dave Wyborn and his team

for their efforts. Thanks must also go to Dave Langheim for his organisation of the Surrey Bowl event.

The sponsors were ETT, and Richard Fortmuller one of the company's Area Sales Managers, spent the whole day with us supporting the final, handing over the sponsors cheque, and giving out the prizes for the finalists, thank you for you and your company's support which is to be continued next year.



### NEW MARKETING APPOINTMENT



Hayter have announced the appointment of Claudia Reyland as Marketing Assistant. In her new position Claudia will be responsible for all marketing activities relating to exhibitions, advertising and promotions for both commercial and consumer products.

Before joining Hayter in June 2005, Claudia was in an Electronics Defence Systems company where she worked in various departments including Human Resources, Quality and Programme Management.

Commenting on the appointment David Sturges, Sales and Marketing Director for Hayter said.

"Claudia's knowledge and experience will strengthen the marketing function. With her solid business background, enthusiasm, and marketing know how she is the ideal candidate for this important role at Hayter."

### ASTHMA CURE FOR TURF!

"It's like when someone has asthma. Difficulty in breathing makes them feel thoroughly run-down. As soon as they get a better supply of oxygen they feel better. Turf reacts in much the same way. Our Aer-Aid breathes life into our turf - sideways."

That's the comment by David Barling, Director of Upchurch River Valley GC in Kent. Constructed on 120 acres of farmland, the views over the River Medway and Thames Estuary add to the quality of the two 9-hole and one 18-hole course's - designed by David Smart.

Brothers David and William Barling purchased the farmland in 1989 as a diversion from their previous business of builders and developers. In 2005 the brothers decided the greens needed a natural boost. The SISIS Aer-Aid was demonstrated and almost immediately a few lethargic greens started to recover. The Aer-Aid was purchased, and over the past

12 months steady progress has been seen. The depth has been varied from 25mm to 125mm to allow fracturing of the soil at different depths. Using the same machine, 7mm pencil tines have been used from time to time to complement the programme.

One of the biggest advantages the club has found is that regular air injection has allowed a reduction in water usage, without the greens suffering. Indeed they have improved both visually and physically. During the very hot summer weather this year the height of cut has been increased from 3mm to 5mm, and as there is little disruption to the putting surface, aeration with the Aer-Aid could continue.

