



## Welcome

### TIME TO CHANGE PRACTICES

I suppose in magazine terms we're now approaching autumn although, as I write this it's very early August and I'm just about to head off on my summer hols.

But unlike most years, the thought of the onset of autumn this time around isn't accompanied by a sigh. Such has been the brutal nature of the summer months - the hottest July since records began - a little bit of respite for individuals, as well as golf courses, is a very pleasurable thought.

Having said that, just because the calendar will say autumn it doesn't mean to say that the expected weather conditions will follow. Such has been the unpredictability of weather patterns recently, there is nothing to say that we'll be in for cooler damper spells just because we've left what we traditionally consider to be summer behind.

It may be, of course, that you will have to scrap your traditional working practices to fall into line with the new weather patterns. We all know that you cut fairways and greens far more often in December than you did even 10 years ago. It may be that those changes will continue and even accelerate to the extent that you will be doing your winter programme much later than in the past and traditional on-going "golf season" work, might well extend to cover more of the year than it has done.

That obviously has knock-ons when it comes to integrating course maintenance work with the competition schedules, and enlightened clubs might well take the opportunity to re-schedule some of their events to times in the year which had not previously been utilised for club competitions.

Talking of competitions it has been interesting to read the comments about Hoylake following the Open Championship. There has been more debate about the golf course this year in the aftermath of the event than any Open I can remember since Carnoustie. The vast majority of opinion, in an industry which does polarise views, has been positive. Showing the golfing public that a course doesn't need to be green has, by general agreement, done British greenkeeping a great service and Craig Gilholm and his team must be commended for their work.

That said, Hoylake's "look" was mainly down to the fact that prior to the Championship, it hadn't rained in at least three weeks and if Craig should be credited with anything, it should be with holding his nerve and doing nothing when others might have been tempted to tamper.

Links courses, given the weather, should look like Hoylake because controlling run and gauging distance is what links golf is all about - indeed some would say that it's what golf is all about full stop. Gripping it and ripping it and firing straight at the pins is fine but it takes a real craftsman to hit a 3-iron under the wind and run it up the approach to finish pin high 10 feet from the hole.

It just so happens that Tiger can play both games!

Scott MacCallum, Editor

### PGA AND RANSOMES JACOBSEN SIGN AGREEMENT

A three year contract was recently signed, making Ransomes Jacobsen the official supplier of turfcare equipment to the Professional Golfers' Association.

In addition to official supplier status, the Ipswich based turf equipment manufacturer, will also supply support equipment for golf courses preparing for PGA tournaments. The agreement also gives PGA managed golf courses, throughout the world, access to Ransomes Jacobsen equipment.



Sandy Jones with David Withers

### HOLE IN ONE...AGAIN!...

Bury GC, situated five miles North of Manchester, located between Whitefield and Bury, made front page news recently.

During a board competition one Saturday, three different men managed holes in one at the same hole (14th) and all within one hour of each other. Named 'The Conifers', this par 3 hole is played from an elevated tee - the shot is almost total carry to the green.

When asked if there was anything unusual about the pin position of the 14th, Head Greenkeeper Spencer Lloyd-Pye said "The pin was bog standard, it's just weird that three hole-in-one's happened within an hour of each other."

The story appeared on the front page of the Manchester Evening News and also featured in the Bolton and Bury Evening News, as well as being discussed on Talksport.

### LADIES' GOLFING COMMUNITY EXPANDS IT TEAM

Building on its success since launching in November 2005, online ladies' golf community AmateurLadyGolfer.co.uk (ALG) is looking to appoint up to 25 regional representatives throughout the UK and Ireland, to help fulfil its vision of improving the golfing and social experience for lady golfers whatever their ability or skill level.

ALG is offering its community members first refusal on the potentially lucrative independent regional representative positions.



Founder of ALG, Casie McDonald Wood

Women remain a minority in the golf world with, on average, only 103 lady members per club in the 2,500 golf clubs in the UK and Ireland.

Many women take up golf and then give up after a couple of years for reasons including lack of encouragement, the wrong equipment, insufficient coaching and feeling like second-class club members. "We are providing them with a solid reason to continue with the sport", said Casie McDonald Wood, ALG's founder.

### DROUGHT SEMINAR

For clubs coping with drought restrictions, Stella Rixon with STRI's southern advisory team have organised a seminar at Chipstead GC in Surrey, on Wednesday September 13, entitled "Drought Issues and Planning for the Future."

This one day seminar will cover all drought related issues including protection and efficient use of water resources, storage, recycling and harvesting, alternative water supplies, rules and regulations, turf maintenance and managing under restrictions.

Adrian Mortram from STRI's Irrigation Services will lead a "walk about" and talk about the club's on site irrigation system. Other speakers include: Dr Jerry Knox from the UK Irrigation Association, Chris Haspell from Water Direct and representatives from the Environment Agency and the EGU.

Further details and booking forms are available on-line at: [www.stri.co.uk](http://www.stri.co.uk) or contact Amy Crooks on Tel: 01274 565131.