

Welcome



A Special Week Awaits

Eight years after feeling the heat of the media spotlight and the wrath of a few players, Carnoustie

Links Superintendent John Philp and his team are gearing up for another Open Championship this month.

The narrow fairways, severe rough and high scores brought about a renaming of the course in some newspapers to “Carnasty” last time around and took away from the great work John and his team had done on the areas he describes “as the areas the players were supposed to be playing from”.

This time round John has already had to face the media again as they looked back at the last Open and quizzed him on his preparations. He handled himself well when faced with a barrage or questioning and took the wind from the sails of one journalist who, hoping to highlight John’s lack of knowledge of the game, asked if he played golf and, if so, of what handicap? John was able to say that, while he doesn’t play so much now, he did once play off 1.

I was lucky enough to catch up with him a few weeks later to talk about the preparations in a more detailed and measured manner and can honestly say that a couple of hours in John’s company is as refreshing as it is exhausting. I came away with my head buzzing full of the ideas and philosophies of a man whose passion and knowledge for turf management. It’s a genuine privilege to spend time in his company.

This time around the rough won’t be as penal – the weather conditions over the last 12 months or so have seen to that while the fairways are a little wider so hopefully more players will appreciate the work that has gone into giving those who play golf as it should be played – finding the short grass from the tee then the green – every chance to control their golf ball.

Those of us who were at Carnoustie in '99, and had the unforgettable experience of cheering home a home grown winner in Paul Lawrie from the side of the 18th green, would have been staggered to learn that between then and our return to the Angus town there would have been no British winner, not to mention European winner of a Major Championship. While the Ryder Cups have proved easy meat over the last few years, 31 Majors have passed with a series of American, South African, Australian, New Zealand, even Fijian winners.

That run will come to an end sometime but, if truth be told, there is no-one exactly holding up their hand and declaring themselves a contender. But the beauty of golf is that you never know and a new hero is likely to burst from the dark shadows at any time.

Let’s hope so, just as we hope John Philp and his team have a wonderful week full of praise for a magnificent links in magnificent condition.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

Why not drop us an email with any news, press releases or new product updates you have –
Send them to Melissa (melissa@bigga.co.uk)

SUPPORT TEAM FOR BRITISH MASTERS

The Belfry have kindly offered BIGGA five places on their Support Team at the 2007 Quinn British Masters, to be staged at the Belfry from September 20 to 23, 2007.

The five BIGGA Support Team members will work alongside the main crew led by Superintendent Kenny Mackay. Kenny is looking for greenkeepers that are competent machine operators, as the work of the support team will consist of mowing of all cut areas of the golf course along with bunker maintenance. Also a valid driving licence would be of benefit. All members of the Support Team will need to arrive on September 16th and stay until the 23rd. Free accommodation, food and soft drinks will be given to all Support Team members during their stay.

All applications to be made to Kenny Mackay, Director of Golf Course & Grounds. Tel: 01675 470301 or email: kenny.mackay@thebelfry.com

TONY JACKLIN DESIGNS MAJOR NEW GOLF DEVELOPMENT



Tony Jacklin, the most successful European Ryder Cup Captain, has been contracted to design a new golf course development in Cyprus.

The man regarded as ‘Europe’s first golf superstar’ is also in discussion with golf course developers in the Middle East, continental Europe and the Caribbean – all of which follow his recent collaboration with Jack Nicklaus on the vaunted new ‘The Concession’ course in Florida, USA.

Tony, aged 62, has made a conscious decision to concentrate on golf course design, and is looking forward to taking a unique, hands-on approach with his projects – which will bear all the hallmarks of The Open and US Open champion.

He said: “I have decided only to take on a limited number of design contracts at any one time, as this gives me the opportunity to get personally and deeply involved in each of the projects.

“I hope that my signature design courses will be my legacy in Europe, where I learned the game, made many friends and enjoyed many of my finest moments in the sport.”

By becoming personally involved in each project – from the very first preliminary design meetings, right through to the official opening – Tony hopes to forge an enduring link with the golfing community. And he is determined that each and every one of his Tony Jacklin Signature designed golf courses will be a very special place for golfers to learn the game, play and most of all enjoy their golf.