

## ARCHITECTS EXPERIENCE GOLF THE OLD WAY

The men and women behind some of the newest golf courses in the world recently tried golf the way it was played a century ago. Members of the European Institute of Golf Course Architects (EIGCA) – who were gathered in Portmarnock, Ireland, for their annual general meeting – took the opportunity to play several holes of the Portmarnock Links golf course, built in the 1990s by architect Stan Eby and signature designer Bernhard Langer, using hickory-shafted clubs from the 1920s and earlier and reproduction vintage golf balls.

Gavin Bottrell of Timewarp Golf provided the hickory clubs. “I think the EIGCA members found it an interesting experience,” he said. “Different players react in different ways to vintage clubs – some find them very stiff, to others they are very whippy. I believe this is because all of these clubs were tailor-made for individual golfers. But I do try to match the clubs to the ability of each player.”

Bottrell reckons playing extensively with hickory clubs has helped him realise that, although the best golfers could hit the ball considerable distance with old equipment, the lack of forgiveness the clubs provide is the biggest difference. “Better players play well with hickories – I have seen professionals break par on difficult courses using them,” he said.

EIGCA member Tom Mackenzie echoes Bottrell’s view. For Mackenzie, the day after he won the Institute’s President’s Cup golf tournament, it was his first experience of vintage equipment, although he felt having grown up before the era of big-headed drivers and forgiving irons gave him some inkling as to how the clubs would feel. “I really enjoyed playing with the hickories, but you have to swing the clubs completely differently,” he said. “You can’t be so eager to get at the ball. For some of the young guys who play the modern game of just swinging as hard as possible then it was a much bigger culture shock.”

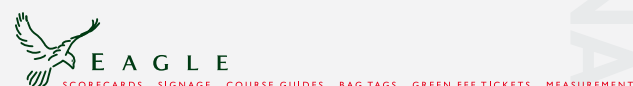
“I typically carry the ball between 185-190 yards with a hickory driver,” said Gavin Bottrell. “But the ball flies much lower, and when the ground is firm – as it was at Portmarnock – then the extra roll you get means a good shot can travel quite a long way.” Mackenzie agrees, but is quick to point out the other side of the coin. “Poor shots go absolutely nowhere!” he said.

## BOARDROOM CHANGES

Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd have appointed two new directors. Derek Cronshaw will become Financial Director, having previously been Company Secretary. Derek has worked at Sisis for 38 years, in Accounts and Purchasing.

David Harrison was Export Sales Manager and becomes Sales Director with overall responsibility for all Sisis sales. David joined Sisis from college, working in Design & Development and as a Demonstrator, so has much experience to bring to his new role.

Roger Hargreaves becomes Chairman with brother William Hargreaves now sole Managing Director.



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