

# Welcome

We're all Human Beings After All



## Do we like to see top golfers struggling or shooting the lights out?

That's the question being posed following this year's Masters as the Augusta National Club achieved the rare feat of protecting Old Mother Par over the four days of competitive golf.

Since then I've read people say it was a terrible Masters and that it got the Champion it deserved in the shape of Zack Johnson, in much the same way as they spoke of Paul Lawrie at Carnoustie eight years ago.

Funnily enough I found both the '99 Open and this year's Masters extremely exciting and good television. The dramatic conclusion at Carnoustie will be remembered for many a long year, and not only by native Scots and flamboyant Frenchmen, while the eventual winner of this year's Masters was not known until very late on the final afternoon.

Many players appeared on the verge of donning the green jacket only to find and give up the opportunity to some other soul who'd just holed a chip or sunk a putt involving 45 feet of break – It was riveting stuff.

But, getting back to the original point, it may be a case of schadenfreude, but isn't it refreshing to see the top guys making the sorts of errors we all manage at home – knocking short chips into the water, failing to pitch far enough up the green and seeing the ball trundle back down the slope to our feet and four putting from six feet. The degree of difficulty involved may be vastly different but the outcomes are very much the same.

We can all admire golf where the fairway is hit, the green is hit and, every third time, the putt is holed. It would add up to a 66 but it's hardly edge of your seat stuff. I once watched Bernhard Langer shoot 65 round Wentworth from inside the ropes. It's a backhanded compliment to Bernhard to say I was bored by the end. Far more exciting to see the old Seve style of golf miraculous recoveries are manufactured from cosses and car parks.

So let's revel in the Masters of 2007 and be thankful that once in a while the best golfers in the world are seen as not machines but human beings.

Look out for a new look Greenkeeper International dropping through your letter box next month. Over the last few months, together with designers, Stone Soup, we've looked at re-designing your magazine to bring it into the 21st century and we have come up with a new and contemporary design. I hope that when you see the June edition you will feel that it has been time well spent.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

## NEW HEAD GREENKEEPER FOR OLD COURSE

It is a case of out with the new and in with the old for Gordon McKie, who has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at the world famous Old Course.

Gordon, who has been Head Greenkeeper at the New Course for two years, will take up one of the most prestigious roles in golf



next month. His immediate task will be to continue the preparations on the venerable links for the staging of the Women's British Open in August and further ahead the Curtis Cup next year and The Open Championship in 2010.

Gordon takes over from Euan Grant who is moving on to a similar role at a new development in the Mull of Kintyre after three years at the Old Course.

Having worked for St Andrews Links Trust for 12 years, Gordon said he was very proud to be taking over at the Old Course.

"It is a privilege to work on the most famous course in the world. The history and tradition surrounding the Old Course makes it unique and it is continually under the glare of the international media spotlight. I am very much looking forward to maintaining the exceptionally high standard of the course and ensuring it continues to set the benchmark for links courses around the world."

## NEW CONSULTANT

Kelly Watson, Ecological & Environmental Consultant, is the most recent addition to STRI's expanding Ecology & Environment Team working from head office in Bingley.

Kelly has an Honours Degree in Environmental Science from the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland and has completed a period of doctoral study at the University of Nottingham. Her PhD studies had a practical focus and aimed to quantify the effects of aquatic vegetation on river flooding, water velocity and sediment storage. On the golf course, this work has particular significance to sustainable urban drainage systems, reed bed filtration systems and the recycling of waste water.



## NEW TERRITORY

Golf & Turf Equipment Ltd, the Wokingham-based Charterhouse Turf Machinery dealership for Berkshire, has now added the county of Surrey to its territory. The business is part of the Burdens Group of agricultural and groundcare companies serving professional

and domestic markets. "The timing is ideal for us as we recently expanded our team with the appointment of new Sales Representative Steve Coone," says Golf & Turf Managing Director Tom Scanlon.