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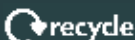
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WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



Turnberry... a great place to be

My first experience of a Major when I started working in the golf industry back in the mid-80s was The Open at Turnberry in 1986 and I loved every minute of it.

I was working for Golf Monthly at the time and I recall having to pinch myself when sitting in the caravan we always used during The Open, listening to Karsten Solheim (founder of Ping) explain to Henry Cotton how he had come up with the first Ping putter. These sorts of occasions don't come along every day.

Greg Norman won that Open by five shots including an incredible 63 second round which, typically of the Great White Shark, still infuriated his fans with a three putt final green. Two good putts and he would have shot a 62, in unfavourable conditions, and set a record for Major Championships which would still not have been equalled.

The star of the show in 1986, though, was Turnberry itself. It is quite simply a great place to visit and an even better place to play golf. Like St Andrews it has a certain aura and whenever you are there you have a feeling of being somewhere special.

Much of it goes back to its debut as an Open venue in 1977 when Tom Watson and Jack Nicklaus used the Ailsa course as a stage to play out a drama the likes of which we had never witnessed before. The golf was incredible until they came to the 72nd hole and then it got even better. Nicklaus, a shot behind, used all his brute force to force his second shot onto the green from the base of a gorse bush in the right rough while Watson casually pinged in his approach to two feet. Nicklaus drained his 40 footer for a birdie but before the cheers had died down Watson had rolled in his short putt

to win on 268. Third placed Hubert Green was 10 shots back.

That cemented Turnberry's place in golfing folklore and with Norman, and then Nick Price in '94, the course demonstrated its ability to single out the best golfer in the world.

I, therefore, head to Turnberry with great anticipation and look forward to working with the members of the 2009 BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team, who, as usual, have been drawn from all corners of the globe.

I'm sure that the work that George Brown and his team have carried out on the great Ailsa course will ensure that the same thing will happen again. Not a stone has been left unturned to ensure that Turnberry is picture perfect and will be a fitting legacy as George enters his retirement. He is not going completely as he is being retained in an ambassadorial/consultancy role but hopefully it will allow Brenda and himself to have more time for themselves and enjoy doing the things that make them happy.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish Assistant Editor, Melissa Jones, every success for the future as she leaves the Association. She has done a wonderful job during her time at BIGGA and she will soon be devoting time to a new baby. Melissa will be greatly missed.

Scott MacCallum
Editor