

ON COURSE FOR GREAT THINGS

A Jack Nicklaus signature golf course – only the second in Ireland – the first Dave Pelz Golf Academy to be built in Europe, a Grade 1 listed castle, 11 acres of man-made lakes and a drainage system the length of the Grand Canyon are the central features of what is believed to be Europe's largest landscaping contract.

Killeen Castle, to the north west of Dublin, is the centrepiece of a 560-acre golf resort development that will include a five-star hotel,

championship quality golf course and 162 residential properties.

The castle, originally built in the 12th century, was once home to the Plunkett family and Earls of Fingall; in the 19th century the ninth Earl replaced it in the style of Windsor Castle, but the building was gutted by fire in 1981. It has now undergone a nine-month, multi-million dollar refurbishment by architects Michael Collins & Associates, in which 50 masons cleaned and restored every brick and stone by hand.

Maintenance of the 18 hole, 7650 yard golf course, which is due to open this spring, is already being carried out by a team of 10 greens staff led by course superintendent Mark Collins and assistant Robert Kane, using a fleet of John Deere equipment supplied by local dealer Dublin Grass Machinery (pictured). In all around 270 acres of the estate are devoted to golf, including the course and academy, which is designed to improve putting and short game skills.



Paul Dixon (centre) receiving his certificate from Sadie Chalkley, Chairman of British Hardware Federation and soon to be the first woman president of BHF Group, and BHF Group managing director Alan Hawkins.

HUNT STARTS FOR NEW TYPES OF WASTE TO BE RECYCLED

The search for additional waste materials that can be reused and recycled, rather than needlessly dumped in landfill, has been launched by the Waste Protocols Project - a joint Environment Agency and WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) initiative.

The Project, set up in 2006 to help industry make better use of waste materials by clarifying in Quality Protocols how and when waste can be freed up from regulations and used with no further risk to the environment, has identified a range of materials that can be turned into new items rather than discarded.

To date 11 materials – including non-packaging plastics such as old drainpipes - and waste cooking

oil that can be transformed into biodiesel – have been reviewed by the project. In total this first wave of protocols, over the next 10 years, are projected to save businesses and industry more than £400 million, create a £280 million market in the materials and divert 17 million tonnes of waste from landfill.

Martin Brocklehurst, the Environment Agency's Head of Environment Protection External Programmes, said: "The Waste Protocol Project is an exciting initiative that is already making a positive impact on both industry and the environment. But we don't want to stop here. There are more types of waste that could be treated as a resource rather than rubbish and because it takes time to develop

a Quality Protocol we want to start identifying more potentially suitable materials now.

"For Quality Protocols to be effective and divert waste from landfill, reduce pressure on precious natural resources and reduce businesses' overheads in this tough economic climate, it's vital that industry bring their technical expertise to the table. We need industry's help to ensure that the waste materials with the greatest potential for recycling and reuse are selected."

Application forms can be downloaded at www.environmentagency.gov.uk/wasteprotocolsselection and, once completed, submitted to wspgroup.com before 12noon on Wednesday 8 April 2009.