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Phoenix from the Ashes

Muswell Hill Golf Club suffered a horrendous arson attack just before Matt Plested took over as Course Manager. Since then, as Scott MacCallum found out, things have got a lot better...



There can be few more stressful experiences in life than changing job or getting married so you're a thought for Matt Plested who combined those two activities in the space of a couple of weeks two and a half years ago.

While 1 soldier on the certain knowledge that a wave of "No what" will be the response of many who have been in similar positions, let me give you more information which might just make you a little more sympathetic to Matt.

While he was serving his notice at Old Ford Manor Golf Club, in north London, and about to march down the aisle with his beautiful bride, Matt got a phone call from the Chairman of Green at Muswell Hill Golf Club to say that the Maintenance Facility had burnt down.

"It was a real shock. When I asked him what had happened he told me, 'It's a shame' said Matt, as we sit in his fantastic new facility, is that the fact that the burning started to his nose at Muswell Hill was not to last too long into his married life.

"As well as every machine, all the paperwork - change and irrigation records - went, and we did indeed have nothing but a charred shell."

The fire, in June of 2007, was truly horrific. A total of 55 fire fighters from all over London attended and with a 2,000 litre delivery of diesel that day, and a school just a few yards from the scene frantic efforts were made to ensure that it didn't spread beyond the boundaries of the golf club.

The culprit of this deliberate act of arson, was found to be a 14 year



MATT PLESTED, THE 17TH YEAR OF HIS NEWLY REBUILT CLUBHOUSE. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GOLF CLUB.

Harrogate Week 2010 Review



Harrogate Week Never Fails to Deliver

It takes more than a global recession and arctic like conditions to stop Harrogate Week from being a success. Many would crawl over broken glass to get to Harrogate each year and with an attendance of 5883 over the three days - only marginally down on the previous year and well up on pre-show expectations - that was proven to be the case yet again and exhibitors were rewarded with an enthusiastic and committed audience.

HARROGATE WEEK 2010



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– Andy Boyce,
Bath Golf Club

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