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What a few months in store

The sporting season is now very much in full swing and hopefully, we are enjoying the long-promised weather to showcase the wonderful work of the country's sports turf professionals.

As I write, people will be taking in their first look at the new Wentworth, on the eve of the BMW PGA Championship, and Chris Kennedy and his team will hopefully be enjoying the plaudits for a supreme task, successfully completed.

Two weeks later one of Chris' protégés, Jim McKenzie, will welcome the Tour stars to Celtic Manor for the Wales Open which will give spectators, who haven't been fortunate enough to get a ticket for the Ryder Cup, the opportunity to walk the 2010 course.

Jim doesn't make things easy for himself because not only is he coping with a Wales Open and a Ryder Cup in the space of 16 weeks he is also getting married this month - right in the middle of it all. Good luck to you, Jim, and the future Mrs McKenzie. I'm sure the honeymoon will have been put on hold for a few months!

Elsewhere there is sport going on everywhere with Wimbledon, Test cricket, the World Cup, in South Africa, not to mention the European Athletic Championships, in Barcelona, and the Commonwealth Games, in Delhi.

As an avid sports fan I'm not sure if my lady wife will be too happy that some of my regular chores may be neglected because I'm glued to the much anticipated New Zealand - Slovakia clash, later this month.

It just shows how much sport can impact on society and, while it often comes with negative headlines attached, in the main there is little that can galvanise a country more than sport.

This month you can be sure there will be more English flags, hanging out of windows or attached to cars, than were seen when St George arrived home to a hero's welcome having slain his dragon.

On the subject of negative headlines, the Wembley pitch has been right up there with Lord Triesman recently. I certainly don't profess to be an expert, but I would suggest that the reason the Emirates Stadium, not too far from Wembley, doesn't suffer in the same way is because it was built with some consideration to the fact that it would be home to an area of turf; that it is used as a venue much more sparingly than Wembley and that its role as a football pitch is placed about all other commitments.

The fact that Wembley is used by so many different sports and events to satisfy commercial partners, and generate the revenue required to repay the £750 million bill it came with, may or may not be the only problem, but it certainly doesn't help.

There are many wise people working on resolving the problem and I'm sure that ultimately they will come up with a solution, even if it does mean sacrifices and compromises.

But in the meantime sit back and enjoy the feast of sport we have to look forward to over the next few months. There will be excitement, thrills, spills anticipation and the odd disappointment... and no doubt, at some stage, a penalty shootout!

Scott MacCallum
Editor