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The earth moved



"The golf course is built on the biggest land slip in Europe. The fact of the matter is that the sea erodes the blue lias clay, pulling it out as though it's on ball bearings."

Course Manager, David Everett

Scott MacCallum headed to the edge of Dorset to visit Lyme Regis, a town whose golf club featured in the winning picture from last year's BIGGA Photographic Competition, sponsored by Syngenta

Picture the scene. You're in a buggy carrying out the regular early morning chores when you happen to raise your gaze and look over to a familiar corner of the course. Instead of seeing the hedge which borders the 16th hole there is nothing. A closer inspection uncovers a spectacular sight – 25 metres of the course, including fully grown trees, slowly sliding down the cliff.

Nine years on Lyme Regis Course Manager, David Everett, can still recall vividly the memory of watching part of his golf course disappear down the cliff and he can point to the trees, which are still alive and growing, half way down.

Such an event didn't come as a shock to David, however, as the beautiful course, set 500 feet above sea level and looking down on the lovely seaside town of Lyme Regis, has a bit of a history.

"The golf course is built on the biggest land slip in Europe. The fact of the matter is that the sea erodes the blue lias clay, pulling it

out as though it's on ball bearings," explained David, who has been at the club since 1986.

"That before I joined there was a massive land slip and I did wonder what on earth it'd done taking us the course but the club said it was not unusual and you'd get used to it. Throughout history they've had small land slips but also big ones as well," he said, in a matter of fact manner that demonstrates how he has come to view the situation.

That 2001 slip was particularly dramatic – the coast guard

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