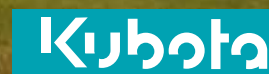


Come and test yourselves

As a golf club, West Lancs Golf Club has all the weapons to ensure that it will be BIGGA's best golfer who emerges as the winner of the forthcoming National Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota



West Lancs Golf Club has all the weapons to ensure that it identifies BIGGA's best golfer when the National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota is played on October 3-4.

There are many fine judges in the game who believe that West Lancashire Golf Club – West Lancs to its friends – is a little unlucky not to have hosted an Open Championship.

Indeed, it has been claimed that if the three existing North West clubs Royal Birkdale, Royal Liverpool and Royal Lytham and St Anne's hadn't been so close by it may have happened, as there is certainly sufficient room around the course to accommodate all that a modern day Open requires.

It certainly has nothing to do with its quality as a course, and those who have succeeded over it in Final Open Qualifying conditions have

found themselves well prepared for the challenge of The Open itself a few days later.

So it is undoubtedly a worthy venue for this year's BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota and the person who is holding the BIGGA Challenge Trophy at the end of 36 gruelling holes will have earned the title of BIGGA's Champion Golfer.

So what it is that makes West Lancs such a highly regarded and revered course?

It is laid out over two loops of nine so you are not playing in the same direction for too many holes in a row.

There are raised greens, sunken greens, well placed bunkers, some stunning par-3s; exacting par-4s all invariably presented in exemplary condition by Course Manager, John Muir and his team. Add to all that the wind which whips in





from the Irish Sea and you have the recipe for superb links golf.

But the word which is most often used in connection with West Lincs is “tough”. If you can play well around West Lincs you can play.

But it can be tamed. The longest hole-in-one in the British Isles occurred at the club’s 7th, a 393 yard par 4, made by one of the club’s, at the time, Assistant Pro, Peter Parkinson, on June 6, 1972.

The club itself is steeped in history and many of those with close associations to the club featuring strongly in the annals of the game.

One of England’s greatest amateurs, Harold Hilton, who won The Open Championship on two occasions, was Club Secretary before going on to become the first Editor of *Golf Monthly* magazine.

Club professional, Sandy Herd, won the 1902 Open at Hoylake while one of his succes-

“We are fast running and the greens are small, so you have to be accurate and position the ball in the right areas of the fairway. Thinking your way round is very much the key to success”

John Muir, Course Manager, since 1984

sors, Arthur Havers, also won The Open, in 1923 at Troon, before defeating Bobby Jones and Gene Sarazen in a challenge match in the States.

BIGGA features in the club’s more recent history. The late Northern Regional Administrator, Doug Bell, had previously been West Lincs’ Secretary and was in post when the inaugural Hayter International Challenge Match, pitting the Americas against the Rest of the World, was played over the course in September, ’96.



The Americas greenkeepers won a pulsating match 10-8 before the return was played in Atlanta, Georgia, the following year.

They are events which live long in the memory of those who had the privilege of being there.

John Muir has been Course Manager at the club since 1984 and has earned a fine reputation for the quality of golf course he has continually produced since then.

"We are burnt to a crisp at the moment.

"We just don't get rain at West Lincs. It can be raining in Liverpool or Southport but will miss us," revealed John, as we spoke at the beginning of July.

With his 27 years of experience at West Lincs, John is well placed to comment on the strengths of the course.

"It is a wonderful, old fashioned links and if you are a good golfer and a student of such things you could easily be playing 100 years ago.

"We are fast running and the greens are small, so you have to be accurate and position the ball in the right areas of the fairway.

"Thinking your way round is very much the key to success."

On that word "tough" John also has some interesting thoughts.

"We are regarded as tough because there are no weaknesses

on the course Perhaps there aren't the memorable holes of some courses, but we don't have any weak holes and the pressure doesn't let up."

"Also because we are on a large site it sometimes appears that the fairways are narrow and all you can see is rough,"

John is looking forward to the BIGGA National Championship and welcoming greenkeepers from all over the country to his course.

"I'm hoping that the weather is good in the run-up and that the players get the opportunity to play the course at its best," he said.

Last year's BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, at The Berkshire, was won by former Leicestershire County Captain, Paul Frith, playing off scratch.

Paul shot a two round total of 143 to win in a card play-off from +2 man, Laurie Tremlett, with 1 handicapper, John McLaughlin, a single shot behind.

It takes some high quality golf to become BIGGA's Champion Golfer and that is bound to be the case again this year.



BIGGA National Championship 2011, West Lincs Golf Club, October 3-4 • Entry Form

Please select the relevant category:

Full Member

Affiliate Member

The entry fee of **£95** includes all golf fees, lunch both days and dinner on Monday evening. Please note that there is no accommodation provided.

Name

Address.....

.....

..... Post Code.....

Mobile.....

E-mail.....

Membership Number

Handicap

BIGGA Section.....

Payment method (please tick)

I enclose my cheque made payable to 'BIGGA Ltd' value **£95**

Please debit my Mastercard / Switch / Visa / Delta card with the fee of **£95**

Card number

.....

Start Date Expiry Date

Last 3 security digits

Issue No. (Switch/Delta only)

Signature.....

Date.....

Or E-mail your details to:

pauline@bigga.co.uk

Ensure you receive confirmation of entry by return email.

Deadline for entry is 11th September 2011.



Completed entry forms should be sent to:

BIGGA National Championship, BIGGA House, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF

The main tournament for the Challenge Trophy will be played over 36 holes, medal play, with the best overall gross score producing the BIGGA National Champion, who must be a greenkeeper member. The greenkeeper player with the lowest nett score will be presented with the BIGGA Challenge Cup.

There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd over 36 holes in both the nett and gross categories, additionally after each day of 18 holes there will be prizes for winners of handicap divisions. The BIGGA Regional Team Cup and prize will be calculated from the 8 best nett scores over the first day of play. If you have a poor first day an alternative Stableford competition will be held on the second day of play.