



11th hole at Carnoustie Golf Links

A Hole in Honour

As reported in last month's Greenkeeper International, Carnoustie Golf Links has made the momentous decision to honour the work of John Philp MBE, recently retired Links Superintendent, by naming a hole in his honour.

On Friday 29 June the 383 yard par four 11th hole on the Championship Course, host to seven Open Championships, was officially renamed John Philp. The 11th hole was chosen as it is close to the Greenkeepers' Maintenance Facility, the nerve centre of John's operation for the past 27 years.

Carnoustie Golf Links Management Committee chairman Gordon Wilson said: "I think everybody knows how important John has been for Carnoustie and bringing The Open back here.

"There was a lot of talk about hotels, access and improved facilities, but the most important thing was the condition of the golf course.

"He is the man who secured that."

Greenkeepers, caddies, the Golf Links Management Committee, friends and family joined chairman Gordon Wilson to express the great depth of appreciation felt for Mr Philp and his contribution to golf.

Colin McLeod, golf services manager at Carnoustie Golf Links, said: "This is a rare thing in golf and even rarer on an Open Championship course.

"The last renaming of a hole on the course was in 2003, which marked 50 years since Ben Hogan won The Open Championship at Carnoustie."

BIGGA Chairman, Andrew Mellon said, "I am so pleased to see John's lifelong efforts recognised

with such a significant honour. I have met and talked with John several times in the last few years, and his passion for greenkeeping is always apparent.

"His kindness and willingness to share his experience and knowledge with you also knows no bounds. I've been fortunate enough to attend several events at Carnoustie and I have not seen better turf condition anywhere."

During his speech at the 11th hole John thanked many people including his mentor and greenkeeping legend Walter Woods BEM who was present and the late Dalhousie Golf Club captain Jock Calder, who played a leading role in bringing The Open back to Carnoustie.

He also highlighted the role played by the links staff. John said: "I accept this tremendous honour on behalf of everybody on my team, because at the end of the day it is a team effort, and I am just a team leader.

"That is what has made it all possible, along with the investment of the management committee over the years."

He was a spectator during the 1968 Open at Carnoustie, and explained he had no idea where his love of golf would lead him. He said: "Little did I know when I came here in 1968 to the Open Championship to watch Gary Player in the final round that I would end up here.

"It's been a great privilege and pleasure working at Carnoustie, just as I did at St Andrews.

"I have a great many happy memories from my career and a lot of them are from here in Carnoustie."



BIGGA Member hits the Headlines in Local US Newspaper

International member, Sean Sullivan, golf course superintendent at Billings Country Club in Montana, north USA, was featured ahead his involvement in the BIGGA Open Support Team this July.

The coverage shows the interest that being part of this prestigious event can generate, and one of the many rewards being a BIGGA member can bring.

Congratulations to Sean for making his local media aware of his involvement, and of the contribution from the entire BIGGA support team

A full review of the Open, from Royal Lytham & St Annes, featuring photographs and quotes from the support team, is on pages 32-37.