

Americas Team captures inaugural Hayter Cup

However, camaraderie & good will are real winners

By TREVOR LEDGER

LIVERPOOL, England — A team representing The Americas has captured the first Hayter International Cup, contested here at West Lancashire Golf Club in September. Twelve superintendents from the Western Hemisphere overcame greenkeepers representing the Rest of the World 9.5 points to 7.5.

The match was keen and close, the weather sublime, the course beautiful and hospitality excellent. However, the event's organization was by far and away its most outstanding feature. Organizers deserve high praise, indeed, especially Hayter Director of Sales and Marketing Kim Macfie and Neil Thomas, executive director of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA), whose inspirational vision devised the event.



The West Lancs course provided a stern physical test, as The Americas' Sam Williamson will attest.

Interest has certainly been piqued for the rematch, tentatively scheduled for the Atlanta area in 1998.

Perversely the inaugural competition, though fierce, was relegated to the role of backcloth to the weekend's whole — the social and professional meeting of minds from around the world. Over dinner, in the bar, around the course, the talk was naturally enough centered on the common ground of tending the cultured (or otherwise) turf of various and wildly differing workplaces.

This was not the talk of businessmen discussing the market and other such drudgeries. This was something much more than that. To a casual eavesdropper in the hotel bar, the Australian, Swede and Canadian might well have been talking about a much loved but wayward child instead of what is — don't forget — a workplace. The standard sentences of the evening generally began with; "Have you tried...? Hey, have you ever seen...? How many staff...?"

That's not to say the competition was ignored. Far from it. But it was viewed more as a catalyst — a good excuse for being there.

The practice round on the Sunday (Sept. 15) was interesting and had the propensity to be irrelevant as far as getting to know the West Lancs course. Following a relatively poor summer, the Lancashire Coast threw up a memory from summers past, i.e. warm and windless. Being a true seaside links, the likelihood was that, come match day, the wind would blow flat out and turn the pussycat into a tiger.

But lessons were learned (or at least should have been): the punitive rough was to be avoided at all costs; flying straight to the pin would bring only tears; and some of the bunkers would require safety ropes. Add the fact that a cold spring and cool, dry

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PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT:

Bruce Williams (right), the current GCSAA president, and Gary Grigg, immediate past president, discuss club selection during the afternoon single play.

Eastern Hemisphere the odds-on favorite in belly-up rematch

By TREVOR LEDGER

LIVERPOOL, England — Having lost the match, some members of the Rest of the World team were keen to gain revenge. It was suggested they would win a drinking competition. This would be unfair and a boxing referee would deem it no contest, by my reckoning and that of independent witnesses. The Rest of the World would win by a technical knock out, i.e., the Americas would either pass out or refuse to leave their corner for the second round. Boy, did some ale ever get swallowed? Perhaps thus imbibing was what impeded one or two Rest of the Worlders out on the links.

HAYTER NOTEBOOK

The language barrier between teammates/competitors might have caused a problem. Not a bit of it, as Brian Mulholland of Northern Ireland was teamed with Matthias Ehser of Germany. Mulholland's caddy inquired of the luckless Continental: "Do you speak English?" "No," came the reply.

Mulholland's thick Irish brogue then boomed across the hotel-bound bus: "Don't you worry about it, son, I'll teach you English. Start off with this when you wind up in the rough tomorrow morning: 'What the [expletive deleted] am I doing

in here, Brian?" "Matthias grinned but looked more than a bit confused, as the bus load collapsed in hilarity.

Dean Morrison of the Americas tried to break the tension of the first tee. "I was thinking about this shot all last night," he laughed and proceeded to sky it 30 yards right, into jungle rough at the bottom of the club flagpole.

"And you'll be thinking of it tonight as well," came an anonymous response.

Michael Dohlon of Sweden noticed my *Golf Course News* shirt in the hotel bar on Sunday night. "Write this," he commanded — I noticed his bloodshot eyes and mas-

**Hayter International Results
Sept. 18, West Lancashire GC
Liverpool, England**

Four-Ball Matches: Americas 3.5 — Rest of the World 2.5

- No. 1: Dusch/Nichols halved Derek McJannet (Great Britain)/Andreas Kauler (Germany)
- No. 2: Williamson/Charters halved Michael Dolon (Sweden)/Peter Schumacher (Australia)
- No. 3: Fredrik Goa (Sweden)/Cosme Bergareche def. McGinnis/de Udaeta, 2 & 1
- No. 4: Grigg/Meyer halved Alex Reid (Scotland)/Ignacio Soto Alarcon (Spain)
- No. 5: Morrison/Renault def. Brian Mulholland (Ireland)/Matthias Ehser (Germany), 6 & 5
- No. 6: Heron/Torres def. Ian Buckley (England)/Peter Frewin (Australia), 1 up

Single Matches: Americas 6.6 — Rest of the World 5.5

- No. 1: Dusch def. Dohlon, 5 & 4
- No. 2: Nichols def. Schumacher, 5 & 4
- No. 3: McJannet def. Williamson, 2 & 1
- No. 4: Charters def. Kauler, 3 & 1
- No. 5: de Udaeta def. Reid, 2 up
- No. 6: Alarcon def. McGinnis, 5 & 3
- No. 7: Meyer def. Goa, 1 up
- No. 8: Bergareche def. Grigg, 4 & 3
- No. 9: Morrison halved Buckley
- No. 10: Frewin def. Renault, 7 & 6
- No. 11: Heron def. Mulholland, 1 up
- No. 12: Ehser def. Torres, 3 & 2

Participants from The Americas team included Samuel Williamson, CGCS at Ojai (Calif.) Valley Inn & Country Club; Dean Morrison, CGCS at Calgary Golf & Country Club in Alberta, Canada; Thom Charters, Bayview Country Club, Thornhill, Ont.; Doug Meyer, CGCS at Cedarbrook Golf Country Club in St. Sophie, Quebec; Robert Heron, CGCS at Beacon Hall Golf Club in Brampton, Ont.; Ricardo de Udaeta, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Eduardo Torres, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Paul McGinnis, CGCS at Moon Valley Country Club, Phoenix, Ariz. (GCSAA vice president); George Renault III, CGCS at Burning Tree Club, Bethesda, Md. (GCSAA secretary/treasurer); Gary Grigg, CGCS at Royal Poinciana Golf Club, Naples, Fla. (GCSAA immediate past president); Randy Nichols, CGCS at Cherokee Town & Country Club, Atlanta, Ga. (GCSAA past president); Jim Dusch, CGCS at Atlanta National Golf Club, Atlanta, Ga.

sive shoulders and naturally acquiesced. "We will win!" he said.

"Why?" I inquired.

"Because we are better than them, of course."

Dohlon halved his four-ball and lost 5 and 4 to Jim Dusch in the afternoon. Better than whom? I wonder.

On a similar note, Peter Frewin of Australia was only too happy to give a prediction. "Oh, I'll win," he predicted.

Once again, "Why?" was my response. "I haven't flown half way round the bloody world to lose, mate," was Frewin's forthright and reasonable response.

Such frankness was not so noticeable in the Americas team camp which maintained a dignified reticence and professional front throughout. Not so jocular perhaps but winners...

The Hayter Cup

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summer had made for poor growing conditions on the close cropped fairways. All of these factors suggested the superb West Lincs course would provide a stern enough test, gales or no. View the description "pussycat" in a purely relative sense. . .

The range of playing ability was wide, from plus-1 handicap to more than 12. This in mind, the opportunity for some one-sided matches was very real. As this would have been contrary to the spirit of the contest, organizers and team captains agreed to avoid such a scenario by the implementation of two devices: First, the matches would be played full handicap; second, the captains would, as near as possible, order their players in roughly ascending handicaps.

As the results show, this was a successful move with only five matches out of 18 being reasonably described as "comfortable victories/uncomfortable defeats."

The morning four-balls were extremely closely contested, four of six went to the 18th, one to the 17th, with only Dean Morrison and George Renault of the Americas cruising to a 6 and 5 victory (see complete scoring results on page 30).

Opening salvos were jocular and generous with 3-foot "gimmies" fairly commonplace. By about hole seven the *bonhomie* was a good deal thinner on the ground. "That's good, take it away," had been replaced with a calculating silence. Tension was mounting.

By hole 14, the sole Canadian, Thom Charters, had his shoe off decrying a mystery toe injury. Was this building an early excuse? If the ailment affected his putting, it might have explained his three-jack on the 18th — when two putts would have won the game. By his own admission, "The Canadian choked it!"

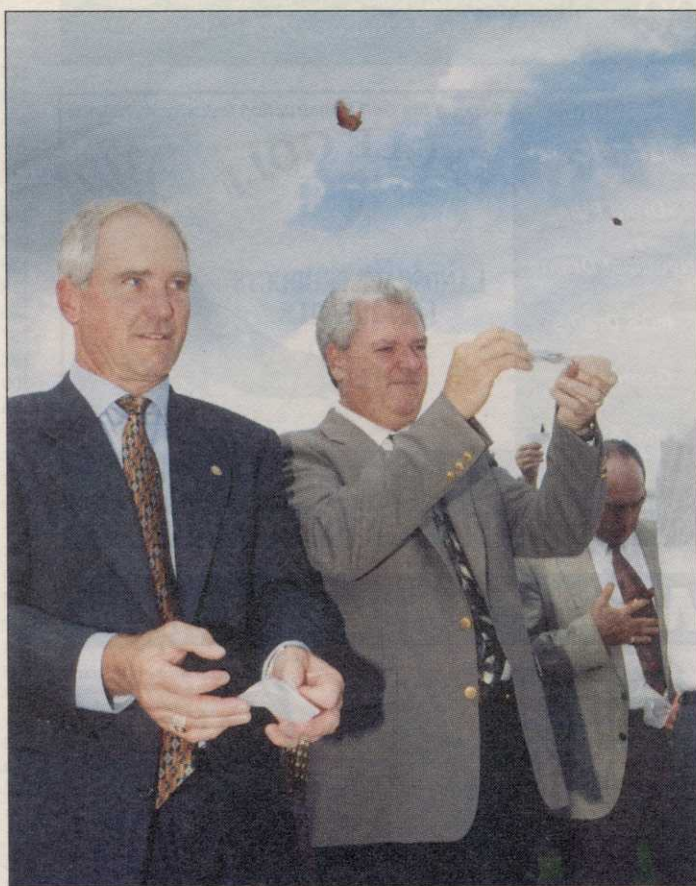
Charters was not alone in a nervous display on the last. Alex Reid of Scotland missed from 2 feet and thus achieved a half, instead of what might have been a vital win.

The Cup went down almost to the wire. If Ian Buckley had not been 3 off the tee at the 18th, the result may have been different.

However, in truth, the result was perhaps not as important as one might imagine. Surely the excitement was felt as both team captains were waiting on the 18th with information and encouragement for the final few matches. But the real buzz was felt by everyone by dint of being involved in such a brilliant event.

Hayter's Macfie was delighted with the way things panned out, declaring that even the weather was great: "This is everything I hoped it would be," he said.

This correspondent would go one better: The event surpassed all expectations.



PGA of America Secretary Will Mann (left) and PGA Chief Executive Officer Jim Awtrey let loose with their butterflies during the Audubon ceremony.

PGA's Reserve augments Fla. butterfly population

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — Audubon International has presented its top award to the PGA Golf Club at The Reserve — only the fifth in the nation to receive Audubon's Signature Status for environmental excellence.

The award ceremony — complete with a live butterfly release — took place during The Reserve's opening dedication celebration attended by hundreds of PGA delegates from across the country, special guests and the news media.

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PARAMUS, N.J. — Ridgewood Country Club has become the second course in the state to achieve designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System.

"Our efforts and accomplishments are part of an overall plan to not only maintain The Ridgewood Country Club as one of the top

golfing facilities in the U.S. but also to make our club environmentally sound," said Ridgewood President Fred Nydegger.

"The club is extremely committed to preserving the natural habitat on its 275-acre complex," explained Ridgewood superintendent John J. Gasper, "and our long-range environmental plan was created so that RCC can improve and sustain our desired level of environmental quality for years to come."

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RYE, N.Y. — Westchester Country Club has been designated a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System. Westchester is the third course in New York to receive the honor. "We are proud to have reached this status and look forward to maintaining and further enhancing our Audubon program," said superintendent Joe Alonzi.

Emergency plan

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along with worst-case scenario of a golfer — heart failure with a lack of oxygen — how much time is required to start immediate first aid, summon trained emergency personnel with equipment, and deliver the golfer to a hospital? Not hours, but minutes.

This scenario required a plan to coordinate all potential participants. Pat Vanderstine is general manager of the golf course. It was appropriate to discuss my concerns with her. She readily agreed from a humanitarian standpoint that I should proceed.

The beginning of the plan required traveling the golf course with paper and pencil viewing the course with an entirely new perspective. Example: The Hagen first hole has water crossing the fairway at 90 degrees

halfway between tee and green. The water is crossed by a bridge whose integrity is adequate for golf carts, but surely not for a heavy emergency vehicle. An emergency situation would require the exact location of a golfer needing assistance. Is the golfer between the tee box and the water or is the golfer between the water and the green?

This exercise started the creation of many pages of notes. It was now quite apparent a layout of the golf course, along with the adjacent city streets, would be needed. A trip to the fire department and the tax office located the needed street layout. The Fire Chief Darryl Platt was very enthusiastic about the development of this plan; he offered any needed cooperation by his department.

On one of the layouts the water, macadam paths tee boxes and greens were established and

colored. Water was blue, paths were black while tee boxes and greens were green. With the notes gathered prior, access points were established in red on the layout. This was accomplished after many meetings with the fire chief and deputy fire chief. The layout had a total of 12 access points.

The next order of business was to set forth a simple set of instructions for course personnel (see related story). Copies of these instructions and the course layout with the access point were reviewed with Chief Platt for his final approval. A copy was turned over to the police department. The fire department conducted training sessions with their personnel to familiarize them with it. At no cost to the golf course, Chief Platt offered to run training sessions on CPR and artificial respiration for all golf course personnel — paid and volunteer.

All golf courses should have an emergency evacuation plan. Just because a course has a number of holes that aren't close to public roads is no excuse. There should be a plan in place and personnel familiar with its operation.

Here, this issue has been discussed from the humanitarian standpoint. There is, I believe, a legal side to the question. A player goes down with a heart attack and dies on the course 15 minutes later. The only people in attendance were his fellow players who were untrained. A negligence suit is waiting to happen. An attorney for the deceased's heirs can and would raise many critical questions of the golf course and possibly the local emergency department. With my training in risk management I saw a potential problem, but I also saw a practical way to reduce and minimize the problem.

Buena Vista Golf Holdings

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course management industry; and favorable indicators that the game will enjoy increased participation in nearly all market segments.

"Because of the demographics of the U.S. population, we view golf as a growth business from the demand side," Frost said. "With the increasing financial and environmental roadblocks to building new golf courses, it will be difficult for the supply side to keep up."

Along with its management arrangement for the 36-hole LPGA world headquarters, the company has been named the exclusive development and management company for the LPGA. "We're working on plans to expand the LPGA's golf course identity in other parts of the world," Frost said. "It won't be too dissimilar to the way the PGA Tour has developed the TPC (Tournament Players Club) concept."

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