

# 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

Continued on page 54



**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...