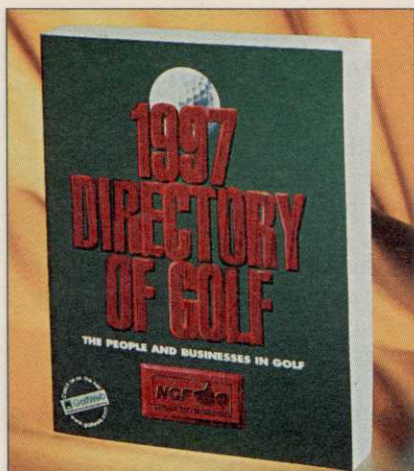


IN BRIEF

CINCINNATI — The notoriously soggy Reeves Golf Course got a late start this summer after a 9-week shutdown that lasted into late June. An estimated 19,000 fewer rounds had been played as of mid-July compared with 1995, as parts of the popular muni track were underwater most of the spring. Heavy rains and a rising river caused water tables to seep upward.

MARNE, Mich. — There's nothing like a name change to lend an air of seriousness to a golf course. Once known by the cozy name of Li'l Acres, the nine-hole course in this small town near Grand Rapids is now known as Sand Creek Golf Course & Driving Range. Owner-operator Linda Zahn said she changed the name in keeping with many improvements made at the course recently. Sand Creek now offers a lighted chip and putt practice area. On the 1,965-yard course, new trees were planted and bunkers installed.

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — The newly-opened Stonehouse Golf Club here took a beating from Hurricane Bertha, which shut the course down for more than a month. Stonehouse, which opened for play June 20, was drenched with rain — 3-1/2 inches overnight in mid-July. About one-third of the 13th green was washed out, according to Forrest Fezler, director of golf. The 13th green was resodded and rebuilt.



NGF directory hits streets & the web

JUPITER, Fla. — The National Golf Foundation (NGF) has released the first-ever, industry-wide reference guide called the *1997 Directory of Golf*. This 500-page publication covers the entire golf industry and lists more than 6,000 golf-related businesses and 10,000 executives. It is also indexed by industry segment for easy reference.

Annual print updates are planned. Monthly updates will be available to those with access to the Internet. NGF has entered into an agreement with GolfWeb the on-line golf information network, to publish on-line NGF's *1997 Directory of Golf*. The directory can be viewed through GolfWeb at: <http://www.golfweb.com>

The book may be purchased by calling NGF at 800-733-6006.

Supers stage their own Ryder Cup this month

Hayter Cup matches set for Sept. 16, in Britain

By TREVOR LEDGER

LIVERPOOL, England — Education, camaraderie and keen competition will converge at West Lancashire Golf Club Sept. 16, when the superintendents of "the Americas" take on the greenkeepers of the "Rest of the World" here in a Ryder Cup-style showdown.

The inaugural Hayter International Cup will bring together 24 superintendents from the Americas, Europe and Australasia, and deposit them at the West Lancs GC near Liverpool to slug it out. The format is reminiscent of the now, very high-profile and nerve-searing Ryder Cup. The one-day event will feature six four-ball matches in the morning and twelve singles matches in the afternoon.

For some years now, Hayter Limited has sponsored the Hayter Challenge, a respected annual golf tournament on the U.K. domestic greenkeeping scene. Yet the international challenge is a more recent brainchild of Hayter's Kim Macfie

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Trevor Ledger is Golf Course News' European correspondent.



THE ROSTERS

The players participating in the first-ever Hayter International Cup, a Ryder Cup-style team match between superintendents from The Americas (North, Central and South) and the Rest of the World (Britain, Europe, Australasia) to be held Sept. 16, at the West Lancashire Golf Club near Liverpool, England:

Americas: Samuel T. Williamson, Jim Dusch, Robert Heron, Douglas Meyer, Ricardo de Udaeta, George Renault, Dean Morrison, Paul McGinnis, Alejandro Young, Randy Nichols, Thom Charters, Gary Grigg.

Rest of the World: Cosme Bergareche, Fredrik Goa, Andreas Kauler, Derek McJannet, Ignacio Soto Alarcon, Peter Schumacher, Peter Frewin, Michael Dohlon, Ian Buckley, Matthias Ehser, Alexander Reid, Brian Mulholland.

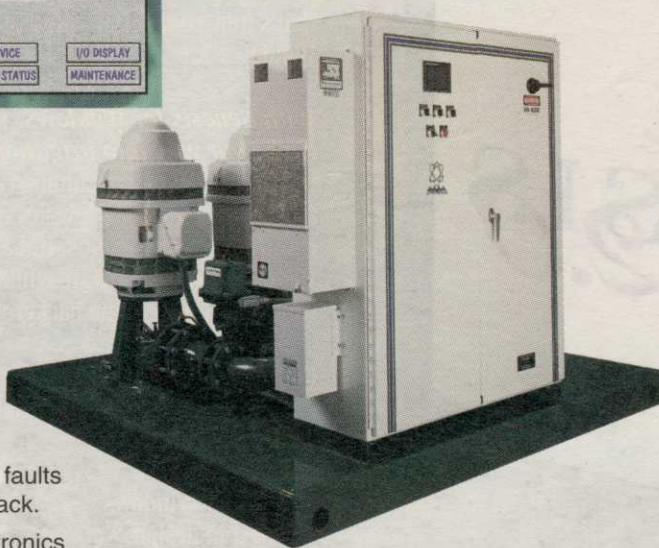
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Hayter Cup

Continued from page 3

and Neil Thomas, executive director of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA). It was at the Hayter Challenge finals in September 1994 when the idea of an international team match was first floated. It took shape through 1995 and was birthed publicly in September 1995.

European success during the 1995 Ryder Cup at Oak Hill played no small part in the final decision to proceed.

Yet the competitive element, though fundamental, is not the only raison d'être of the new contest. Macfie recognizes the value in the cross fertilization of ideas

and methods in turf care, to say nothing of the opportunity for European greenkeepers to share experiences with their counterparts around the globe. Given Hayter's line of business and its current modest showing in the North American market, this is hardly surprising. Not that Macfie is in any way coy about this point — as sales and marketing director, he is obviously keen, as he puts it, to "raise the profile of Hayter around the globe, particularly in North America."

More power to his elbow if this is to be a biennial event and the return match will be stateside.

Selection of the two 12-man teams was fairly uniform, with the top players from the various domestic greenkeeper's tourna-

ments being chosen to fill out the respective sides. The Americas squad drew players from North, Central and South, while The Rest of the World is represented by Britain, Europe and Australasia. Team spirit will have to be built quickly.

Explained Dean Cleaver, non-playing captain of the Rest of the World team: "We'll meet the first time on Saturday, have a practice round on the Sunday, sink a few beers in the evening and discuss selection and tactics then."

The match starts Monday.

Cleaver is taking his job very seriously. He recognizes the guys on his team have succeeded through many rounds of golf to get there. But is he confident? Will his team win?

"I hope so," said Cleaver. "We will certainly be competitive."

He's not kidding. One of the two German greenkeepers on the team actually flew to West Lancashire last month in order to get to know the course.

"But winning isn't everything," Cleaver observed. "The most important thing is the bringing together of like-minded people to discuss our profession and learn a little bit from each other."

Cleaver's pre-Cup politesse sets off a swirl of déjà vu. Hungry for some sign of high-stakes build-up, this correspondent tried to press the "True Brit" and scratch him into aggressive gamesmanship. But he wasn't having any of it:

GCN: Don't you want to crow

a little bit about the Ryder Cup?

Cleaver: Hah hah hah, oh no... hum, no, I wouldn't like to say that at all.

Perhaps all this was a front. As Cleaver talked about the venue for the Hayter International, he let slip a nugget of information which smacks of gamesmanship.

GCN: Why is the event to be held at the West Lancashire GC?

Cleaver: Because the Challenge Finals were hosted so well there last year.

GCN: Ah! So the four Brits in the team know the course reasonably well?

Cleaver: I suppose so... but it wasn't the reason we chose it, honestly [silence]. It's a typically British seaside course so I don't suppose the Americans will have much experience of such courses.

Sneaky Dean, very sneaky. Well done.

But what of the greenkeeper of the West Lincs course? How does he feel about having 24 of the best golfers from his worldwide peer group casting a critical eye over every sward of his daily labor?

John Muir, the West Lincs greenkeeper, is stoic. "There is a certain amount of trepidation involved," he said. "The members complain that the course is better prepared for visitors, but I strive for the same very high standards all the time."

The West Lincs course is typically British Links and was remodeled in the early 1960s by Frank Pennick. It is set between the sea and a railway line and, as with most links, it demands a variety of shots from golfers. It is here that greenkeeper Muir believes the Americans might struggle.

"The guy who can use the wind and play a chip and run game has the advantage over the general American game of target golf," Muir said.

Was this, I wondered, the hardened edge that I had been looking for? Was Muir suggesting that British and European golfers are, overall, better and more resourceful shotmakers on average than the Americans and would therefore claim the first-ever Hayter International Cup?

Not at all, claimed Muir. He said he isn't very competitive and, in any event, his very job demands neutrality.

So, it appears the whole ethos of the event is one of comradely harmony — for now anyway. Perhaps the pinch will come on the first green.

Scotts program

Continued from page 38

courses dispense Scott's FFII snow mold treatment.

"We begin applying it on northern Michigan courses in early October and start moving south, ending up in Kentucky about mid-December," Lybarger said. "It's another way to keep our vehicles operating."

Scott has 10 vehicles that service roughly 75 courses. The vehicles are kept busy in the Southeast. "We have some excess capacity in the Southwest," Lybarger noted.



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