

Major work underway at Canons Brook

A MAJOR modernisation project of the 17th century barn and changing rooms at Harlow's Canons Brook Golf Club has been launched.

Firstly, the scheme at the Elizabeth Way club will completely transform the locker and changing rooms.

The club's course was originally designed by golf legend Sir Henry Cotton, who wanted to create a championship-length course with very little rough, but incorporating many bunkers and large

undulating greens. It officially opened in 1966.

Club chiefs will not reveal exactly how much will be spent on the project, but a spokesman said it would cost a 'substantial five-figure' amount.

The club has funded the extensive project itself.

Increased funds have allowed Canons Brook, which has more than 500 members, to commence the work, and phase one should be completed in May.

GTC position for England man Holliday

John appointed to committee

JOHN HOLLIDAY has been appointed to represent the EGU on the Greenkeepers Training Committee - and, as an enthusiastic golfer himself, wants others to understand how greenkeeper training is so important for the future.

"I have recently joined the technical committee of an organisation I had heard of through my role on the EGU Club Services Committee but never really understood its role and responsibilities," explained John.

"From the outset, I, as your typical club golfer and owner of a lawn at home, felt unsure as to whether I was "qualified" to contribute to the work of the GTC's technical committee, but I do feel I have some responsibility in my EGU role to ensure the funding committed by the Union on behalf of the golfers is spent on improving the opportunities for all levels of greenkeepers to gain education, training and qualifications. This subsequently will improve the quality of golf courses, the golf club's biggest asset."

REPRESENTATION

The GTC is the independent organisation representing British golf club employers through a Board of Directors, Technical Committee and two full-time employees. The committee consists of representatives from the following bodies: the English Golf Union, Scottish Golf Union, Golf Union of Wales and British and International Golf Greenkeepers'

Association. All within the GTC representative bodies play a vital role in promoting educational best practice. Employers and greenkeepers have access to support through training and often free expert advice to develop skills to ensure golfers enjoy both their golf and the flora and fauna.

The GTC is dedicated to its objectives of improving and promoting the education and training. Such courses and qualifications are available to allow ambitious and enthusiastic greenkeepers to work towards becoming greenkeeping management professionals.

John adds: "The GTC has championed the need for Government funding to follow units rather than just full qualifications, as not all learners are in positions within their employment to gain all the skills and knowledge required. The GTC facilitates this through approved centres offering nationally accredited qualifications, including the highly rated sports turf apprenticeship.

"By working within the Government's national framework of qualifications, the GTC saves golf club employers hundreds of pounds, sometimes thousands, as approved qualifications and courses, including the Apprenticeship Scheme, attract subsidies, which, especially in the current economic climate, are very important for golf club owners.

"The golf course should, unquestionably, be the main priority for any club owner, committee member and golfer."



So Farr, so good for Oliver

WELSH international Oliver Farr, right, has given his chances of making next year's Walker Cup squad a huge boost by winning the prestigious Duncan Putter at Southerndown.

The 21-year-old son of a pro from Ludlow in Shropshire set out to impress Nigel Edwards - and did so by leaving the GB&I Walker Cup captain in second place.

Leading wire-to-wire, Farr finished on three-under 277 after rounds of 66, 67, 71 and 73, with Edwards on 283.

It was an impressive way for Farr, a regular Shropshire and Herefordshire first teamer, to start a season in which he has set his sights on making next year's Walker Cup team to play the USA at Royal Aberdeen.



Things going well at Studley Wood

STUDLEY WOOD Golf Club in Oxfordshire is enjoying a great year having recently been presented with the GolfMark award and, as a result, has become one of only nine recognised Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxford Training Academies.

This follows a major increase in the full membership at the club over the past year, which has seen the junior section grow by a third.

Meantime, the club's co-owner, Ken Heathcote, is continuing to help the development of Zimbabwean tour pro Tongo Charamba, currently doing well on South Africa's Sunshine Tour.

Burridge milestone

DEREK BURRIDGE (wholesale) Ltd, the UK's leading supplier of golf prizes and trophies, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

The company has expanded through the years and moved to new premises, near Heathrow, just before the Millennium.

Sales director Mark Burridge says: "We hope our customers can visit our showrooms at sometime this year to help us celebrate."

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Claim to fame

LOOKING for somewhere different to enjoy a golf day out this year? Look no further than Chestfield Golf Club, which has a unique claim to fame.

The Whitstable-based club's clubhouse dates back to the 15th century and is believed to be the oldest building in the world in use as a golf clubhouse.

As well as its clubhouse, Chestfield is also home to a splendid course that is a fine test for all players. To find out more, log-on to www.chestfield-golfclub.co.uk.



HAPPY TRIP NORTH: Emily Taylor made the journey to Scotland worthwhile with victory in the Scottish U16s Strokeplay

Emily leads English success in Scotland

ENGLAND squad players, led by Emily Taylor of Lancashire and Georgia Hall of Dorset, swept the board of honours at the Scottish U16 Open Strokeplay Championship at Strathmore.

Emily, 15, won the championship, helped by a new course record of six-under 66. She added it to her opening 74 for a four-under total for 36 holes.

Georgia, 13, shot a bogey-free 68 in the second round to finish on two-under par for the tournament. She won the U14 trophy and was third overall, behind Ashley Cramond of Warwickshire.

The English Women's Golf Association sent a squad of six to the championship and the two teams took first and second place in the Nations Cup event. Team B, represented by Emily, Georgia and Brogan

Townend, won with a two-day score of 279. Team A, represented by Elizabeth Mallett, Bronte Law and Lauren Taylor, were runners-up on 285. The best two scores counted on each day.

Scoring at the championship was excellent, with five players finishing under par and three more returning level par totals.

Emily, from Royal Lytham & St Annes, impressively notched up five birdies and an eagle three in her 66, which was not only a course record but her personal best score - and the first time she's broken 70.

"I didn't play my best in the first round but I knew it was all to play for and I just went out to do my best. My second round was really special," added Taylor, who looks to have a bright future.



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