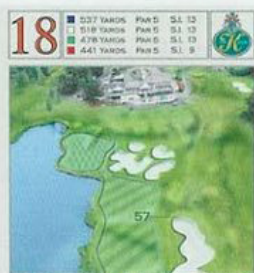


Palmer polishes up his K Club design



THE PALMER COURSE - THE HOOKER'S GRAVEYARD

Arnold Palmer's Advice

A very exciting finishing hole!

A long drive will make this Par 5 very reachable, but you must avoid the new bunkers some 250 yards out over the big bunker and the thick rough on the left. The tee shot is uphill and somewhat blind, but it offers players downwind.

From just beyond the landing area there is a lake down the left of the way to the green. The green slopes right to left and has a slope that is not too steep and large bunkers front right. The front left bunker will be reaching if you ball out into the bunkers, but the shot towards the water is dangerous!

There will be plenty of excitement in the Ryder Cup for the matches that reach the 18th!



HOLE 18

ARNOLD PALMER has tweaked his original design of the K Club in Ireland in preparation for the 36th Ryder Cup from September 20-22.

Several holes have been lengthened and fairway bunkers added and the nines have been switched with the exception of the finishing holes on each side, meaning holes 10-17 are now 1-8 followed by the original 9th, and vice versa.

Palmer said: "I don't think the golf course is extremely long by today's standards, but there are some really great holes, some challenging holes that I think will make the Ryder Cup very interesting."

Europe has won four of the last five matches, including a massive 18½-9½ triumph two years ago at Oakland Hills Country Club.

• For more information, see www.palmerdesign.com

Grass is greener on Antwerp roof-top

MIND:STYLE, THE architecture concept group, used the recent KPMG Golf Business Forum to unveil its proposal for a grass-roofed driving range in Antwerp, Belgium.

Proposals for the Antwerp City Driving Range are being considered by the city council and the multi-level range, with business and leisure facilities, features a unique grass roof

allowing the building to blend in with its city park surroundings.

Other Mind:Style range designs include urban golf centres with putting greens on the roofs, amphitheatre style viewing areas with giant TV screens for sporting events, and underground meeting rooms with transparent roofs over which golfers hit shots onto the range.

St Andrews Links Academy now open

ST ANDREWS Links Golf Academy, a major addition to the facilities at the Home of Golf which features four instruction studios equipped with some of the most advanced ball-tracking, digital analysis and ultrasound putting scan technology, is now open.

The academy is part of an extension of the existing St Andrews Links Golf Practice Centre, which has seen the creation of an additional 14 covered bays, taking the total number of bays to 51, improved outdoor bays and upgraded lighting.

A state-of-the-art custom-fit centre is also based in the academy. Operated by Applied Golf Technology, the centre will provide an expert custom fitting, club-making and club repair service.

Alan McGregor, general manager of St Andrews Links Trust, said: "The academy is open to golfers of all abilities from beginners to professionals and adds a new dimension to the golfing experience in St Andrews."

• For more information visit www.standrewslinksgolfacademy.com

FUNDRAISING

Monty dishes out the cash

COLIN MONTGOMERIE handed over a cheque for nearly £50,000 to boost Scottish junior golf during the recent Scottish Open at Loch Lomond.

The money was raised at a tribute dinner in January for the eight-times European Order of Merit winner that was held in January.

Most of the money – around £25,000 – will go towards the clubgolf programme through the Scottish Golf Union and the Golf Foundation and towards the SGU Junior Tour. The rest of the donations will go to golf scholarship programmes, including students at Stirling University. clubgolf is funded by the Scottish Executive, which has committed £500,000 per year to the scheme through sportscotland until 2009.

TeeGenius to boost clubs

A REVOLUTIONARY tee-time booking system has been dubbed 'an Expedia for golf'.

Newly-launched TeeGenius lets golfers search tee-time availability for courses in their local area – with no charge for joining or booking - and clubs will benefit too.

The creators of the online service say TeeGenius is a complete one-stop shop which allows golfers to search where and when they want to play and find free tee-times at clubs that want visitors – likening the service to the comprehensive travel initiative Expedia.com.

TeeGenius is free for clubs to join with no software to buy or install – all will integrate with a club's current system or a free online tee sheet provided.

• For more details see www.teegenius.co.uk

Faldo in the Wilderness

NICK FALDO recently made his first site visit to Wilderness Club in Montana – his latest design project in the United States.

The Faldo course will

be at the heart of a major development that stretches across 545-acres of Rocky Mountain woodlands and will include 272 home-sites when completed.