



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COURSE ENHANCEMENTS UNDERWAY AT ROYAL LIVERPOOL GOLF CLUB

The historic links of Royal Liverpool Golf Club at Hoylake, Wirral, is undergoing changes designed to make the course an even more attractive test of golf, and a future friendly Open Championship venue.

In close consultation with The R&A and respected golf course architect, Martin Ebert, five main alterations are being made:

- The front of the Championship 4th green will be raised to produce a flatter landing area. This will not only enable more pin positions, but also reduce a hard kick through the back of the green. In addition, the overall size of the green will be reduced by converting a section of the back right of the green into surround.
- The Championship 7th green is being moved to the left of its current location, also permitting the construction of a new tee complex for the Championship 8th hole. The height of trees will be reduced to make the 8th fairway visible off the tee.
- The par 5 Championship 18th hole will have two new tees added to produce a hole which is 607 yards long. This is facilitated by the change of routing for the new Championship 17th hole described below.
- At the Championship 13th green a new run-off area will be fashioned, while the existing run-off on the right-hand side will be redeveloped.
- Finally, perhaps the most significant change: the creation of a new short par 3 hole of just 139 yards with a green located approximately on the same site as the current Championship 15th tee. Players will strike to an elevated green looking out to the Dee Estuary. This will become the Championship 17th hole.

In addition, a number of minor alterations to the course including tees, bunkers, hollows and mounding in and around the links will be made, while some roads are being reconfigured, and new ones added, to ensure the easy navigation around the course so essential to the smooth running of one of the world's great sporting events.

Royal Liverpool's Chairman of Green, Andrew Goodwin, said: "The decision to make changes to a course like Hoylake wasn't taken lightly, but throughout the Club's 150 year history alterations have been made and Royal Liverpool has continued to evolve and improve, ensuring it remains a wonderful challenge for both amateur and elite professional golfers alike.

"The Club is eager to remain a regular host of The Open. It attracts the world's best players to Wirral and brings a huge economic benefit for the Region. Of course, the many visitors we are delighted to welcome every year want to play the best courses in the country, and we believe the changes will make Hoylake even better."

The first, and largest, phase of works is almost complete and there will be some mild disruption for members and visitors until June 2020. The second phase will begin in Autumn 2020, largely focused on off course alterations.

Royal Liverpool Golf Club's Secretary, Simon Newland, said: "The work is carefully coordinated. At Hoylake we like to think of the Club as very proud of its past, but also excited by the future, so we look forward to welcoming visitors to the new look links and, of course, showing the changes to the world when The Open returns to Royal Liverpool in the Summer of 2022."

Johnnie Cole-Hamilton, Executive Director – Championships at The R&A said: "Royal Liverpool is one of the world's finest championship links. We enjoyed two outstanding Opens there in 2006 and 2014 when Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy respectively lifted the Claret Jug.

"We are very much looking forward to returning to Hoylake for The Open in 2022 and the enhancements being made to the 17th and 18th holes will help to produce a thrilling and dramatic climax to the Championship for players and spectators.

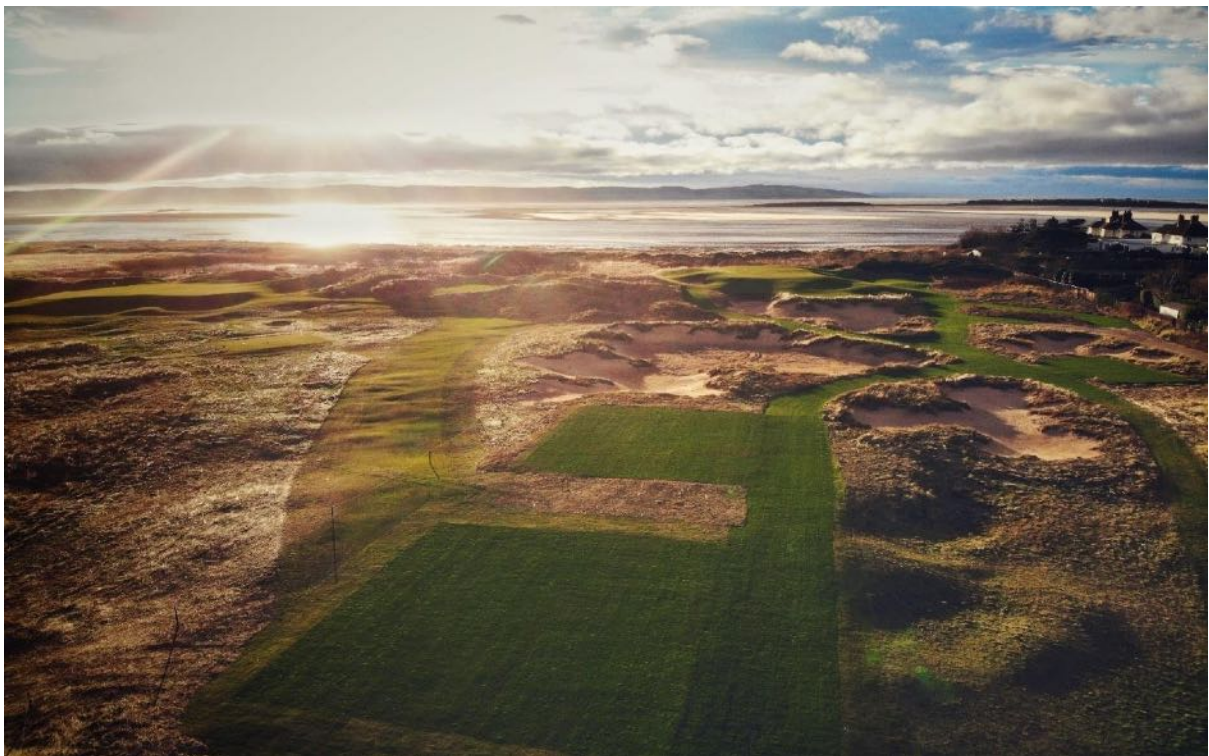
"We are particularly excited about the introduction of the new par 3 where the elevated green will be set back against the Dee estuary to create a spectacular penultimate hole for the Championship. We are grateful to the Club and its members for all their hard work and support."

Martin Ebert said: "The project at Royal Liverpool has been an extremely exciting one overall but the opportunity to create a new hole on a great links such as Hoylake is a rare one. The hope and expectation is that not only can a very short hole produce significant drama for the penultimate hole of The Open, but also provide the Club with a hole which members and visiting golfers from around the world will be hugely excited to play. It is also a real advantage of the new hole project that the Championship 15th and 18th par 5 holes will be strengthened with new back tees."

IMAGES:



Championship 17th; Aerial View of Construction Site



Championship 17th Hole; Nearing Completion



Championship 4th; Reconstructed Green



Championship 13th; Modified Run Off Areas

A flyover of the construction of the new Championship 17th Hole can be found here
www.vimeo.com/379077673

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The Hoylake links can be by turns beautiful, uplifting, awe inspiring and, on occasion, when the wind blows and the rough is deep, an enormous challenge. The course was created to be a demanding test of golf and remains so and lies at the very heart of the history and development of golf in Great Britain.

Built in 1869, on what was then the racecourse of the Liverpool Hunt Club, Hoylake is the oldest of all the English seaside courses with the exception of Westward Ho! in Devon, which was established just a few years earlier.

Robert Chambers and George Morris were commissioned to lay out the original Hoylake course, which was extended to 18 holes in 1871. This was also the year in which the Club assumed its Royal designation thanks to the patronage of His Royal Highness The Duke of Connaught.

For the first seven years of its life the land still performed its original function, doubling as a golf course and a horse racing track - indeed, echoes of this heritage can be found today in the names of the first and eighteenth holes, Course and Stand, while the original saddling bell still hangs in the clubhouse. Once the horses had been dispatched to pastures new Hoylake began to take its place in the history of golf in general and of the amateur game in particular.

Names like John Ball, Harold Hilton, Jack Graham and Bobby Jones are synonymous with Hoylake; while professionals like Walter Hagen, Peter Thomson and Roberto De Vicenzo raised the Claret Jug outside the iconic clubhouse before Royal Liverpool slipped off The Open rota.

The return of The Open in 2006 after 39 years demonstrated that Hoylake could once again host major events with enormous aplomb. The fabled 'mighty winds' did not blow, but there was no denying that another 'mighty champion' was born...in the shape of Tiger Woods who navigated his way to victory, taking the driver from his bag only once! The tournament attracted the second highest attendance in Open history.

In 2012 the Women's British Open came to Hoylake for the first time. Because of the Olympics, the event was staged later than usual. Amid some atrocious September weather, Jiyai Shin's steely determination and ability to cope with downpours and darkness enabled her to defeat the field by 9 shots.

In 2014, Rory McIlroy clinched his first Open Championship and third major title with a two-shot victory over Sergio Garcia and Rickie Fowler on a thrilling final day at Hoylake. The Northern Irishman joined Tiger Woods and Jack Nicklaus as the only players to win three of golf's modern majors by the age of 25.

In September 2019, Royal Liverpool hosted the 47th Walker Cup Match.

The Open Championship returns to Hoylake in 2022.

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