

## MEDIA BRIEF

Tuesday July 11, 2006

### **MIGHTY WINDS, MIGHTY CHAMPIONS** The history of the Royal Liverpool Golf Club



(Published July 2006 – Guy Woodland & Cities500)

TO celebrate the return of the prestigious and world famous golf tournament *The Open* to Hoylake on the Wirral in the UK after an absence of 37 years, *Cities500* International Publishers in collaboration with The Royal Liverpool Golf Club has published what is already being hailed as the finest ever tribute to the club; a lavishly produced book crammed with glorious and often historic photographs supported by a fascinating and well-researched history written by former club captain Joe Pinnington.

It is the first official history of the golf club for 73 years and the title is taken from a quotation by the *Times* golf correspondent Bernard Darwin in the 1930's- "*Hoylake blown upon by mighty winds, breeder of mighty champions*" – and encapsulates why The Royal Liverpool Golf Club holds a unique place in the history of world golf. Joe Pinnington has chronicled the club's fortunes from its genesis in 1869 through to its triumphant return to the Open rota later this month, (July 20-23).

His Royal Highness Prince Andrew – the Royal Liverpool Golf Club's honorary patron - has contributed the foreword to this superb book and relates how his golfing career began on its links when he was in the Royal Navy.

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In the years since the Royal Liverpool was founded – and certainly in the last 70 – social attitudes and standards of living have changed dramatically, as has golf in terms of technology and worldwide exposure. Yet, like the nature of the game itself, the links course and the flat fields of Hoylake on the wonderful Wirral Peninsula have changed little in the last 100 years – and golf remains essentially the sport first played in Scotland over 500 years ago.

In this book we trace the development of golf at Hoylake and interpose the history of the golf club with that of the great maritime city of Liverpool. Established by Liverpool businessmen by 1869 the club had 30 members, quite remarkable for such a relatively new sport in England. After a Victorian hey-day, in the latter part of the 20th century the club went through a downturn period but has enjoyed a renaissance since the late 1980s, mirrored by a remarkable regeneration of Liverpool's fortunes; most recently winning the European Capital of Culture title for 2008 and then UNESCO World Heritage status for its magnificent waterfront.

It is, though, largely intended as a fitting tribute to the greatest golfers the game has known, all of whom have graced the Hoylake links. "Hoylake has been seminal in golf's development on a global level," said Joe Pinnington. "The book has been inspired by the multitude of characters and champions who have strode Hoylake's fairways and despaired in its rough. I am delighted that we have published in time for the return of world's greatest golf championship."

The Royal Liverpool Golf Club is the second oldest course of its kind in England and is one of only eight courses from amongst thirty 'royal' golf courses in the UK to stage *The Open*. Other distinguished clubs that have hosted the event in the last five years include Lytham St Anne's in Lancashire and Sandwich in Kent in England, and in Scotland: St Andrews, Muir and Troon.

This glorious book – which will become a collector's item - is available in a number of editions. The hardback version with a colour jacket retails at £40 and an elegant leather-bound version in a slipcase at £95. It can be bought from the professional's shop at The Royal Liverpool Golf Club, through Lingam's bookshops in Wirral - or by ordering directly from *Cities500* International Publishers: contact Richard Spencer on 0151 666 1500 or e.mail: richard @theretoday.co.uk

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## **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

### ***Subscribers' Two-Book Edition***

This fascinating and rather unusual publishing project actually comprises two books: the first volume traces the history of the Royal Liverpool from 1900 to 1932 and is a realistic and high quality facsimile of Guy Farrar's 'must have' earlier book, published in 1933. The second volume is an updated, contemporary and complete history of the club from 1876 to the present day. The new book is written in a 'bright-but-right' style, which combines painstaking accuracy with an easy-to-read journey through the club's triumphs of the golden era and the troughs suffered after World War II. It then moves to the eventual repositioning of the club and the Open's return in 2006.

The foreword for the first history back in the 1930s was written by the then *The Times* golf correspondent Bernard Darwin, and we are delighted that the present incumbent, John Hopkins, has written the foreword to the new work. The unique 'Hoylake Subscribers' Edition' consists of the new book and the facsimile copy of Guy Farrar's book. Both are bound in leather and presented in a slipcase. The contemporary book contains 312 pages with over 200 traditional images from the club's archives along with contemporary photography.

#### **For further details or photographs contact:**

Guy Woodland  
*Cities500* International Publishers  
*tel:* + 44 (0) 151 632 3280  
No 2 The Old Stables, Charles Street,  
Wirral CH47 3BP, England, UK  
*e.mail:* golf@cities500.com

#### ***For editorial information or background about other Cities500 books contact:***

Lew Baxter  
Editor-in-Chief  
*tel:* + 44(0) 1978 861106  
*e.mail:* baxter@cities500.com  
and visit the website at: [www.cities500.com](http://www.cities500.com)