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I'm ready

Scott on song for Augusta

Exclusive
By Bernie McGuire

LEADING Aussie Adam Scott has spent a fortnight practicing at an exclusive golf club near London and with Augusta, Georgia clearly on his mind.

Scott returned to his London apartment straight after a disappointing Johnnie Walker Classic showing and was practicing at Queenwood in leafy Surrey before crossing the Atlantic Ocean for a run of three straight tournaments in America culminating with the US Masters, which begins April 5.

The World No 4 arrived in the England capital direct from Phuket, where he finished well down in an event he won two years ago in Beijing.

After three indifferent rounds on the Thai holiday island, the 26-year-old Queenslanders believed he finally found some much-needed confidence in a closing

round 71 ahead of the year's first major championship.

"Finally, after three frustrating days the ball was coming off the clubface and going where I was looking and not tailing off as it has been," Scott told The Golfer.

"That's good for the bigger picture.

"And the bigger picture for me, at this stage, is the first week of April.

"It's been really disappointing not to play as well as I know I can at this point of the year.

"Then again I am not that surprised given I had five weeks off at the start of the year.

"Now I have two weeks solid practice before I get back to competition.

"I will be out on Queenwood from Tuesday and I will be practicing all the shots I will expect to be hitting at Augusta National.



Continued page 4

▲ Adam Scott

Australian Open new date merger

AUSTRALASIAN Tour chairman Peter Senior agreed TV has dictated moving the 2007 Australian Open to be staged just two weeks before Christmas.

In an exclusive for The Golfer, Senior confirmed the date of Australia's premier golfing event as December 13-16.

"Golf Australia tried to do a deal with Channel 7 to stage the event in week 46 which is November 15-18 but Channel 7 said they couldn't provide coverage that week as it clashes with their coverage of the final round of the V8 Supercar Championship," Senior said.

"It means pretty much that TV dictates the staging of major golf tournaments in Australia as it always has.

"It's pretty disappointing because it means moving the Australian PGA as the last event of the year and the guys liked competing at Cooloolah in the last event as it very much a wind-down tournament.

"But now our biggest tournament will be the final event of 2007.

"So instead of the guys winding down they are going to be have to be on their toes because the Australian Open is a prestigious event and an event that is usually worth of lot of world ranking points.

Continued page 7



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Travel

By Rob Vanderzalm

CANADA'S Vancouver Island, off British Columbia's west coast, is a dream golf destination.

It has more than 40 courses sprinkled across one of the great expanses of mountain and ocean wilderness in North America.

Add to that, a perfect climate where golf can be played 12 months of the year and you're in golfing heaven.

You see much of the island is swaddled in a sub-Mediterranean weather zone, which means moderate temperatures.

Flowers bloom in January and Vancouver Island gets half the annual rainfall places like Seattle and New York.

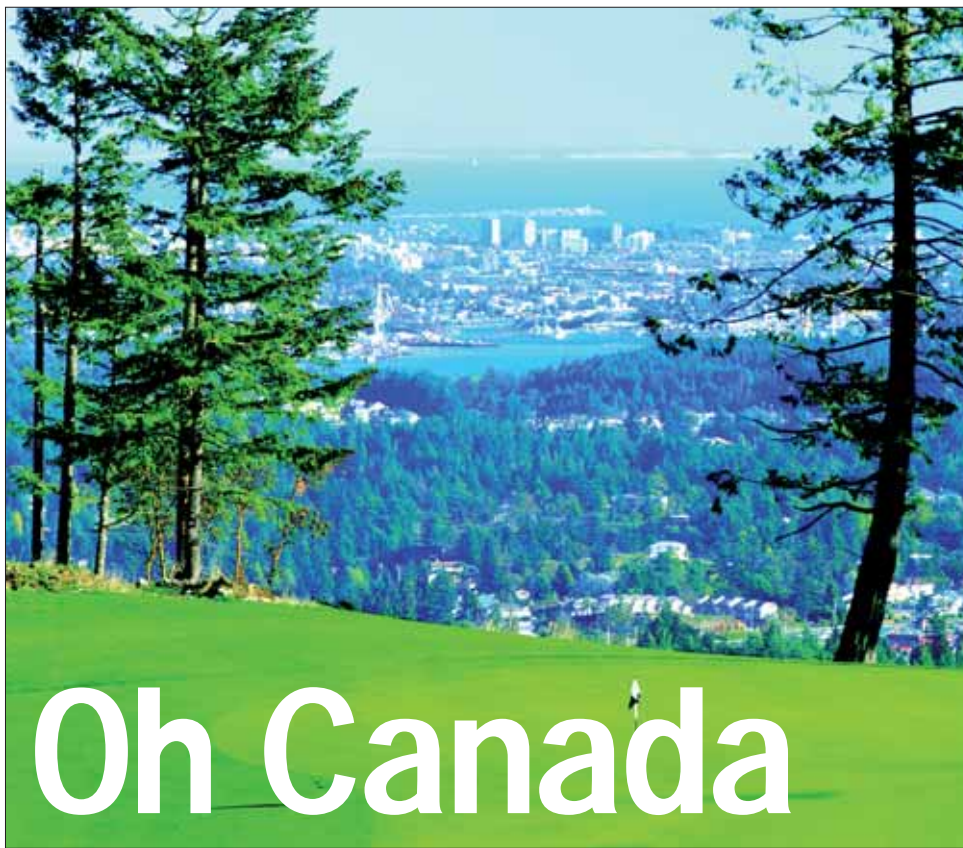
The Island course currently generating the biggest roar is Bear Mountain.

Opened in 2003 and located 20 minutes north of downtown Victoria, the island's largest city, the ambitious layout is a collaboration between Jack Nicklaus and son his Steve.

Built at a cost of around \$20 million, the money behind the golf and real estate project comes from a coalition of former and current National Hockey league stars.

The stunning 1000-acre piece of property is all rocks, rivers, valleys, forest and mountain peaks.

Nicklaus has stamped the



▲ Bear Mountain, one of the most exciting new courses to open in Canada in recent years.

landscape with his indelible paw print.

Like many of his Australian designs, the fairways are wide enough to keep the average player in the game but to go low, you are forced to play a heroic brand of golf.

In Canada, golf courses are

rated for their difficult.

Bear Mountain has been assigned a slope rating of 152, which makes it one of the toughest layouts in the country.

Nicklaus has been commissioned by the owners to build a second course on the site.

That's scheduled to open

later this year and will make Bear Mountain the only 36-hole Nicklaus design in Canada.

Part of Bear Mountain's appeal is the attention to detail.

Instead of jumbo hot dogs at the halfway house (the standard fair for golf in Canada) the menu includes lobster and blue

crab sandwiches and just about any alcoholic beverage you can imagine.

Baileys and hot milk is especially popular with golfers on cold mornings.

Every hole at Bear Mountain is designed to take your breath away.

So choosing a favourite is difficult.

The 11th hole, one of my standouts, is a tricky, 195-metre par-3 island green.

Beside the tee is a gumball machine filled with extra golf balls for those who splash short of the flag.

When Nicklaus was making a site inspection, he discovered a spur of land that jutted out above the 14th green.

He figured it was the perfect spot for a 19th hole and shoe horned in a 185-metre par-3, with a green that seems to float halfway between the mountains and the Victoria skyline.

This has to be one of the best holes in the world not on an official scorecard.

Hanging on a rocky finger of land between the 14th and 15th holes at Bear Mountain, this "extra" hole, "gambling" hole, "tie-breaker" hole, or whatever you want to call it, has the most precarious setting for a hole on the Island.

Only a hardened fool would

trudge straight to the 15th tee and miss out on the fun.

The five-star Westin Hotel complements the quality of the course beautifully and the choice of on-site restaurants and walking tracks make it a destination in its own right.

For more adventure on the green, there are a number of other top courses in and around Victoria.

Just north of the city is Olympic View Golf Club.

It's handsome glass-fronted clubhouse juts out above the first hole, looking out to the Olympic Mountains in nearby Washington State.

Inside the entranceway is a photo of Tiger Woods who played the course as an amateur.

In true Tiger fashion, he launched a massive drive over the ridge on 18 and finished his round with an eagle.

The front nine at Olympic View is postcard pretty but it's in the back loop where the game really begins with a series of tight doglegs and risk and reward holes.

Keep an eye out for the waterfalls that crash down at the back of the 17th green - this is arguably one of the most photographed holes in all of Canada.

Continued next page



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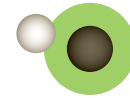
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Olympic View also boasts the best practice facility on the Island.

Not far away is sister course Arbutus Ridge, which straddles Cobble Hill, above Satellite Channel and looks out to the snow capped peak of Mt. Baker.

Opened in 1987 and designed by Bill Robinson, the course is famous for its 17th hole, a knee-rattling 240-metre par-3 that plays to a peninsula green.

Water swirls around three sides of the green and the other edge is guarded by an out of bounds marker.

Arbutus Ridge is a terrific value, with a \$99 package that includes return transportation to Victoria, green fee, cart and a souvenir.

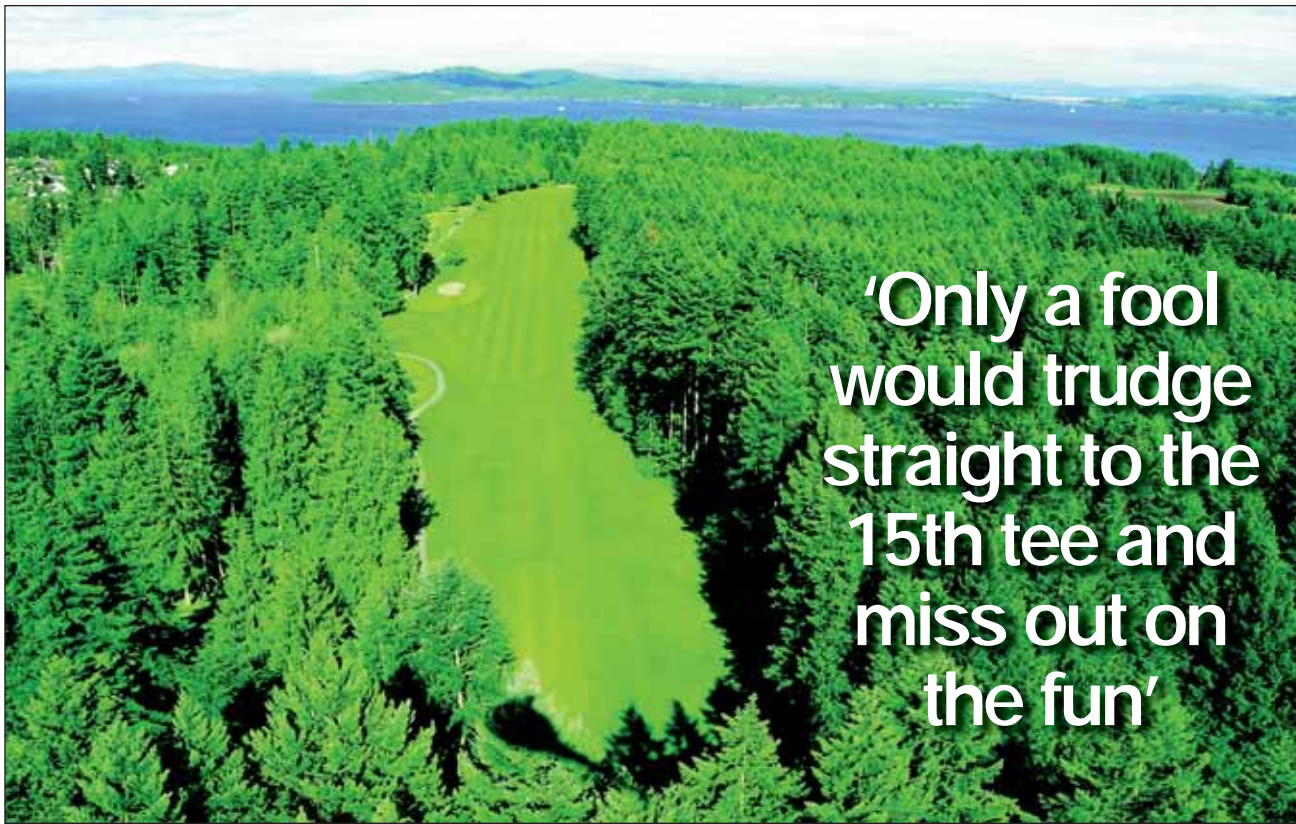
The Fairwinds Golf and Country Club on Nanoose Bay is another spot that offers something for everyone.

The 1350-acre resort includes a hotel, a 360-berth marina, tennis, beach volleyball, exercise centre and championship golf course.

The Les Furber-designed layout is a nice throwback to the days when golf was played at a gentle pace.

At Fairwinds, you need to think your way around the course, not overpower it.

Save some time to hang out by the Fairways' marina where you



▲ The stunning backdrop at Arbutus Ridge golf course.

'Only a fool would trudge straight to the 15th tee and miss out on the fun'

can spot eagles, seals, sea lions and the occasional whale.

If time permits, Pheasant Glen offers an interesting golfing alternative that draws some inspiration from the links golf courses of Ireland and Scotland.

A spectacular view of Mount

Arrowsmith provides the backdrop to one of Vancouver Island's newer courses.

Measuring around 6200 metres, it's not a long course.

Nor is it overly demanding.

Although there are a number of holes where accuracy from the tee is critical, especially on

the opening nine where several holes weave through low lying scrub.

The privately-owned course is a public facility that's also home to the Brett Morrison Academy.

Morrison is one of Canada's leading instructors and his academy draws golfers from

around the world who book in for weeklong schools to improve their game.

Pheasant Glen is one hour plus drive back to Victoria so it's best to overnight.

The Tigh-Na-Mara Seaside Spa has a number of self-contained lodges and the largest spa in

British Columbia.

There's a 2500 square feet mineral spa to sooth those muscles after a day's golf.

Back in Victoria, accommodation is plentiful.

However, two places stand out in terms of suitability for the golfer.

The Delta Ocean Pointe Resort is right in the city and has 239 luxury rooms with superb views of Victoria Harbour.

If you're staying at the Delta, be sure to book a massage.

The recently established facility is an ideal way to unwind after a round of golf.

Alternatively, the Victoria Regent is better suited for groups.

The waterfront property has one- and two-bedroom suites with kitchen and all the facilities you'd expect from a self contained unit.

Victoria Regent work closely with a number of courses and can arrange transport.

A golf holiday to Victoria Island can be arranged through Golf Gourmet Academy in Sydney.

They can be contacted on (02) 9954 6775 or visit the website www.golfgourmetacademy.com

Alternatively, visit www.golfcanada.com where there's plenty of information on golfing in Canada.

Expert advice on playing the market

Brisbane born IT specialist Colin Boyan has spent his career developing trading systems for the international financial sector.



Elite banking and financial world players like credit suisse First Boston (Zurich), Jardine Fleming, Merrill Lynch and the Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) all utilise Boyan's financial tools, through a user friendly software product, Global Trader.

Unlike many other trading software products already on the market: Global Tarder is not rocket science", according to Boyan.

Global Trader is a strategy development tool for a computer that establishes the most profitable approach to trading the stock market. Boyan's program contains over 15 years trading history on every single stock on the ASX. The user can actually bring up a full history on every stock of interest and it's movements over the last 15 years.

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