



STUNNING VIEWS: The fairways on the 18th hole of the Kernow Course and the four-star hotel at St Mellion International Resort

Pictures: Gemma Craze



SPECIAL DAY: Nigel and Elisa Tonkin take their first steps as a married couple following their wedding at St Mellion International Resort last November

Resort has everything for golfers and guests

EVEN the great Jack Nicklaus himself could not have dreamed of such a successful end product when he was asked to personally design a European golf course at St Mellion.

Indeed, the 18 times Major winner declared it 'potentially the finest course in Europe' when it

was officially opened in 1988.

To celebrate the occasion, a USA v Great Britain match was held at the South East Cornwall club, with Nicklaus partnering Tom Watson against Sandy Lyle and Nick Faldo, and the British pair eventually claiming victory.

The Nicklaus Course has stood the test of time and this year is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

The club had taken centre stage nine years previous when, in 1979, the Benson & Hedges International Open

was held on The Old Course (which became the Kernow Course in 2010).

The world's leading stars at the time, including Seve Ballesteros, Lee Trevino, Greg Norman and Faldo, flocked to the club in a bid to take home the £10,000 top prize - which was eventually won by Maurice Bembridge in front of a packed gallery and millions of viewers on *BBC tv*.

St Mellion hosted the European Tour competition for six consecutive years, from 1990-95, before the tournament ceased in 2003 following the introduction of a ban on tobacco advertising and sponsorship of sporting events by the Government.

St Mellion International Resort is now owned and operated by Crown Golf, which acquired it as part of its purchase of American Golf (UK) from the American Golf Corporation in 2004. American Golf had itself bought the club in 1998.

Having experienced everything the Resort has to offer, it certainly has the facilities to back up its outstanding reputation.

The club boasts two golf courses, a four-star hotel, health club and spa, and a selection of bars and restaurants.

The Kernow offers a stern test for both experienced and budding golfers, while the longer Nicklaus Course

is tougher still - especially the par-four fifth hole, with its tee shot over the lake and dogleg left round to the green.

Many a golf ball surely rests in the murky depths... including a couple of mine!

Having been an usher for a friend's wedding in November of last year, it is clear that the wedding-day packages are superb, with excellent staff service and picture opportunities on and overlooking the 18th hole of the Nicklaus Course.

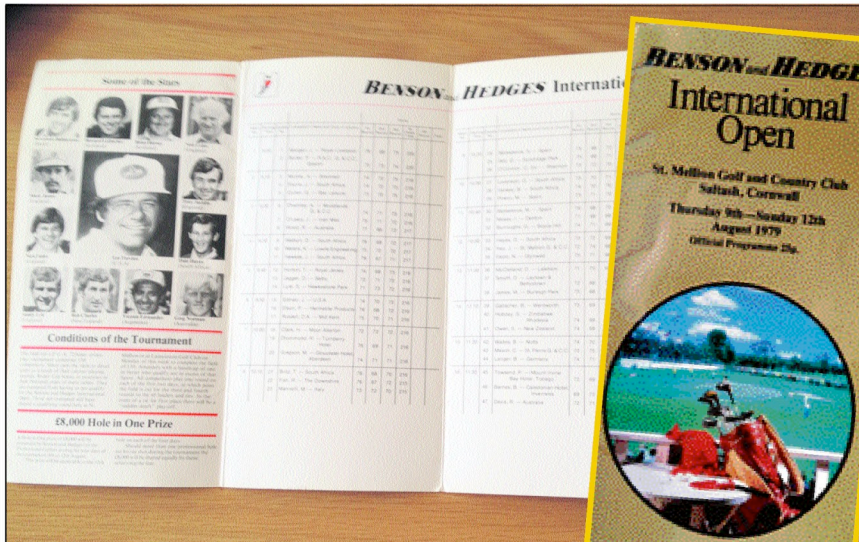
There are also a number of function and meeting rooms available, including the St Mellion Suite, which can accommodate 330 for a sit-down meal or 500 for a

presentation or reception and has its own bar and dance floor.

The Resort offers a range of excellent food, with a three-course meal and a few drinks in the Bewdern Bar and Brasserie the perfect way to finish a tiring day on the course.

There is no doubt that St Mellion International Resort has everything in place to keep golfers and guests alike coming to South East Cornwall for many years to come.

To contact the resort, please call Liskeard (01579) 351 351, e-mail: stmellion@stmellion-golf.co.uk or visit the website at: www.stmellion.co.uk



BLAST FROM THE PAST: The original programme from the Benson & Hedges International Open, which was held on The Old Course at St Mellion. The £10,000 top prize was eventually won by Maurice Bembridge in front of a packed gallery and millions of viewers on *BBC tv*



EASY RIDER: One of the many golf buggies available for hire at St Mellion International Resort

Picture: Gemma Craze