

IN BRIEF:



Last month an enthusiastic group of just under 150 local children took part in a series of clinics during the Faldo Series Russia Championship, staged at the Le Meridien Moscow Country Club. The clinics, conducted by Sir Nick Faldo's coach, Keith Wood, and a number of local professionals were designed to give the group of young Russians their first taste of golf and were similar to a series of other grass roots activities taking place in Europe and in Asia.

The €60m Moyvalley Hotel and Golf Resort, in Ireland has become the latest casualty of the economic downturn. The Irish Nationwide Building Society has seized possession of the 550-acre resort, as well as a related course in Co Westmeath, the New Forest Golf Club. Both resorts continue to trade.

The Duke's St Andrews, owned by the Iconic Old Course Hotel, has joined GolfSwitch, the real time, tee-time distribution network. Jo Maes, European director for GolfSwitch, said: "Adding the Old Course Hotel and the Duke's Course to our portfolio is a significant step forward in our development in Scotland and Europe."

Eddie Konrad, the former head mechanic at The Ladies' Golf Club of Toronto and contract professor at Seneca College in Ontario, is the third winner of the International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association Edwin Budding Award, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen.



Eléa all set to open later this year says Sir Nick

One of the most important new European golf courses of recent years, The Eléa Golf Club near Paphos, Cyprus, will be officially opened this autumn by the course's designer and six-time Major winner Sir Nick Faldo.

The Eléa Golf Club, which is situated in Paphos and 8km from the international airport, will be the centrepiece of Eléa Estate, a premium development that will boast luxurious villas and apartments, a boutique hotel supported by a range

of dining options and extensive spa facilities.

This magnificent par 71 golf course commands a striking location above the shimmering Mediterranean Sea and has been meticulously crafted through dramatic landscape, featuring imposing weathered outcrops of limestone that offer a unique character across the course.

Commenting on his vision for Eléa Golf Club, Sir Nick Faldo said: "This golf course certainly has the potential to play a pivotal role in establishing this part of the world as a leading European golf destination.

"When we designed the golf course at Eléa Golf Club we decided to put the emphasis on thoughtful, rather than big-hitting, golf and there are plenty of strategic riddles for the golfer to explore and unravel over all 18 holes."

Monty in funding drive for Cancer campaign

Colin Montgomerie, the 2010 Ryder Cup captain, has announced a new fundraising drive for the Elizabeth Montgomerie Foundation in partnership with the Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres, that will see him write to every golf club in the UK, inviting them to turn one of their monthly medals between now and the end of September into a Monty's Monthly Medal.

Montgomerie said: "I established the Elizabeth Montgomerie Foundation to support people with cancer after my mother died of the disease.

"I was determined to help people in the same situation and the first time I walked into a Maggie's Centre I immediately thought 'what a difference this place would have made to my Mum'.

This is why I am working with the organisation to build two Centres. I have spoken with many people who visit Maggie's and they have told me about the unique mix of practical, emotional and psychological support they receive and I know what a difference that makes to people living with cancer.



"Golf has been good to me and I am delighted that I can now give something back by supporting those affected by the disease."

Future in doubt after housing rejection

The future of a Greater Manchester golf course has been thrown into doubt, after councillors rejected plans for a housing estate on the site.

The owners of the Bolton Open Golf Club had hoped to use the profits from the development to keep the club open. But members of Bolton Council's planning committee dashed their hopes by refusing the appli-

cation, because of the site's green belt status.

Robin Day, who owns the club, told the committee that only by allowing him to convert the existing clubhouse into five properties and build a further eight homes could they guarantee the future of the club.

He said: "We had three objectives, that was to retain the use of the golf course, enhance the green

belt and develop within the existing footprint of the site."

Councillors ignored his pleas and were unanimous in their objections to the scheme, which also included the demolition of the driving range facility.

The council had received 26 letters of objection from local residents concerned about the loss of green belt land and the loss of the driving range.