



things had dried out and the tall stuff had wilted. But the Open was played in July. What exacerbated the situation were howling winds on the first two days of the championship, blowing hard from the west, opposite of the prevailing wind.

Let's quash the rumors that Philp chemically enhanced the rough in the months before the Open. There's almost no way to realistically spread fertilizer through the areas at Carnoustie where the tall rough grows: There are humps, dunes, clumps of gorse, unimproved ground. Second, we're talking about native grasses. Hit them with commercial fertilizers—especially chemical sprays—and you'll probably kill them, not improve them. Third, Carnoustie is a public facility with three 18s. I've seen its maintenance building. I've seen the equipment. I can't believe Philp and his people, without help from the R&A, would have spent the excess money to fertilize the acres and acres of tall rough.

The setup in '99 didn't cause Jean Van de Velde's last-round collapse (he started the day at even par, ahead by five), and it didn't prevent Lawrie from closing with a Hogan-like round of 67, to tie at six-over-par 290, and then birdieing the 17th and 18th in the four-hole playoff to win easily over Van de Velde and Justin Leonard.

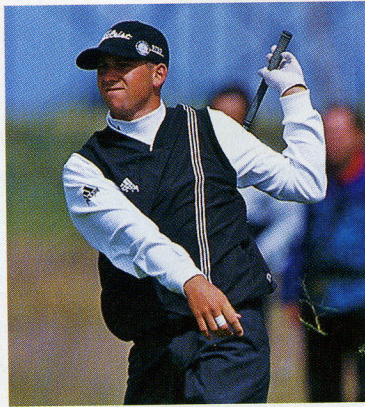
Speaking of Hogan, his victory there in 1953, his only appearance in the Open, establishes that fans of Carnoustie can be equally guilty of hyperbole. To hear people tell it these days, Hogan loved the place, every bonnie burn, every Braid bunker, every bad bounce. In truth, he didn't much care for it. "This is like putting on putty," he told club officials, adding that he should have brought his lawn mower with him from Texas.



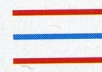
THE WRONGED MAN

There is a muzzle of sorts on Philp this year. Among five Open contacts listed for the media, Philp's name is conspicuously absent. Initial requests to interview him were turned down, but then genial Graeme Duncan, Carnoustie's general

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Sergio Garcia was last in 1999 after rounds of 89-83.



• In July 1996, the month before he won his third U.S. Amateur and turned pro, Tiger Woods played in the Scottish Open at Carnoustie. He shot 81-75 to miss the cut.

• There were so many horror stories from the last British Open at Carnoustie, in 1999. The first-round leader, with a 71, was Rod Pampling. The next day he missed the cut after an 86. Phil Mickelson went 79-76, missed cut; Vijay Singh, 77-84. Perhaps the week was best symbolized by Sergio Garcia, then 19 years old: He opened with a triple bogey, shot 89, then sobbed on his mother's shoulder.

• Carnoustie is easily the hardest British Open venue. The average British Open scores for each course from the last 40 Opens (all four rounds) are as follows:

| COURSE | OPENS SINCE 1967 | AVG. SCORE |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------|
| CARNOUSTIE | 3 | 76.09 |
| ROYAL LYTHAM | 6 | 74.76 |
| ROYAL TROON | 5 | 74.39 |
| ROYAL ST. GEORGE'S | 4 | 73.85 |
| ROYAL BIRKDALE | 5 | 73.80 |
| TURNBERRY | 3 | 73.76 |
| ROYAL LIVERPOOL | 2 | 73.69 |
| MUIRFIELD | 5 | 73.48 |
| ST. ANDREWS | 7 | 73.30 |

If you're planning to visit Carnoustie, use this formula to predict your score versus par: Double your handicap, then add three strokes. Good luck. You'll need it.

DEAN KNUTH was the U.S. Golf Association's Senior Director of Handicapping from 1981-'97 and the prime developer of the Course Rating and Slope Rating system.

CAR-NASTY: JUST HOW HARD IS IT? BY DEAN KNUTH

I JOINED CARNOUSTIE GOLF CLUB as an overseas member in 1980 and have played it plenty of times. I've also played the Old Course at St. Andrews a lot, all the other Open rota courses, all the U.S. Open venues, as well as most of the highest Slope-rated courses in America. On my scale of difficulty, when the wind blows, Carnoustie is the hardest golf course in the world. My best score at St. Andrews is 73. My best at Carnoustie is 91.

Consider these points:

- Carnoustie has a Course Rating of 75.1 and a Slope Rating of 145 from the regular (yellow) tees, making it officially the hardest course in Scotland. (St. Andrews, by comparison, is 72.1/129, Royal Troon is 73.2/134, Muirfield is 73.0/133 and Turnberry is 75.3/133.)
- The last time the British Amateur Championship was played at Carnoustie, in 1992, there were 283 competitors. On the first day of stroke play—in August—only two players broke 80 (they both shot 79). The wind was blowing at 50 to 60 miles per hour.

CARNOUSTIE BY THE NUMBERS

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | OUT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| 406 | 463 | 358 | 412 | 415 | 578 | 410 | 183 | 478 | 3,703 |
| 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 36 |

| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | IN | TOTAL |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|
| 466 | 383 | 499 | 176 | 514 | 472 | 248 | 461 | 499 | 3,718 | 7,421 |
| 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 35 | 71 |