

Golfer McDowell proves a champion visitor

AFTER WINNING one of golf's most cherished prizes, a player from Northern Ireland made Leatherhead Golf Club his first stop to show off his gleaming new trophy.

Graeme McDowell popped along to the Kingston Road club on Wednesday, just three days after being crowned the US Open champion at California's Pebble Beach course.

The 30-year-old won one of the sport's four major tournaments by a single shot at the weekend, and he stunned members at Leatherhead when he walked in with the trophy.

In fact it was not his first visit to the club, which can claim some credit for his recent success.

He is one of the staff players of Callaway Golf, which has its European headquarters nearby, and McDowell won the tournament with a driver club fitted at Leatherhead.

Having hit balls on the driving range he wanted to try hitting into the wind on the course and went onto the fourth hole. After hitting some 20 or 30 balls he decided it was the driver he wanted to use.

Leatherhead is often used by Callaway Golf for testing its products, and it has been visited in the past by other professional players



including Michael Campbell, another former US Open winner.

Chris Jackson, general manager of the club, said seeing a newly-crowned champion was the ultimate for golf lovers. "It's like having the World Cup and Wimbledon all rolled into one," he said. "He had just flown back from the west coast of America and was on his way back to Ireland. It was a real favour to us."

THE NEW GENERATION OF WORK PLACEMENT STUDENT: YIN AND YANG?



By Dawn O'Leary,
Davis Burton Sellek

HOW DOES a GCSE student fare in today's corporate climate? I have a 15 year old son who had a work placement in June with one of our clients. In turn we opened up our doors once again to a student from a local school for a week long placement here at Davis Burton Sellek Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors. So was it a case of Yin and Yang or never the twain shall meet?

Today's students are the future but are today's businesses especially Chartered Accountants really geared up to motivating these bright young things? The younger generation are ambitious and want

everything very fast. They use social media to talk and engage both at work and play.

Davis Burton Sellek's work placement student was in fact a breath of fresh air – he fitted in so well he was treated like one of the team from day one. He came away not only with office skills and a basic understanding of accounts and bookkeeping but more importantly with a new found confidence and a yearning to swap law for accountancy! And in turn we learnt what it takes to motivate a fifteen year old.

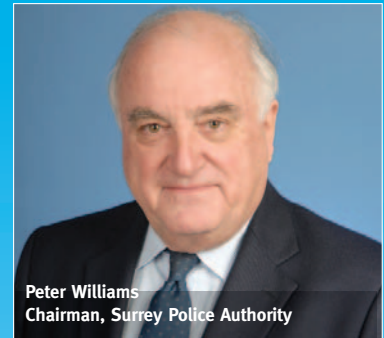
What we learnt was that in 2010 a business needs to be adaptable, interactive and have an ability to inspire younger staff. They look for managers who are clear and engaging but don't tell them how to do something. Also, they want flexibility and transparency. Everyone is expected to embrace new technology and offer a collaborative and mentoring environment – even Chartered Accountants.

So if you want your Yin and Yang to be in sync, adopt the new management style or risk losing tomorrow's stars to the new generation of business owners.

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SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY COLUMN



Peter Williams
Chairman, Surrey Police Authority

AS WE begin to analyse the Coalition Government's emergency budget, it is clear that public services face wholesale change to adjust to what look to be the most extreme cuts to British public spending seen in living memory. The first independent analysis of the Chancellor's austerity measures suggests that they will exceed the scope and severity of the infamous 'Geddes Axe' – the rapid reduction in state spending following the end of the First World War.

It has been very clear for some time that heavy cuts were to be expected; indeed we have in the last few weeks had our Government grant for this year reduced by £1.4m. Last year we began our preparations for this new reality through the programme of radical changes at Surrey Police that I have discussed in this column a number of times in recent months. There is no doubt that the years ahead will be extremely difficult, but by taking the steps that we have to realign the force's structure and spending, we believe that some of the pain will be mitigated and that the front line can be protected more than it would have been had we remained as we were.

The way policing is funded in this country is complicated – authorities rely on a mix of government grant and council tax, the balance of which varies wildly from area to area. The Government decides the level of grant a force gets through a detailed and somewhat flawed formula. Paradoxically, the locally-raised council tax funding is also tightly controlled from Westminster. In more prosperous times, the Government maintained a somewhat opaque capping regime to limit council tax increases. The Government has now announced its intention to freeze council tax in the year ahead.

This inevitably impacts on policing. Unlike councils, we cannot raise money by charging for certain services. With council tax frozen, we will be unable to offset the impact of any of the centrally-mandated cuts by raising more funds locally, even if there was support amongst Surrey residents for us to do so. This centrally managed approach to funding may hinder efforts around the country to do the right thing by communities and acts counter to the drive for more localism in our public services.