

# Open door for Woods after Open win



TIGER WOODS kept a cool head in blistering heat at Hoylake to claim his third Claret Jug and 11th major championship by two shots from fellow American Chris DiMarco.

The 30-year-old world No 1 extended his astonishing record of never losing a major after taking the lead into the final day and his emotional victory, which came only three months after the death of his father and mentor Earl Woods, was his fourth win of the year.

Victory lifted him into a tie

for second with Walter Hagen in the all-time roll-call of major winners, still some way behind Jack Nicklaus who heads the list with 18.

On a dry, fast-running links, Woods stuck resolutely to an ingenious game plan that was based on using irons and fairway woods off the tees to keep the ball short of Royal Liverpool's predatory bunkers and aiming his approach shots at the middle of the greens rather than the awkwardly-positioned pins.

En route to his 18-under-

par total of 270, Woods hit 85 per cent of the fairways and was an impressive 14 under on the par-fives alone.

In his bag at Hoylake were Nike Blade irons (he holed out with the 4-iron for an eagle on the par-four 14th on day two), a SasQuatch driver, which he rarely used, and the One Platinum ball.

Nike also dressed him from head to toe and over the four days he wore apparel from the Tiger Woods Collection, TW Tour footwear and a Dri-Fit Glove.

## Dry is beautiful

THE R&A'S campaign to promote sustainable courses worldwide received a major boost from the Open.

In recent years, televising majors like the Masters has prompted club golfers to demand the application of huge quantities of water and chemicals in pursuit of "greener greens and fairways".

At the Open last month, though, the participants were full of praise for the Hoylake course even though the dry, brown fairways had not been watered at all during the preceding weeks of drought.

Agronomists confirmed that Hoylake was a shining example of the R&A's definition of the sustainable course: "Optimising the playing quality of the golf course in harmony with the conservation of its natural environment under economically sound and socially responsible management".

The R&A's Robert Webb said: "We've had to work hard to get the message of best-practice course management across, so the Open has helped our cause significantly."

• See [www.bestcourseforgolf.org](http://www.bestcourseforgolf.org)

## ACCESSORIES

### Greenkeepers looking cool

THE BRITISH and International Golf Greenkeepers' Association (BIGGA) support team at Hoylake were each issued with the new Regatta safety sunglasses by TCA Sport. The RGPC7, a classic sports style with a wraparound frame and additional interchangeable lenses for adapting light conditions, was chosen because of the protection it offers from ultra-violet rays.

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## Amateur turns pro

ITALIAN GOLFER Edoardo Molinari, one of only two amateurs to play all four rounds at Hoylake, turned pro immediately after the Open.

Molinari, who won the 2005 US Amateur Championship, has signed an exclusive contract to wear the Ermenegildo Zegna and Zegna Sport première luxury menswear labels. He will also be managed by Swiss-based 4Sports & Entertainment AG.



## Competitors turn to CaddyAid for GPS

PLAYERS USED CaddyAid's specialist GPS golf software during their practice rounds. David Morris, CaddyAid's inventor, said: "We've had amazing feedback from players and caddies. The product

enabled them to analyse distances automatically, quickly and accurately from all parts of the course, and also speeded up play. We've got virtually every UK course and many in Spain and Portugal photographed. The official launch will be just after the Ryder Cup."

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