

Norbain score

at the British Open Golf Championship



While the British Open Golf Championship built up over four days to a memorable climax and a surprise winner took the Claret Jug, the security operation for the event successfully achieved its objective of 'no surprises'. Key to this was the CCTV security system, which featured two of Vista's latest products – Vista PowerDome™ fully functional dome cameras and Vista Solo™ single channel Digital Video Recorders (DVRs). As this major world sports event closed, the verdict on the new products was that they were easy to install, easy to use, and of exceptional quality.

The annual British Open Golf Championship moves around the top golf courses of Britain year by year, so each course faces a construction challenge when their turn comes. This year it fell to the Royal St George's Golf Club in Sandwich, Kent, to host the event, one of

the four 'Grand Slam' events that dominate world golf, and the oldest of all. Temporary grandstands were constructed around the important greens on the course, a tented village of hospitality and commercial activities was built, and to ensure the security of competitors and spectators, a CCTV system was installed.

There is nothing unusual about an event requiring a CCTV system, but this one presented some interesting challenges. The time window for installation was tight, because most of the year the club functions as a normal golf club, there was no power, ducting, or any other built environment where the cameras and control room were to operate, the system needed to be removed completely after the event, and the go-live date could not be moved.

Installers Wright Fire and Security plc decided that, against that background, confidence in delivery and ease of integration of the cameras and control room products was key to the contract.

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Chris Broughton, Sales Director of Wright Fire and Security plc, explained: “We decided from the outset to use the new Vista products, both because they are industry leaders in their own right in terms of functionality, and their ease of installation and inter-operability was an important factor in this time-critical project.”

The system was built around six external PowerDome VPD-2WP-P-C units, deployed to cover the carefully drawn-up map of the key risk areas as specified in the Operational Requirement, using both PTZ control and the pre-set feature (the cameras return to surveillance of a pre-specified area when not being controlled). These cameras were hard-wired back to the on-site police control room, which in turn was linked to a duplicate off-site control room. In each control room time-lapse recording was undertaken throughout on a 320GB Columbus Triplex™ DVR (VC16Te-320), and an 80GB Vista Solo™ DVR (Solo-80) was switched in for full real-time recording whenever the operators decided this was required. The cameras gave comprehensive coverage of all the main spectator, hospitality, and other high risk areas. The installation was the first of the recently released Vista PowerDome™



NVT twisted pair communication (Cat 5) was used for reasons of speed of installation and lower cost than co-ax cable, plus eliminating the risk of power cable interference that would arise with co-ax. The twisted pair cable clicked straight into the special ports of the PowerDomes in a simple ‘plug and play’ installation, just as the other fixings in the PowerDome are quick fit and quick release. The cameras were mounted on the special structures erected for the event – scoreboard and stands – and when required on 6 metre Altron towers.



Against a background of exciting golf and huge crowds throughout the event, everyone was very satisfied with the way the equipment performed. Chris Broughton summed up: “The equipment gave the picture quality, camera control, and recording flexibility that was required needed. The specification stated that the PSDB (Police Scientific Development Branch) guidelines on image quality should be met for the surveillance areas of the PowerDome cameras, and that requirement was fulfilled. Although the operators had no previous experience of this equipment, they quickly gained confidence in the easy to use keyboard and its controls. We were all very impressed by these new Vista products.”