

BICKERTON ROUNDS VIGIERS SEASON OFF IN STYLE

European Tour star John Bickerton took time out from his hectic schedule to join members and guests in playing in the climax to the golfing season at Chateau des Vigiers Golf & Country Club.

Bickerton, who won the French Open in 2006, lined up in the select field for the annual 'Coupe des Vigiers' competition at the exclusive 27-hole resort, which lies in the south-west of France between Bordeaux and Bergerac.

This year's competition was held over La Vallée, the newest of the three nine-hole loops designed by Donald Steel at the converted 16th century chateau, and Le Lac course.

And Bickerton didn't disappoint his playing partners - local teaching professional Vincent Trojani and French Alps and Challenge Tour member Nicolas Joakimides - as he shot a two-under-par round of 69 in glorious, sunny conditions.

Bernard Pétime, managing director of the resort in the Dordogne, said: "The "Coupe des Vigiers" is the highlight to our golfing season and having John here was great for all who attended. The members who played certainly enjoyed seeing the skills of all the professionals taking part and will hopefully have learned a lot."

Bickerton also conducted two golf clinics for members and hotel guests during his stay at the luxurious resort, while he was guest of honour at the tournament's gala dinner and prize-giving ceremony.

The English star's visit brought to an end a momentous six months for Chateau des Vigiers which has seen them complete an -8 million euros investment in the complex with the opening of a new 40-bedroom hotel and La Vallée course.

The luxurious four-star hotel 'Relais des Vigiers' was the final phase of Vigier's redevelopment work and has been designed specifically with golfers, families and business people in mind and has been built under strict "eco friendly" standards using only local and traditional materials. Each room offers a balcony or terrace with magnificent views overlooking the 450-acre estate while, as well as having three conference rooms, the new hotel also has a bar, breakfast room, swimming pool and fitness room.

The 3,575-yard par 36 La Vallée course opened to widespread acclaim at the start of April while the 'Relais des Vigiers' will be opened by local dignitaries on October 18.

Chateau des Vigiers now offers 87 hotel rooms, two restaurants, a 27-hole championship golf course and extensive practice facilities, tennis courts, luxury spa and beauty centre - and even its own 17-hectare vineyard.

Pétime added: "The new additions at the hotel will benefit both golfers and non-golfers alike. "With enhanced facilities and comfort, visitors will experience the stunning beauty of the Dordogne in a truly unique and relaxing environment.

"We believe we have created something very special at Chateau des Vigiers. We are very proud of what we have achieved here and the resort truly offers something for everyone."

Chateau des Vigiers is easily accessible from the UK with airports including London Gatwick, Birmingham, Southampton, Exeter and Edinburgh all flying direct to either Bergerac or Bordeaux.

For more information, please visit www.vigiers.com or e-mail reserve@vigiers.com

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