



THE CLUB AT SAVANNAH HARBOUR



BRUCE LIETZKE, WINNER OF THE 2003 LEGENDS

Fraser, the biggest blow occurred when title sponsor Worldcom went bankrupt, leaving a gaping hole in the tournament budget. "Factoring in the television rights and all the

and "unique" to describe the ordeal of finding replacement funds for such a massive sum, the harsh truth of the matter was that the tournament was in serious jeopardy. Thankfully, the ship has been righted, in large part because of MCI, and the immediate future looks very bright. "We're very pleased with how things have progressed, especially considering where we were last year at this time," explained Wilmot recently. "People didn't realize it was really touch and go for us. But we weathered the storm, and ended up with a banner year, particularly in regards to our charitable donations. MCI is committed to making our event bigger and better than ever."

This year's event, scheduled for April 12th through the 18th, will be the usual classy affair. Hilton Head enjoys rock-solid popularity with many of the PGA Tour elite, who love to bring the family to Sea Pines for a "working vacation" and decompress after a stressful Masters week. This is the 21st consecutive year the event has followed the Masters on the tournament schedule on a coveted springtime date. The players love the golf course, which is considered one of the world's finest. The candy-striped lighthouse is easily identifiable on television to even casual golf fans, and the purses keep growing. This year's total purse has increased \$300,000 from last year to 4.8 million, while the winner's check will increase a full \$54,000 up to \$864,000.

other financial commitments, the title sponsor makes a commitment that approaches six million dollars a year," explained Tournament Director Steve Wilmot. Wilmot is working his 18th event on Hilton Head, and while last year he used words like "interesting," "complex,"

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