



**Naval visit:** The Oliver Hazard Perry Class guided missile frigate, the USS *Underwood* (FFG 36), yesterday began a four-day visit in Malta. The ship is under the command of Commander BW Daugherty, US Navy, and has a complement of 21 officers and 200 enlisted personnel

## 61% believe Malta is getting a good deal

A total of 61.3 per cent of respondents in a survey believe that the government is securing the right conditions for Malta to join the EU.

However, 26 per cent of this group of respondents said the government was securing the right conditions, "but not in everything". Only 22.3 per cent of the Maltese stated that the government was not actually securing the best conditions for Malta's entry in the EU.

The survey was conducted by Professor Mario Vassallo on behalf of *The Malta Independent*.

A high percentage of the Maltese (16.3 per cent) said they could not answer the question because they "do not know enough on the subject".

Thus, a total of 38.6 per cent of the Maltese either do not think that the government is working towards obtaining the best conditions for Malta to join the EU or else are unable to comment because they do not have enough information at hand.

The highest percentages of respondents who answered that they do not know enough on the subject belong to the two lowest socio-economic categories (C2: 20.4 per cent; DE: 19.7 per cent).



**Field work:** A computer-generated image of the proposed golf course at Rabat, superimposed over the existing landscape

## Developer says golf course will boost Maltese economy

By Matthew Xuereb

The man behind plans to build a world class golf course near Rabat has insisted the project will create jobs and boost the Maltese economy if it gets the go ahead.

AX Holdings chairman Anglu Xuereb launched an exhibition explaining the proposals in detail yesterday.

He said: "Let us not forget that Malta is a big holiday resort and we need to have something different to offer tourists."

"The development we are proposing is reversible and can be changed back to its original state if the initiative does not work. This is sustainable development at its best, which managed to strike a balance between development and the environment and will be of great benefit to future generations."

The proposed 18-hole golf course has come under fire from environmental campaigners and other groups, who claim it could devastate the Rabat countryside and wildlife.

But Mr Xuereb said the Maltese always tend to object to change.

"This is very unfortunate because the development we are proposing will certainly improve the lifestyle of those who own land in the area. It will also bring about positive changes to the country's economy since the development will attract more tourists to Malta," he said.

Regarding the amount of water needed for the golf course, Mr Xuereb said they were proposing to use a special kind of turf known as seashore paspalum, which would require 78,000 cubic metres of water annually, most of which would be rainwater.

Mr Xuereb said studies commissioned by successive Maltese governments and by independent experts have identified the Verdala site as being ideal for an international golf course because of its location, the natural terrain, and the proximity to a good quality hotel.

The scheme has the backing of *Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna*, the Malta Hotels and Restaurants Association and the Farmers Wine Co-operative Society.

The exhibition, showing the golf course plans in detail, is open to the public for more than a month at the St James Cavalier Centre for Creativity in Valletta.

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Due to circumstances beyond our control

**BRASS MONKEY**  
85 St George's Road  
Paceville

which was due to open today,  
is going to be postponed for next  
Wednesday 19th June 2002.

The Management would like to apologise  
for any inconvenience caused.  
Note that the current invitation  
is valid for next week

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