His score of thirty one points off six handicap was a superb performance in the testing conditions, as were the scores of the two runners-up. In the traditions of all good finals the winning score came from the last putt on the eighteenth green where Peter’s second shot, a pitching wedge to the pin, ran three yards past and he holed out for a birdie three.

Playing immediately behind, Trevor Bennett, a member of the Devon & Cornwall Section, stood on the eighteenth tee with thirty points on his card. He hit his best drive of the day well over three hundred yards down wind and needed only a sand wedge to the green. What happened then we will never know, sufficient to say the ball did not respond and he took two more to make the putting surface and another two to get down.

Accepting the rub of the green, in the true spirit of all Greenkeeper Tournaments, Ron confessed to a truly great twelve months golf, including three major prizes at the National Tournament and membership of the victorious Greenkeeper’s Team at the Belfry.

Despite the wind and rain with temperatures only short of freezing, the warmth of the reception in the clubhouse from both members and staff, quickly thawed the most frozen fingers, leaving a lasting impression of Hunstanton’s generous hospitality to the twenty-five competitors, supporters and guests.

Jacobsen’s Vice President of Sales, Mr. Curt Kimpfbeck, flew in from Chicago to perform the presentation ceremonies, foregoing a visit to the Masters for the opportunity to play a championship links course, but this was a pleasure he had to postpone. Venturing on to the east coast links still in the grip of winter would have been a certain recipe for a bout of pneumonia, for someone who only hours before had left a sunny Racine basking in temperatures around the high 70’s.

Among the guests at the presentation dinner were Mr. Jeremy Thompson a past Captain and present Green Chairman, the Club Secretary, Mr. G. H. Allen, the Head Greenkeeper, Mr. Jimmy Reed, the professional Mr. John Carter and the Eastern Greenkeeper, Mr. John Lelean. The proceedings were hosted by Morrison Industries General Manager, Mr. Chris Smith, who even provided some choice New Zealand wine (Morrison’s are an Antipodean Company) to round off an excellent menu.

This tournament was the final of the 1985 Jacobsen Competition postponed from last year because of the change in dealership to Morrisons, announced at the Windsor Show. During the next few months a series of regional events will be held, culminating in a 1986 Tournament which is planned to be played once again over the Hunstanton links.

Peter Shaw was told by Curt Kimpfbeck presenting his prize of a stereo radio, he would also receive an invitation to attend an educational conference organised by the GCSCA to be held in Phoenix, Arizona in February next year.

Responding, Peter thanked everyone involved for arranging such a superb final and said how much he had enjoyed the golf despite the conditions. He had a special word of praise for Jimmy Reed for the excellent preparation of the course, particularly the greens, which played fast and true, when so many other courses were still in the grip of a long hard winter.

Footnote

Peter had a double reason for celebration that night. He was told during a telephone call home, one of his sheep had given birth to twins!