Arnold Palmer visited one of the on course toilets during his final St Andrews round. Howard McAddey, his accompanying BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member, overheard someone say that he was going into write “Arnold Palmer was here” on the toilet wall.

Trevor Foster, pictured above, Head Greenkeeper at Accrington GC, came perilously close to teeing up with the stars over the Old Course.

He headed his local pre-qualifying event, coming back from two over par after two holes to post a 68, and competed in the final qualifying at Scotscaig near St Andrews. Unfortunately despite posting a two under par total of 140 he missed out by four shots and his visit to the famous course was merely as spectator and not player.

Teeing up in The Open would not have been a new experience for Trevor. Neither would seeing his name on the top of the leaderboard.

After nine holes of the 1989 Championship at Royal Lytham and St Annes Trevor led The Open and he still has the photograph with his name sitting above the top players in the world on the leaderboard.

“It’s a moment I’ll remember for the rest of my life,” said Trevor.

He has a fine record of making it through the pre-qualifying having failed only once but has only once converted it into a final place in the field.

“I’ve always played well though and never missed by very much. Even this time I did feel with a few holes to go that I could get a couple of birdies and squeeze in,” he said.