

ISEKI

The hunt is on to find Britain's best golfing greenkeeper

ISEKI'S Sponsorship of the BIGGA (Regional Tournament) has gone a long way to bringing together the very best of golfing greenkeepers. With two superb regional rounds being played in Yorkshire and Scotland and full fields being reported from each round. Three further rounds are scheduled to take place towards the end of June at Long Ashton in Bristol, Tewkesbury and Wentworth. From these five regional rounds the first four players in each category go forward to the National Final, which is being played over 27 holes of medal play at the St Pierre Golf Club in Chepstow in Gwent on August 19th. Judging from the enthusiasm for the tournament at both Moor Allerton and Hilton Park near Glasgow, it seems that not only players, but a number of their friends and supporters will be travelling to the famous St Pierre Club for what promises to be a very exciting day of competitive golf.

The Northern Regional rounds took place at the testing Moor Allerton Course, just to the west of Leeds, at the end of May with a full field of 60 competitors taking part in all three categories. The undoubted highlight of the day was the 72 nett 68 posted by Ian Farrell of the Heswell Golf Club who played magnificently on what was a very windy and long course. Moor Allerton known for its associations with both the Carcare and other PGA tournaments in recent years proved a very testing course for all of the greenkeepers involved, and Ian Farrell's 68 meant he qualified for the final at St Pierre ahead of Edwin Walsh of Whitefield Golf Club, and Roy Ullerthorpe of Scunthorpe.

Further down the order Mick Lealman of Strensall Golf Club took the second category while Gordon Brammah of Hallamshire Golf Club took the third category. Both played remarkably

good golf over a very difficult course.

At the beginning of June the second tournament took place at the Hilton Park Golf Course to the west of Glasgow and again this proved to be both a testing and very competitive day's golf for all concerned. Sixty players from all over Scotland travelled to the regional final at Hilton Park with Chris Kennedy coincidentally the regional administrator playing marvelously to record a 77 nett 69 to win the first category. There was a tie for second place which resulted in C. White of Largs in Ayrshire taking second place on a countback ahead of V. Read of Castle Douglas both recording net 72 on this very sunny but blustery day. In the second category John Geddes of Aberdeen recorded a net 70 playing off a handicap of 12 to be three strokes ahead of his nearest rival. Whilst in category three, Renfrew's J. Gray recorded a net 71 playing off the handicap of 24 to lead home his nearest rival by two strokes and qualify as well.

It has become apparent that the purely social side of the Iseki Tournament is interesting for everyone concerned, with David Goulding an administrator of BIGGA, commenting on the difficulty he had prising the competitors away to dinner when they were all so engrossed on talking about their own golf greenkeeping problems. Overall these first two rounds of the Iseki Tournament have shown a new professionalism in both course appearance and display from Iseki, and the new found extremely professional way in which the tournaments themselves are organised by BIGGA. The next three rounds promise to be just as competitive and on August 19th all the twelve qualifiers from each of the five regional rounds go forward to what promises to be a very exciting day at St. Pierre.

greenkeepers and greenkeeping. Clubs will be advised that the main priority of the new Association is directed towards greenkeeper education and the speed of development and progress in this key area will be dependent on the funding available. In using this service, they will be making a direct contribution towards enhancing greenkeeper education. Income realised by the Association from clubs using the scheme will be directed towards improving the education and training facilities available to

greenkeepers. This in turn will benefit clubs in the longer-term with better qualified greenkeepers being available for employment. Please remember that to make a success of this scheme from both the employer and employee viewpoints, it is essential that all members registering adopt at all times a professional approach, not only in completing the Registration Form but in relation also to interview procedures and, of course, in their subsequent dealings with the club if successful with their

application. If you are interested in changing jobs in the short, medium or long-term, please complete the Registration Form enclosed with this edition of 'the Golf Course' and return it to Headquarters Office without delay. The success of the scheme is dependent on the response by members in the first instance and the sooner that response is forthcoming the better, in order that an operative date can be set.

Nell Thomas
Executive Director