

# Dramatic ending at the Jacobsen National Tournament

There was a dramatic ending to the Jacobsen National Tournament for the 1986 trophy at Hunstanton when John Stiff, Tracey Park's twenty-seven year old Greenkeeper beat Gordon Payne from Maidenhead at the second extra hole after both competitors had tied with the same stableford score.

Eighteen year old Nigel Wilson, Tracey Park's young assistant took third place with 36 points. Playing off 12 handicap he scored at every hole and returned a consistent 18 points on both the outward and inward half of the course.

Not only is Nigel an assistant greenkeeper at Tracey Park, but as an honorary member of the club is also this year's junior captain.

In complete contrast to the earlier competition in April, the championship links course was in its most benign mood. The wind scale in the clubhouse barely measured 5mph, just sufficient to move the heavy morning mist and let through yet another day of warm autumn sunshine.

Scores reflected the conditions and both Stiff and Payne recorded 37 points, with eleven other competitors within three points of their total.

At the first extra hole Gordon Payne made the green with a wedge for his second shot. John Stiff pulled left, but was able to use his putter from the apron to hole out from three feet for par, and a half.

Moving to the 398 yard eighteen, Gordon positioned his tee shot in the middle of the fairway. John hooked left leaving his ball in deep rough on the side of a dune. With hands well ahead of the ball and standing below the shot he hit a four iron to within twenty yards of the elevated green in front of the clubhouse. A truly Ballesteros type shot.

Gordon hit the green with his approach, but the ball fell back leaving him a pitch to the flag with very little green to work. The chip ran the width of the putting surface and then the inevitable three more to get down.

John played a typical links type pitch and run, lipped the hole with the putt, leaving himself a tap in for the trophy.

In the morning round Stiff, who plays to five at his home club, Tracey Park, hit sixteen greens in regulation figures and made four birdies. Both he and Payne drew a blank on one of the par three holes after putting their tee shots in a bunker.

Those who know the Hunstanton links will find two changed holes on the inward half. The par four thirteenth, previously a straight drive over the hill has a new green, dog-legged right with an intimidating copse of stunted bushes in line with the green for the shorter hitter. It is very much a decision hole, a confident five or six iron will make the putting surface on a calm day. With the wind against it is safer to be on in three and look for the single putt.



John Stiff, Head Greenkeeper at Tracey Park and South West Section member wins the Jacobsen Trophy at the second extra hole.

The par three fourteenth at 177 yards is a great deal longer than it looks. It is perhaps one of the fascinations of some short holes on any course, where the golfer estimates the distance, chooses a club and then reads the yardage in disbelief. The eye looks for reference points, such as a tree, bunker or ground contours. Without them, or if they are cleverly sited the distance can be misleading.

There is, of course, the famous optical illusion on the A719 between Ayr and Girvan where a car with the engine off will appear to coast uphill because the surrounding land slopes in the opposite direction.

Both are new greens, seeded last year and not without their problems. Some coarser grasses such as Cocksfoot and Yorkshire Fog are developing in the sward, which naturally led to considerable discussion and a fair amount of advice back in the clubhouse. Some believe it can be contained with a cutting regime, others suggested the only cure would be to dig up the green, sterilise the soil and start again.

If any of our readers have overcome the problems of coarse textured grass in fine turf, their solutions will be published for the benefit of not only Hunstanton, but courses everywhere.

Among the guests at the presentation dinner held later in the clubhouse and hosted by Jacobsen's U.K. Sales Manager, Chris Smith were Mr. Jeremy Thompson a past Captain and present Green Chairman, Mr. Jimmy Reed, Head Greenkeeper, Mr. John Carter the club professional who fulfilled the role of starter, organiser and referee throughout the day and the Editor of Golf Greenkeeping, Mr. John Lelean.

Presenting the trophy and a voucher for £100 to the winner, Mr. Chris Smith announced that John Stiff would be invited to attend the G.C.S.A.A. Educational Conference in Arizona in January 1987.

#### Other placings:

35 points - H. Roberts (8); D. Bagshaw (13); G. Cox (13); S. Wood (12).  
34 - J. C. Newman (6)  
33 - D. Hutchinson (9); K. B. Heaney (8); H. Morgan (10); D. Collins (12); A. Burden (17)  
32 - M. Hughes (6); R. Barker (6); B. Plain (13)  
30 - J. Chapman (15)  
29 - B. Emberley (7)  
24 - M. Strange (13); P. Unwin (22).

## Lyme Regis Golf Club

Applications are invited for the post of  
**HEAD GREENKEEPER**

This old established Club seeks a person of proven ability and experience in all aspects of Course Management.

Applicants should have a practical working knowledge of the use and maintenance of modern greenkeeping machinery, together with the ability to direct and train Staff.

Preference will be given to persons who are members of a recognised Greenkeeping Association.

This 6,200 yards course is mixed heathland and parkland situated close to Lyme Regis.

Salary by Negotiation . No accommodation

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THE SECRETARY,  
LYME REGIS GOLF CLUB,  
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