

As the final cheers for Ian Baker-Finch die away, the machine-gun fire of champagne corks in the R&A and VIP hospitality marquees finally fade and the back slapping ceases, thoughts of the greenkeeping cognoscenti turn, not surprisingly, to the part played by BIGGA members in this most spectacular sporting pageant of all time.

The Open is really something special for a multitude of reasons, for just as the game could not take place without world class professionals, so also it could not take place without the care taken over so many months by a group of dedicated professionals from a different school - I refer of course to Royal Birkdale's Tom O'Brien and his team, and to a lesser, though no less important, extent to the spirited team of BIGGA greenkeepers who assisted so ably throughout the Championship. To Tom and his crew, and to all those who by their presence and hard work made the 120th Open the huge success that it was, we offer our sincere thanks. In addition, although they probably don't realise your importance in quite the way that we 'in the know' do, it is proper at this time to extend gratitude - as though it came unsolicited - from the hundreds of thousands of spectators who marvelled at the splendour of it all.

Words alone cannot tell the story of The Open, or of BIGGA's increasingly important part in it all, so let these photographs tell our happy tale of 'one week with BIGGA at The Open Championship.'



Viscount Whitelaw greets Royal Birkdale's Green Chairman, Robert Madison and Head Greenkeeper, Tom O'Brien



He made it! Bill Hatfield admires Baker-Finch's last shot



Unwelcome rainfall? No problem in official BIGGA wet weather outfits

100,000



The Open will have special memories for Jim Paton, who was given the iron clubs of 1989 Open Champion, Mark Calcavecchia



Royal Birkdale's greenkeeping team



Ready for action - wet weather style



Bert Cross - the man who made the pieces fit



A time to relax - Roy Kates and Clive Osgood



Tom O'Brien and Walter Woods - two famous greenkeepers



Greenkeepers at the 18th with Ian Baker-Finch, winner of this year's Open

thank-yous



The damage...
...and the repair



Mr and Mrs George Malcolm - The Open is clearly a happy time



Birthday boy, David Golding, passes the leader board for a timely reminder of his particular score

Photographs
by
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