

DAVID WHITE reports on the glory

WISE UP



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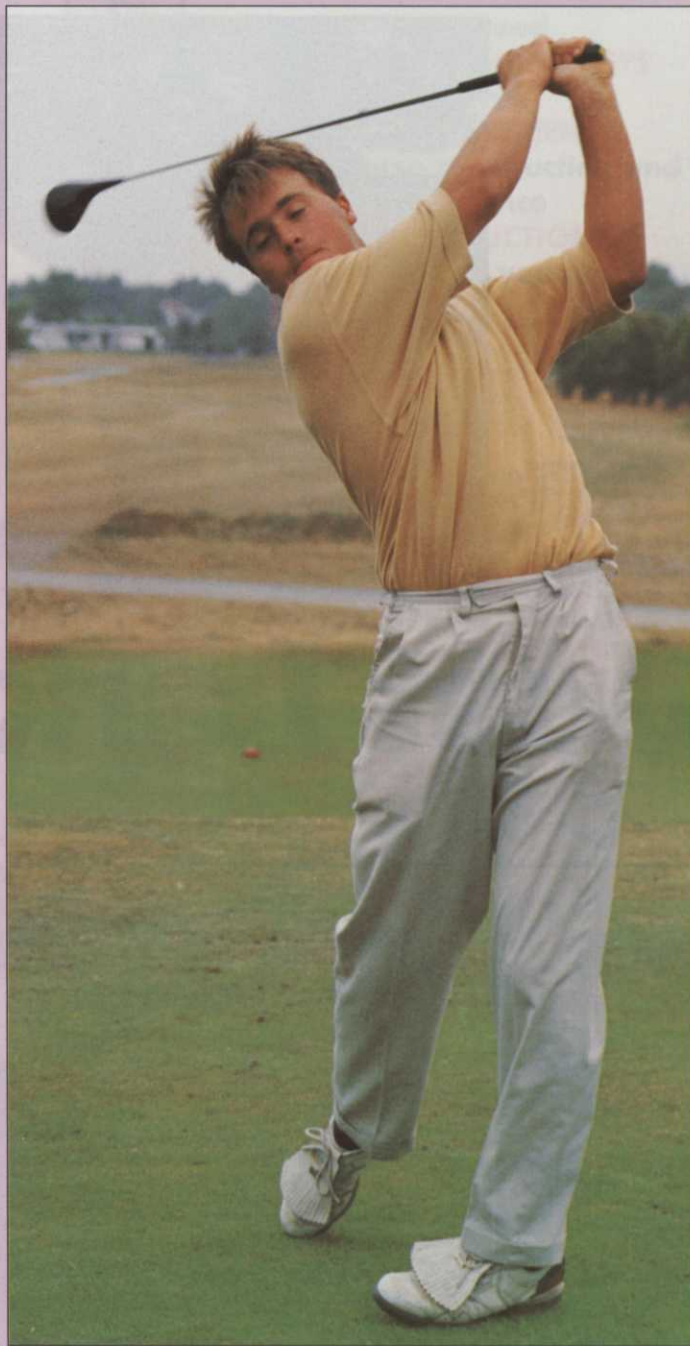
BTME

BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and Seminar Programme 1992

22-24 January 1992, Harrogate

Organised by the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association

Great GOLF



What do you get when you gather together 60 or so competition hardened greenkeepers in one tournament? The answer, simple to witness at the wonderfully testing links of Hillside, is great golf!

From the very beginning, the linking of Iseki and greenkeepers in the field of competition has produced some truly heroic results – year after year the scratch and low handicap players conjuring up their most inspired play – and almost always a player from the army of middle to high handicap ranks producing a score that leaves the field shaking its collective head in disbelief.

As an observer from the sharp end of a camera lens, more often than not I'm witness to the swing rather than the result and can form an opinion of its effectiveness. At Hill-

side I saw them all: the 'classic', the 'worker', the 'mechanical', the 'never had a lesson', the 'slump', the 'b..... good thrash' and the 'dodge, it's coming my way!' It was breezy, highly entertaining stuff!

It's a tradition at Iseki that the regional team managers-cum-coaches give last minute pep talks to their teams, followed by incursions to the holes regarded as critical for further words of advice or encouragement. Thus even before the first ball was struck the sight of Gordon Child (South West & Wales) striding off, strategically followed by Elliott Small (Scotland) and Howard McCaddey (North) suggested that this was to be deadly serious, fighting for the honour of the regiment and all that...

Norman Exley (South East) and Roger Willars ➔ 16

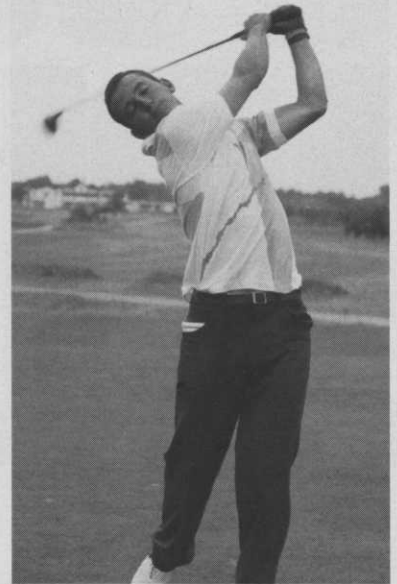
Above: the winner – Telford Jarvis, in a full frontal assault.

Left: a study in perfect control and timing, from low gross winner, scratchman Kevin Peace

A hug for our sponsor: Frank Larkin, Ireland's worthy winner of category two and an 18 handicapper "with the grin of a wee leprechaun," showed delight at his success with an impromptu hug for Iseki managing director, Mr T Shinoto



Just Larkin about!



What did they put in the team's lemonade shandy? Above: the victorious Northern team.

Right: Paul Robinson (Northern), category one winner.

Far right: Alan Reed (Northern), category three winner

15 ➔ (Midlands) were both playing managers and could offer none of the soothing syrup, with the teams from Eire and Northern Ireland presumably having had their orders over an Old Bushmills or two the night before. What great guys they all were, bringing to the event a spirit that truly bridged all partisan action and demonstrating the wonderful camaraderie for which the Irish are noted: but then they are simply dedicated greenkeepers and not politicians.

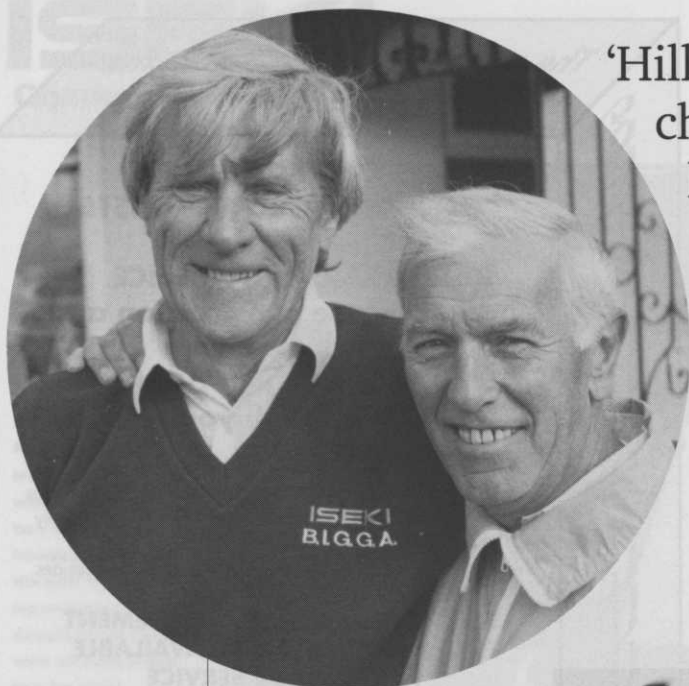
The first ball was driven far and sure by Scotland's Kevin Peace, a pure joy to behold, and immediately one was aware that here was a man to watch closely. That he continued to strike sweet shot after sweet shot came as no surprise to the cognoscenti of golf and, as was predicted, his scratch

score of 116 for the 27 holes gave him the coveted and well deserved best gross award – both he and Elliott must have been delighted!

Folks in the Midlands have learned never to count Maurice Emery out of any serious competition and so it was that this 'oldest swinger in town' saw off all the opposition in the over 55s class, producing solid dependable play – like the man himself – to capture this class. He may be 'getting on a bit', they murmured, but just look at that supple action.

From the wisdom of elder field marshals we moved to the exuberance of youth, Martin Private from the South East suggesting that he was without visible nerve by slamming Titleist after Titleist into just the right places – look- ➔ 18

'Hillside lived up to its reputation as a challenging test of golf and the tight lies were just perfect for this truly splendid Iseki Championship'



Top: All smiles from Over 55s winner Maurice Emery, with his caddy.

1: Craig Parkinson - Runner-up in category one.

2: Stephen Cram - Runner up in category two.

3: Martin Private - Under 21s winner.

4: Frank Platt - The North's 'third man'.

5: Peter Connett - Third in category two.

6: Scotland's 'mighty atom' - Hugh McLatchie.

7: John Robinson - Runner-up in category three.



16 ➔ ing great through the lens - to pull off a nett 114 which bagged him the under 21s class with comparative ease - this 'Private' is destined for promotion from the ranks.

Did I mention Howard McCaddey? What was it he said to his team that produced the perfect result? In the class for players of handicap 0-9, the Northern boys enjoyed a right old ding-dong, each perhaps without knowing what the other was up to, the end result being as close as the proverbial gnat's whisker, just one stroke separating class winner Paul Robison on 110.5 from Craig Parkinson on 111.5 and third placed Frank Platt on 112.5. The looks on their rugged northern faces at the presentation dinner said it all - it's all down to team work don't you know!

In the 10-18 handicap class it warmed this old hacker's heart to see Eire's Frank Larkin in action, an 18 handicapper with the grin of a wee leprechaun and a killing touch

around the greens. Frank's score of 107 was two and a half strokes better than second man Steve Cram, yet another Northern stalwart and a compact and good looking player whose action suggests better things are probable, followed by Peter Connett's nifty, workmanlike 110, a nice effort which must have temporarily boosted the morale of the South West & Wales team.

Would you believe it, yet another Northern winner presented himself for honours in the 18-24 class, this time in the shape of Alan Reed, whose swing belies that which I found hard to believe: a 24 handicap.

Creamy smooth and with a delicate touch, his score of 105 suggests that come next season he'll be moving numbers a peg or two. Four strokes separated first from second, the 109 from John Robinson of the South West & Wales team, with the mighty wee man, Scotland's Hugh McLatchie

ISEKI

Championship Finals

Results

The Iseki Trophy and Winner on Handicap:

Telford Jarvis - 102

Best Gross:

Kevin Peace
- Scotland - 116

Over 55s:

Maurice Emery
- Midlands - 121.5

Under 21s:

Martin Private
- South East - 114

Category one:

1st Paul Robison
- Northern - 110.5

2nd Craig Parkinson
- Northern - 111.5

3rd Frank Platt
- Northern - 112.5

Category two:

1st Frank Larkin
- Eire - 107

2nd Stephen Cram
- Northern - 109.5

3rd Peter Connett
- South West & Wales - 110

Category three:

1st Alan Reed
- Northern - 105

2nd John Robinson
- South West & Wales - 109

3rd Hugh McLatchie
- Scotland - 111

Team prize:

1st Northern - 884 points

2nd South West & Wales - 915 points



a highly creditable third on 111.

Like any good drama, the best comes last, in this case the best being some 'out of my boots' play by the winner of the Iseki Trophy, Telford Jarvis.

Telford plays off 22, looks like a 12 and putts like a scratch man. He is, in handicap terms, a phenomenon. Of course he had to work for it, but when you drive well and putt like a demon you end up leaving your victims strewn on the fairways. Did I mention he represented the north? It almost seems superfluous and I really do want an answer from Howard. What *did* you put in the team's lemonade shandy?

Credit for slick organisation must of course go to the Iseki travelling circus, ably manned by Steve Broad and headed by Colin Gregory, graced further by the added presence of Iseki's managing director Mr T Shinoto, who presented all

the awards. It speaks volumes for such fanatical enthusiasm that those Iseki smiles remained from first dawn to the last sup from the glass - thanks to them all.

Whilst issuing accolades, none are more deserving than those given to Martin Twist and his worthy team. Martin was at pains to actually apologise for the sparse growth on Hillside's fairways, victim like most other linksland courses in this area of a prolonged drought. But as one enthusiast pointed out - when asked to describe the game of golf to non-players - he tells them it is a game played over ground separated by a green area known as a tee, aiming to another area known as a green. What is in between depends on circumstance and the ground is the same for everyone. Hillside lived up to its reputation as a challenging test of golf and the tight lies were just perfect for this truly splendid Iseki Championship.