

**BIGGA
NATIONAL
TOURNAMENT**

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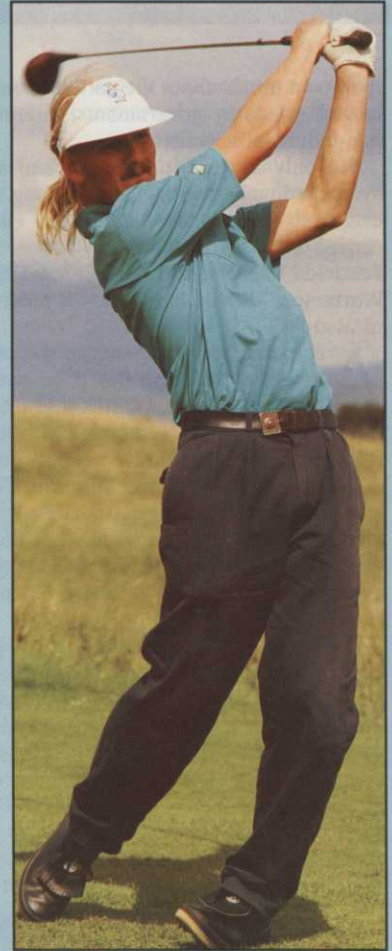
**Professional
Products**

'This was golf of the highest order played on a wonderful

Stephen Goode in action and collecting his prizes from ICI Professional Products' David Siddon, and from Ransomes' Sue Royle



Right - Trevor Davies: winner of Patisson Trophy for low nett over 36 holes



Below - Gerald Bruce presented with Techturf runner-up award by Gordon Rolfe



Steve Sullivan - winner of Toro Trophy for low gross over 36 holes



Mike Heath presents head greenkeeper of Royal St David's - Roger Kerry - with Vitax Putting Trophy



Mark Smith: winner of Fisons Bowl, low nett 18 holes

Course steeped in character,

The good thing about professionals – greenkeeping variety – is that unlike their prima donna counterparts performing in that circus known as The Tour, they are prone not to criticise greens, rough, sand texture, weather or the totally disturbing flutter of butterfly wings from a distant meadow. As both players and keepers of the green they have that rare gift known as empathy.

The choice of Royal St David's at Harlech, a gem of a course located in that corner of North Wales known for its mountain grandeur and stunning scenery, proved inspirational for BIGGA's National Tournament and provided head greenkeeper Roger Kerry the opportunity to show competitors what real links golf was all about.

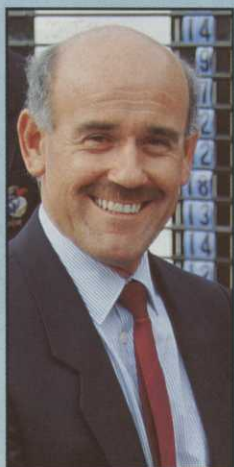
Roger had declared his course plan earlier: to provide a fair test of golf with no trickery and so it was, with never an adverse comment, or indeed cause for such. His course presentation, viewed panoramically from the high balcony of St David's Hotel, was a portrait to behold, with clever use of mower swathes both on fairways and greens all directed at just the right angle to catch the direct line of our vision.

Players were chomping on the bit to get to the links for Sunday practice, each later declaring their own particular game plan. Without exception, thinking golfers opined the course to be one where accuracy of tee shot was all, for just as the fairways were in fine fettle and the greens tempting and offering just the right amount of pace, so was the rough certainly rough enough!

The first day and nerves seemed on knife edge, aggravated a mite by an unwelcome invasion of wind and rain and the necessity for full waterproof regalia. It was tough for everyone with both late and early birds declaring they had the worst of the weather, though posted scores (recorded here in nett form) suggested that some had it mastered, others clearly baffled. Notable leaders on this difficult day were Mark Smith and Don Major on 69, Steve → 36



Mark Dimont: winner of ICI Professional Products Trophy (Junior Division) over 54 holes



Barry Holt: winner of the Techturf Trophy for low gross 54 holes

Report and photographs by DAVID WHITE

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BIGGA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

RESULTS

Nearest the hole:

Monday – Ian Holoran
Tues – David Spurden
Weds – Gerald Bruce

Longest Drive:

Monday – David Wood
Tuesday – Jason Moody
Weds – Jason Moody

The Fison's Bowl

– Played on Monday:

Mark Smith
– 74-5=69 First
Don Major
– 76-7=69 Second
Stephen Goode
– 83-12=71 Third

Low gross:

Steve Sullivan – 74

The Maxwell Hart Cup

– Played on Tuesday:

Simon Woolley
– 77-8=69 First
Trevor Davies
– 89-18=71 Second
Mark Ellis
– 93-22=71 Third

Low gross 18 holes:

Barry Holt – 76

Over 55s (36 holes)

Don Major – 148 nett

The Vitax Putting Trophy:

Roger Kerry – First
Jimmy Richardson
– Second

The Pattison Trophy

(36 holes)

Handicaps 15-28 inc.

Trevor Davies

– 142 nett – First

Mark Ellis

– 145 nett – Second

The Ransomes Cup

(36 holes)

Handicaps scratch-14

inc.

Stephen Goode

– 142 nett – First

Michael Hughes

– 145 nett – Second

The Toro Trophy

(low gross 36 holes)

Steve Sullivan – 153

The William

Hargreaves (SISIS)

Cup – Final day:

Barry Holt 74-4=70

– First

Don Major 78-7=71

– Second

Stephen Goode

84-12=72 – Third

(on countback)

The Jubilee Team

Trophy

Roger Willars, Richard

Barker, Stephen Goode

– East Midlands

The Techturf Trophy

(54 holes gross)

Barry Holt 228 – First

Gerald Bruce 229

– Second

The ICI Professional

Products Trophy

(54 holes nett Senior)

Stephen Goode 216

– First

Michael Hughes 217

– Second

Don Major 219 – Third

The ICI Professional

Products Trophy

(54 holes nett Junior)

Mark Diment 219 – First

Mark Ellis 221 – Second

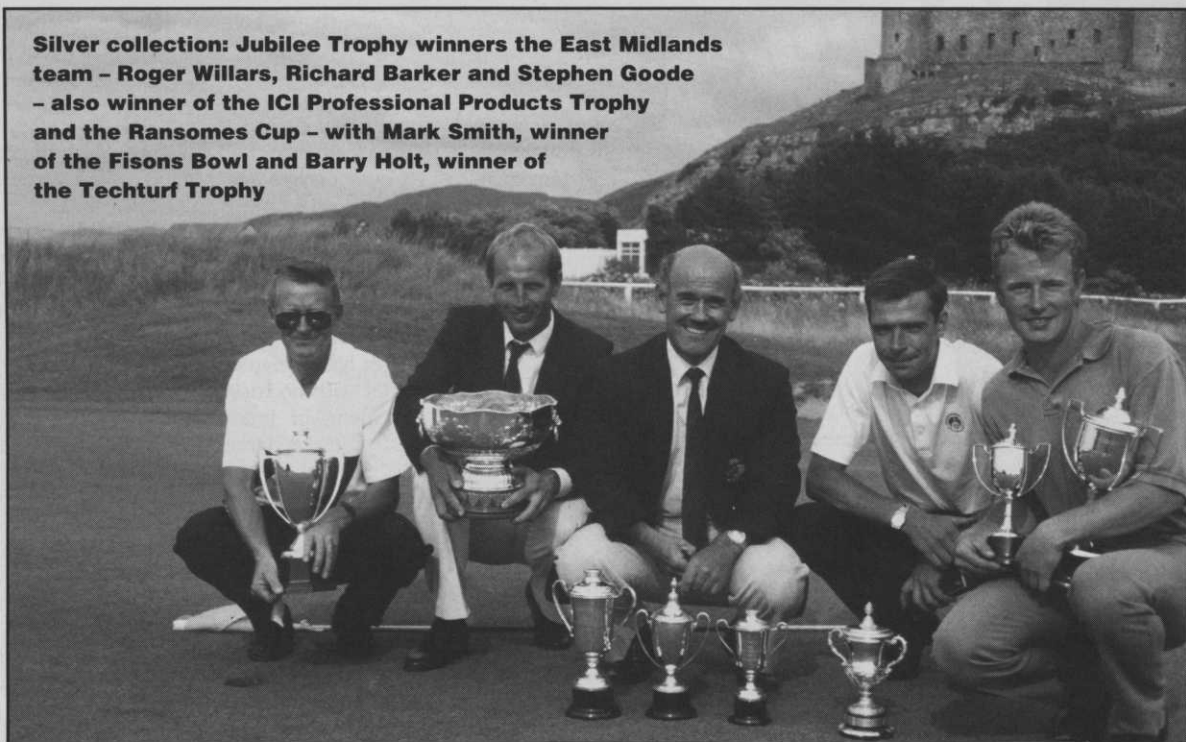
Trevor Davies 227 – Third

Special Prize

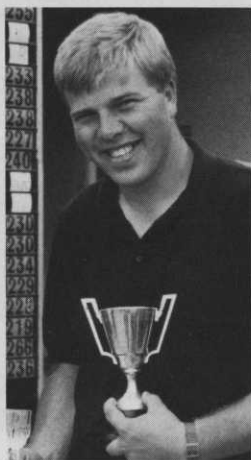
(54 holes nett)

Trade ex greenkeeper:
Terry Anderson 219

Silver collection: Jubilee Trophy winners the East Midlands team – Roger Willars, Richard Barker and Stephen Goode – also winner of the ICI Professional Products Trophy and the Ransomes Cup – with Mark Smith, winner of the Fisons Bowl and Barry Holt, winner of the Techturf Trophy



Don Major: winner Over-55s



Simon Woolley: winner of Maxwell Hart Cup



David Spurden: nearest the flag

35 ➔ Sullivan on 70 and a trio comprising Mark Diment, Stephen Goode and Trevor Davies on 71.

Day two and on again with the waterproof garb, our Welsh hosts, bless 'em, quick to point out the rain is an aberration and will quickly pass – we much less sure! Scores again from the sublime – a talented few – to a veritable gaggle of high numbers from the field. The links was living up to its reputation and did not 'give' easily, good scores having to earned. Come sundown the board reveals just one 69, posted by the talented Simon Woolley, with three 71s from Mark Ellis, Gordon Payne and Trevor Davies (again). The post mortem suggested many players in with middling 70 scores were still very much in the hunt, each day being played both cumulatively *and* as an individual 18 hole total, and spirits were high.

High spirits are the order at any BIGGA banquet and that held at St David's Hotel in the evening was no exception. Our sponsors and hosts, ICI, pushed the boat out in a way that left us gasping, together with a generosity of purpose that included many of their trade and business associates, who had all contributed magnificently to the awards table. I've been to hundreds of such dinner cum presentations in my time, but have never witnessed such a huge and magnificent trophy profusion as that of the Association and its generous donors. The festivities were spiced with short, humorous speeches and the presentation of an award to Roger Kerry for his wonderful course presentation, before being crowned to perfection by the full might of the Cor

Godre'r Aran Welsh Male Voice Choir, the night ending, quite literally, on a very high note indeed!

We knew it the moment dawn broke – the day was pure magic – and hope sprung eternal in the heart of every golfer. Would the pressure of leading the field be too much for Trevor Davies? Would someone leap from the pack for the coveted 54 hole Techturf (gross) and ICI Professional Products (nett) Trophies? Who would be crowned Putting King? We were soon to find out as time and again players demonstrated true determination and 'stickability', holding their games together when the going got tough and at last we were acclaiming the winners.

That mighty atom, left-hander Barry Holt, excelled as never before to take the Techturf Trophy with a gross total of 228, whilst Stephen Goode won the ICI Professional Products Senior Division with 216 nett. Mark Diment, ever reliable, scored 219 nett to capture the ICI Professional Products Junior Division, with Royal St David's head greenkeeper and undoubted man of the week, Roger Kerry, the cliff-hanging winner of the Vitax Putting Trophy, a sudden-death sixth hole victory against the ever exuberant Jimmy Richardson.

This then was golf of the highest order played on a wonderful course steeped in character. To the Club and especially the green staff, our gratitude and congratulations, to ICI Professional Products, our generous sponsors, three hearty cheers. Finally, to all competitors – the winners, the losers, the might-have-made-its and if-onlys... well played!