



Winner Nick Faldo with the BIGGA Support Team at the 18th



Ken Ramsbottom smooths Faldo's damage



BIGGA chairman Roy Kates with Ian Woosnam



Tension mounts over the last few holes...

BIGGA at The Open

It was a coming together of the greatest: Nick Faldo regained his position as number one in the world, winning The Open over the acknowledged greatest British course and breaking a ninety year old Muirfield jinx in achieving a great double victory over the same links, last achieved by James Braid way back in 1901/06.

For the week of The Open there were accolades flying thick and fast for course manager Chris Whittle and his splendid team, and certainly during Open week he was the greatest greenkeeper of them all, producing surfaces that were, quite simply, exceptional. In his modest way Chris would credit the Great Greenkeeper in the Sky for more than a little help, with blessed rain falling in just the right amount and, save a brief shower during play over the final eighteen, always at the right time.

Finally, throughout The Championship the team of BIGGA greenkeepers made onlookers increasingly aware that they were the backbone of the championship, caring quietly for the greatest bunkers on the greatest course with the greatest of skill.

If further proof were needed, it came from those in TV and radio whose job it was to



Course Manager Chris Whittle meets Viscount Whitelaw; BIGGA Education Officer David Golding, centre, looks on

entertain and inform the golf hungry world – for they also were generous in praise for Muirfield, for Chris Whittle and for the BIGGA Support Team – yes indeed, 'Great Golf Courses Need Great Greenkeepers'. At Muirfield for the 121st Open Championship it was plain for all to see that they have them.



With thanks: BIGGA chairman Roy Kates hands plaques in appreciation of continued support for the Association to Jacobsen's René Orban (left); Hardi's Colin Gregory (centre) and Ransomes' Richard Bishop



Nick Faldo's caddy, Fanny, with members of the support team

**Pictures by
DAVID WHITE**



A time for posing: with Willie Aitchison, long-time caddy for Lee Trevino



Happy faces at the finish



A past Open Champion, Mark Calcavecchia, with Swedish greenkeeper Jan Jonsson