

The BIGGA



Professional Products

NATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

'Competition may be fierce, but it is beyond argument



Pictures, clockwise, from top left: Malcolm Grand, Littlestone's course manager, receives a tankard from David Siddon, ICI's national sales manager; George Brown - at the battle of Bunker Hill; Paul Corfield - ICI Professional Products winner 15-28; Andy Toomey celebrates - with the David Royle Memorial Trophy

It's a BREEZE!

DAVID WHITE reports on how our golfing greenkeepers met the challenge of a wild and windy National Golf Tournament

that the championship provides a perfect base for camaraderie'



Pictures, clockwise, from top left: Barry Heaney - Over 55's winner;

Mike Hughes - nearest the flag;

Paul Loffman - winner of the Maxwell Hart Trophy;

A winner's smile - Richard Barker;

Happy to be second - Peter Solski

Local wags resident along the breezy English Channel coastline of Kent seem to take perverse delight in their particular brand of weather. 'One thing that can be relied upon', they say, 'is that it can never be relied upon: it's predictably unpredictable!'

Well, we didn't believe them on Sunday August 9, when a calm and sunny day gave practicing contenders for the BIGGA/ICI National Championships little cause for concern. Good scores came easily, balls flew prodigious distances, egos were massaged, hopes soared sky high. One contender went so far as to voice what others were merely thinking: "If it stays like this I'm gonna murder the little 'B'!"

Meanwhile, watching on the sidelines, Littlestone's talented course manager, Malcolm Grand, just smiled. There wasn't a scrap of malice in his knowing grin, but Malcolm always contended that Littlestone needed no trickery to sort the men from the boys: any little breeze that begins on the French coast as powder-puff gentleness can reach a fair rate of knots by the time it hits our shores - wind that makes pure links golf so utterly fascinating, so totally challenging and so damnably difficult!

The tournament opened and the wind blew - not quite a gale but registering around 20mph on the club's wind speed indicator. It was enough to make scoring difficult and the game plan - for everyone - had to be 'keep the ball in play'. Though the fairways at Littlestone are generously wide, the rough is pretty rough to say the least and golfers ventured into the jungle at their peril - the highest individual 'lost ball' score on this pipe-opener was 13 - an omen, somebody quipped!

It is to the credit of our experts that many were indeed able to master the conditions, with greens that were deliciously accurate and made faster than they looked by drying winds. Whilst some left the 18th shaking their heads in dis-

belief, the good scores of the leaders (recorded here in nett form) gave indication that we were in for a grand battle. The course obviously suited Richard Barker, who gave notice of yet greater play to come by posting a 70, with a dark horse in the shape of Paul Corfield following closely on 71. There were still more who felt 'quietly confident' after having finished well and the hunt for a supreme champion, nay *champions*, was anything but a foregone conclusion.

The opening hole at Littlestone is a confidence booster. At 297yds it is a par 4 that gets the spirits surging, and to begin the second day, Bert Cross opened the proceedings by splitting the fairway. A modest, almost benign breeze was fluttering - but not for long! Seemingly within minutes the big blow was back, again recording a steady 20mph in a south westerly direction, the movement coming in swirling gusts. We were in for another of 'those days'.

From the pack came five handicapper Paul Loffman, scoring 71 to win the Maxwell Hart Trophy. This score, added to his previous 79 also placed him second in the 0-14 division for the 36 hole David Royle Memorial Trophy, beaten only by the skillful play of Andy Toomey who, with a total of 146, was four strokes to the good. That irrepressible campaigner Ted West, a player who has never missed a National Tournament, showed his worth with a splendid 73 (count-back) to place second in the Maxwell Hart, matched by another senior, Sheffield's Barry Heaney, whose 73 gave him a total of 165 and victory in the over 55s competition, decided over 36 holes. This seniors title was, as ever, a tightly contested fin-



The BIGGA



Professional Products

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Longest Drive:

(Sponsor: Avoncrop Products)

Monday - Steve Sullivan
Tuesday - Mark Smith
Weds - Roger Glazier

The Fison's Bowl - Played on Monday:

1st - Richard Barker 74-4=70
2nd - Paul Corfield 87-16=71
3rd - Andy Toomey 82-9=73

The Maxwell Hart Trophy - Played on Tuesday:

1st - Paul Loffman 76-5=71
2nd - Edwin West 82-9=73 (on countback)
3rd - Barry Heaney 81-8=73

The Vitax Putting Trophy:

Winner with 33 putts - Simon Haynes

Over 55s Award (36 holes)

Barry Heaney - 156 nett

The Toro Trophy (low gross 36 holes)

Richard Barker 156

The Pattison Trophy (36 Holes)

(Handicaps 15-28 inc.)
1st Paul Corfield 145 nett
2nd Peter Solski 157 nett

The Ransomes David Royle Memorial Trophy (36 holes)

(handicaps 0-14 inc.)
1st Andy Toomey 146 nett
2nd Paul Loffman 150 nett

The William Hargreaves (Sisis) Cup - Final Day:

1st George Brown 75 nett
2nd Neil Whitaker 77 nett
3rd Steve Wood 78 nett

The Jubilee Team Trophy Winners, with a 54 hole nett score of 701:

Paul Loffman, Mike Hughes, Steve Wood - Midlands.

Nearest the Pin (17th hole) (Award donated by Jim Fry)

Mike Hughes

The Netlon Trophy (54 hole gross)

Winner - Richard Barker

The ICI Professional Products Trophy (54 holes nett/handicap 0-14)

Overall winner: George Brown 225
2nd (hcp 0-14): Mike Hughes 231
3rd (hcp 0-14): Paul Loffman 232

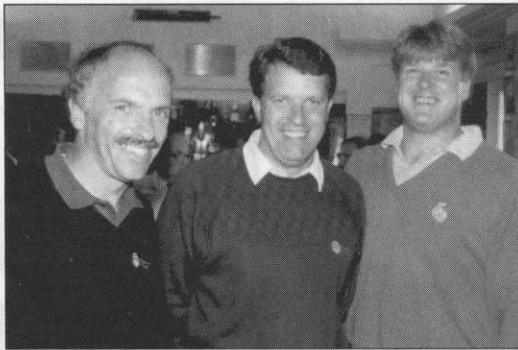
The ICI Professional Products Trophy (54 holes nett/handicap 15-28)

1st Paul Corfield 231
2nd Peter Solski 240

The ICI Professional Products Trophy (54 holes nett/handicap 15-28)

1st Paul Corfield 231
2nd Peter Solski 240

22 GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL September 1992



The ICI Professional Products Team and, left, the Midlands Team, receiving their prize from BIGGA Chairman, Roy Kates

ish with Gordon Payne just one stroke adrift in second place.

Meanwhile, having a second good day, Paul Corfield added a 74 to his total to take the Pattison Trophy (36 holes) by the comfortable margin of 12 strokes from Peter Solski.

For the 36 hole gross Toro Trophy, the ever dependable Richard Barker had been busily chipping away and in tough conditions recorded a creditable 78 to win by two strokes in a tightly contested battle. Just how close was the battle for the premier ICI Professional Products Trophy 54 hole award? Barker was leading by two at 148, with George Brown and Loffman tying second on 150 and Mike Hughes and Mike Sheehan both on 151 - a battle royal was brewing for the grand finale!

To their eternal credit, the field found sufficient energy (and enthusiasm) at the end of a tough day to compete for the Vitax Putting Trophy. It was won with just 33 delicate strokes by Simon Haynes.

It has all been said before, but the generosity of ICI and their many trade and business associates knows no bounds. It must be applauded. The banquet was a delight and the awards table positively groaned under a profusion of silverware. Fittingly, Malcolm Grand was presented by ICI's David Siddon with a special award, this in gratitude for his preparation of a course that could not be faulted. Competition may well be fierce, but it is beyond argument that the championship, its venue and the banquet provide a perfect base for camaraderie amongst peers - long may it continue.

The final day was a time for higher mathematics! Wind speeds that at times gusted to over 30mph, coupled with fine rain, did nothing to aid scoring and at times it was difficult even to maintain balance, leave alone make a graceful swing. Somehow it didn't seem to matter, for greenkeepers are made of sturdy stuff and the stalwarts battled on regardless. It speaks mountains for their ability to stick at it, for only seven players failed to complete all three rounds. As an added piece of useless statistical information, the average gross score of the field on the final day was 98 strokes and nobody broke 80. What does this prove? Simply that the weather conditions were appalling.

George Brown took 80 skillful blows (the day's lowest gross score) to clinch overall first prize - The ICI Professional Products Trophy - his nett 225 for three rounds in the 0-14 category beating Richard Barker by just two strokes. In addition, George won the William Hargreaves Trophy for low nett (75), Neil Whitaker and Steve Wood placing second and third respectively. Not to be outdone, Richard won the highly coveted low gross Netlon Trophy with runners-up in this class being Mike Hughes and Paul Loffman.

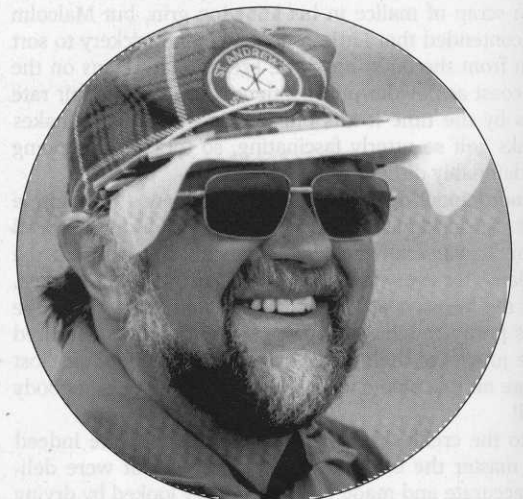
In the second division (15-28) the winner of the ICI Professional Products Trophy was Paul Corfield, who despite a nightmare final round succeeded in beating second placed Peter Solski by nine strokes!

To Littlestone Golf Club, Malcolm Grand and his dedicated staff, our generous sponsors ICI Professional Products, and to their many contributing colleagues, our most sincere gratitude. Safe in the knowledge that 1993 will bring a whole bevy of battling greenkeepers to Dunbar Golf Club, we hope we shall meet you all again. The BIGGA/ICI National is a great event, of which our Association has become exceedingly proud.

'The BIGGA/ICI National is a great event, of which our Association has become exceedingly proud'



Simon Haynes - a talent for putting



Sartorial elegance, wet weather style - Peter Biscoe