



**HAYTER CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT 1993**

# THAT'S THE

Three and a half inches of rain dumped on Sand Moor's eighteen holes in twelve hours or less adds up to an awful lot of wet stuff – enough, I fancy, to fill a fair-sized lake. Also, it occurred to me that if the Great Controller In The Sky bore a grudge on Yorkshire, which of course was a ridiculous thought, the spot chosen for His extra irrigation must have been Leeds. Dire warnings predicting floods, pestilence, doom and disaster, in Leeds above all other places, frequently interrupted every radio station as I travelled to Sand Moor, and though I may have swum through deeper rivers, there seemed a distinct possibility that sixty three golfing greenkeepers, along with their team managers and cheer-leaders, would soon be opting for an early bath and a return to base. As it poured and poured, playing the Hayter Challenge Tournament seemed less and less likely.

Thankfully, the deluge abated, at least the heavy stuff, and though players would experience the odd puddle of 'casual water', the stout-hearted green staff of Sand Moor, managed so capably by Bobby Barnes, were able to enact their game-plan according to King Canute, keeping most of the waters at bay on this free-draining golf course. That stated, even Bobby and his crew were powerless to repair all of the damage wrought by such liquid ferocity, for though many bunkers were washed thin of sand, there was no time for replenishment; the game had to continue!

Greenkeepers love the Hayter and Hayter's love greenkeepers. In fact, there is no argument amongst the cognoscenti, the most eagerly anticipated event in the calendar is that which is now titled the Hayter Challenge Tournament. After all, players in the Hayter don't get to compete just by being good guys, rather they earn their spurs the hard way, victorious in examinations of golfing prowess that include both section and regional qualifying events, playing golf to a higher level than their peers. To qualify for the final is a class act in itself, to win is every greenkeepers dream. Ironically, as this event is determined first by handicap, it is not such a crazy dream after all, for winning is within the reach of every golfer, as previous finals have often shown.

Wet weather makes for difficult playing conditions, and whilst Sand Moor's greens remained true, firm and speedy – enough to test any man – there was no measurable run through the green. As a professional golf watcher over the years, I fancy



**Winners all:** top, Bill Francis, first in category one; main picture, Chris Hulme, first in category two; and Paul Jackson, first in category three

## REPORT AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID WHITE

myself a dab hand at picking winners, kid myself I can spot a champ after a mere dozen shots have been fired. Playing the hunch, I drifted with the first game of the day, green with envy for the fluidity and suppleness of Martin Scothern and his plus one swing, mindful also of the innate talent of Mike Hughes, always a danger off his handicap of five. These two were my first 'bankers' and, bless their hearts, they both paid dividends. It was Martin Scothern who produced the lowest gross score, 111 for a round and a half of glorious golf under trying conditions, certainly acting as the lynchpin for the soon to be victorious Northern team, whilst Mike

Hughes won the premier trophy of the meeting, the Hayter Challenge Cup, with a nett score of 102.5. It was the same golf course for everybody, it just happens that Mike Hughes is the man with the trophy.

I've watched Mike quite a bit over the years, impressed always by his workmanlike approach to the game. The moment he bagged a majestic four at the second, after floating a soft wedge that could so easily have found the green into the greenside bunker, splashing out, and ferreting the putt, I knew this was to be his day. That he went on to fire a cluster of birdies spoke volumes for Mike's power of concentration – even he began to fancy his chances

– whilst Midlands team captain, Dean Cleaver, was often at his side, whispering words of encouragement.

Playing the hunch again, I nipped back a couple of holes to watch Bill Francis, a 'banker' for the South East if ever I saw one, finding him well out of character in shooting the rapids, visiting parts of the course best left to wild beasts. On two holes I watched him poke his tee shot into the boondocks, twice marvelling as he recovered with consummate ease. It says something for Bill that he's not given to panic, but it is not fair for an editor to hover at such moments of stress, so I pushed off elsewhere. Later I learned that my hunch was correct again, Bill's score of 107 in category one leading the class by 4.5 shots from Northern Ireland's Jonathan Guest (nice chap, full of strong, vibrant feelings for the occasion) and five less than Jon Moorhouse, the Midlands cornerstone.

Predicting winners in the second category isn't so easy, even practice rounds make 'em edgy, they're the 'anything might happen' brigade. Well, I'm telling you, when I spotted Chris Hulme early in the round, spied him through a camera lens, I couldn't believe my eyes. He has a ten handicap, swings like a three, hits the ball a country mile and is oh so tidy around the greens. Not surprising, then, that he should romp home, leading second placed Mathew Blake (S.W & S Wales) and the ever grinning Owen O'Connor (Eire), by eight glorious shots.

The seasoned reporter (for that matter, the seasoned golfer) must never write off those dark horses in category three, for with literally handfuls of shots, they often can prove an enormous upset. Whilst it's easy to kid oneself, it's tough to pick a 'banker' from these ranks. Paul Jackson hails from Bournemouth, working and playing at Ferndown, which by anyone's reckoning is a tough old test of nerve. A player holding 19 handicap at Ferndown might easily be a 14 elsewhere, such is its test of severity.

So, was Paul Jackson one of my bankers? I'm sorry to say that he was not, though around the turn at Sand Moor he revealed how lacking my powers of observation had been to miss him – this guy is really hot mustard, he hits the ball with meaningful vigour and must be regarded as a 'soon to be' candidate for category two, his score of 104.5 almost proving the upset of the day. Unlike Mike Hughes or Martin Scothern, I'll bet Paul can look back over his 27 holes and say 'if only I hadn't missed

# SPIRIT!



In the swing: Martin Scothern, left, who achieved lowest gross score and William McMeikan, under 21s winner

such and such a shot'... but such is the agony of golf. Suffice to say Paul's 104.5 was streets ahead of the second placed 112 of Toney Livingstone, and 7.5 strokes to the good of third man, Chris Powley. Chris also collected a nice award for being closest to the pin on a selected hole, whilst for the longest drive of the day we turned to the incredible Brian Mulholland, Northern Ireland's answer to John Daly and of not dissimilar stature. Brian is huge fun to be around, has a reputation for wicked humour – and we know he has a deft touch equal to Daly

regarding the right elbow!

Of the Scots, I must report less than perfect results, perhaps explained by the 'entertainments' enjoyed with those wild men of the Emerald Isle the previous night. Whatever, it was left to Alex Wallace and young William McMeikan to bring a smidgen of comfort back to the Scottish team, Alex's 118 taking the 'over 55's' award, William's the 'under 21's' with a score of 116.5.

When the accolades were given, there was a sense of elation in the victorious Northern team → 12



It's a gift: Alex Wallace, left, over 55s winner, receives congratulations and a prize from Kim Macfie of Hayters

Come with BIGGA to the  
GCSAA Conference  
and Show

# DALLAS 1994



The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America will be holding its 65th International Golf Course Conference and Show in Dallas from 4-7 February.

BIGGA's party attending this major international event will assemble on Sunday, 30 January at the Moat House Gatwick Airport, leaving the next morning on a *direct flight* to Dallas Fort Worth Airport and arriving back at Gatwick on Wednesday, 9 February.

In over 150 years, Dallas has grown from a cabin on the banks of the Trinity river into an internationally recognised commercial and manufacturing centre thanks to the discovery of Texan oil and the tenacity and spirit of its people. It is a major cultural centre of skyscraper banks and offices; elegant shops, fine restaurants and hotels. Neighbouring Fort Worth, originally a military outpost, retains a 'western' atmosphere and continues to be headquarters for the cattle industry. Fort Worth's clubs feature country and western music whilst its western heritage is most evident at the Historic Stockyards Area where there are frontier-style shops and cafes.

GCSAA will be organising more than 70 educational seminar sessions and forums, a three-day, 190,000 square foot trade show with more than 600 manufacturers and distributors of golf and turf industry products, supplies and services together with a gala banquet featuring performances by the Oak Ridge Boys and country star Crystal Gayle.

An exciting trip is in prospect and *bookings with full payment must be received by 19 November.*

#### ITINERARY

##### Sunday, 30 January

All participants assemble at the Moat House Gatwick Airport, overnight accommodation with FREE car parking is included.

##### Monday, 31 January

Depart Gatwick for Dallas Fort Worth Airport on British Airways – 10.05 hours – arrive 14.40 hours. Upon arrival transfer to Hotel Loews Anatole, stay 8 nights.

##### Tuesday, 8 February

Return transfer to Dallas Airport and depart on British Airways – 16.40 hours – arrive 07.30 hours on 9 February. Return transfer to Hotel to collect cars and drive home.

#### Price

£724 per person based on twin shares; £1,060 per person based on single room accommodation, plus comprehensive travel insurance for the duration: £35.

Included are: flights UK to Dallas and return; US Airport taxes; Hotel accommodation in the Loews Anatole including taxes, room rate only; Full comprehensive travel insurance for the duration.



Please forward full payment of £759 or £1,095 (unless travel insurance is *not* required) to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF to arrive by *Friday 19 November at the latest*, together with name, address and contact telephone number.

# 'The spirit lives – it's called the Hayter Challenge Tournament'

11 → camp, for Ian Holloran and Bob Lupton a reward for all they had done behind the scenes, whilst no greater applause was ever heard than for the new sponsors of this wonderful tournament, Hayters PLC.

Taking over an established tournament is never easy, but Hayters have properly stamped the mark of 'A1 First Class' on the whole shebang, bringing a professionalism and a sense of real purpose to a tournament that is now rightfully their very own property. In everything the Hayter professionals touched, the trophies, the Hayter presentation packs, the Hayter flags, and the display of nifty looking Hayter machinery (I hope you all took a good, long look), the event shone clear. This event is very much the right stuff, a civilised haven for a few precious days, an escape from a world that all too often is tainted by greed and grossly over-paid sportspeople. The spirit lives – it's called the Hayter Challenge Tournament.



**Above: Hayter Challenge Winner Mike Hughes, centre, receives his trophy from BIGGA Chairman John Crawford as Kim Macfie looks on. Left: Members of the Northern Team receive their prize**

## RESULTS

**The Hayter Challenge Trophy:**  
Mike Hughes (Midlands) 102.5

**Low gross score:**  
Martin Scothern (Northern) 111.

**Over 55's:**  
Alex Wallace (Scotland) 118

**Under 21's:**  
William McMeikan (Scotland) 116.5

**Category One (0-9 handicap)**  
1st: Bill Francis (South East) 107  
2nd: Jonathan Guest (Northern Ireland) 111.5  
3rd: Jon Moorhouse (Midlands) 112

**Category Two (10-18 handicap)**  
1st: Chris Hulme (Northern) 106  
2nd: Mathew Blake (S. West & S. Wales) 114 (countback)  
3rd: Owen O'Connor (Eire) 114

**Category Three (19-28 handicap)**  
1st: Paul Jackson (S. West & S. Wales) 104.5  
2nd: Toney Livingstone (Midlands) 112  
3rd: Chris Powley (Northern) 113

**Nearest the pin:**  
Chris Powley

**Longest drive:**  
Brian Mulholland (Northern Ireland)

**Team Prize:**  
1st: Northern 916  
2nd: Midlands 943.5

## Financial Services to Members

The Association is pleased to announce that with the help of Peter Hoare & Co Ltd., a panel of F.I.M.B.R.A. registered brokers has been set up which is able to give pensions and related advice to members. The panel will consist of a total of 35 brokers across the United Kingdom enabling a local service to be offered. Each broker will be monitored to ensure a high standard of service is maintained.

Initially members' enquiries should be sent to BIGGA Headquarters at Aldwark Manor, to be forwarded to the local contact.

Members' attention is drawn to the enquiry card (postage paid) at the front of this issue of Greenkeeper International and it is proposed to feature this every alternate month.



All brokers in the panel have joined BIGGA as Associate members and there will be a strong representation at BTME '94.

In the meantime, members requiring information on the scheme should contact either their local secretary or John Pemberton at BIGGA HQ. (Tel: 0347 838581).

### PETER HOARE & COMPANY (Insurance Brokers) Ltd.

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Neil Thomas, BA  
Executive Director  
British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association  
Aldwark Manor  
Aldwark  
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12 August 1993

Dear Neil

#### Independent Financial Advice For Members

Many thanks for appointing us to act as lead member of a team of professional Independent Financial Advisers.

We are in the process of creating a list of first class advisers across the country in order to give BIGGA members unbiased and independent advice on any topic within our brief. You can be assured that the members will be pleased with the resulting response time and the ability to talk over their problems with a local IFA at their leisure with no pressure being brought to bear.

Being able to talk about any insurance company product has a distinct advantage compared with the restrictions placed on a representative of one company. All the panel will be in a position to deal with any insurance company and will do their utmost for your members. In fact, the rules of our governing body insist that the clients' interests come first and we must give the best of advice at all times.

The panel will be able to provide advice on pensions of all types - whether frozen or active - as well as setting up any new contracts required.

Life Assurance, Pensions and Investment can be very complex but you can have peace of mind in the knowledge that our panel members will be well versed in its intricacies.

We look forward to a long and happy relationship with your association.

Yours sincerely

*M G J Bower*  
M G J Bower  
Director

Directors:  
R.G. Boulford ACH FIBBA, A.F. Combe ACH,  
C. Staley, M.G.J. Bower, J.M. Spence FCH,  
B.F. Tomlinson ACH.  
P.J. Hoare MA FCH (non-executive).  
Company Secretary: K.A. Pope.

Company Registered in England No. 105119

