

THE WINNING COMBINATION



Professional
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DAVID WHITE reports on the BIGGA-ICI Professional Products National Golf Tournament

I'm convinced of it, the spirit of Old Tom Morris must have settled on Graham Wood's shoulder throughout his and his team's many days of skillful preparation, leading up to the staging of the BIGGA-ICI Professional Products National Golf Tournament at Dunbar Old Links last month. Further, I'm sure also that Old Tom conveyed a ghostly message of encouragement to Dunbar's wizard of the fairways, heartened to see how Graham set proud the old master's creation, conjuring conditions for competitive battle that were, certainly to this links addict, pure perfection.

Links addiction is classified contagious, a disease for which there is no known cure, though strangely enough it is not something contracted by every golfer and some take precautionary steps to ensure immunity by playing most of their golf on lush, parkland tracks – thus when they come to play on courses over which the game itself evolved some five centuries ago – like Dunbar – they find the sandy soil which serves to create firm and often very speedy playing surfaces far too difficult, missing the ball control they mistakenly thought was mastered – on softer, and of course more forgiving, greens.

I make this point simply to put the results of this exquisitely sited tournament into perspective, for some greenkeepers were able to conquer Dunbar's conditions, others were



Trophy winners at Dunbar 1993

bewitched, bothered and bewildered. It became clear to this observer that whilst golf is not always meant to be a fair game, some were of the opinion that this links golf, breezy Dunbar style, was altogether too unkind, finding the examination paper beyond their game and leading to three days of head shaking and general disbelief at the irony of it all.

It is thus to the credit of those who had the 'measure' and made the grade – the shot makers, the bump and run merchants, the 'far and sure' strikers, and of course those who found a delicate touch on Dunbar's delicious greens, that the cream rose again to the top, as it always does.

What a great abundance of talent there is in the greenkeeping fraternity these days. From the very beginning of this BIGGA-ICI Championship we were witness to some masterly performances, with the first to break from the pack on this breezy Monday being Alastair Holmes, who for a long time sat content in the

clubhouse with a gross 75, before two other players, David Worsfold and Stuart Greenwood (a links man proper from nearby North Berwick), matched this score to take first and second nett handicap honours. First blood, then, (and the Fisons Bowl) to David Worsfold's nett 70.

On Tuesday the breezes blew once more – not fiercely as they so often do, but enough to ruffle the collar and certainly enough to cause a few blips when selecting the correctly numbered weapon. I'll admit to being unsure what constitutes a breeze, or when a breeze becomes a wind, thus I'm betting there will be some who dispute my classification – no matter, wind or no wind, Dunbar links was the undisputed master!

Breeze or not, this day it was David Spurdon's turn to shine with a nifty 72 to win the Standard Golf Trophy, and for Mike Hughes, the Midlands Mashie Manipulator, in typical good form to register 73 to tie with Graeme

CONCENTRATION

The concentration and Professional Products



George Paterson demonstrates the concentration needed to win the ICI Professional Products trophy and best nett score over 54 holes.
Right, David Worsfold collects the Toro Trophy from BIGGA chairman John Crawford



➔ Ferguson; Mike eventually taking honours by virtue of a better inward nine. Though Mike's 36 hole total of 146 tied with Michael Finney, his lower second round was good enough for him also to take the coveted David Royle Memorial Trophy, with the low gross Toro Trophy going to first day victor, David Worsfold, and the Junior category falling to a most consistent player, Colin Garnett, who also subsequently won the overall Junior category. Lest we forget, George Brown played and scored beautifully also, whilst wishing he'd been born six days earlier – he was to be 55 on the 9th – and thus he was beaten by father time and a slightly more mature gentleman, Gordon Payne, whose 160 won the over fifty-five's... is it a sign of my own advancing years that all of 'em appear mere kids?

If all wagers are not settled on the links, there's always the practice putting green on which to finalise matters – for the Vitax Putting Trophy. On this occasion it was the 'wee bantam', Barry Holt, who cruised round in low numbers, and though he may line up the 'wrong' way, he certainly proved that he can nail 'em!

Tuesday evening of ICI Tournament week means banquet time. We've found some wonderful friends in ICI Professional Products, together with the tournament co-sponsors and ICI's business associates, and they never fail to make us proud to be part of their celebratory team, as they also are an essential part of ours. It is customary for ICI's David Siddon to make a presentation, and if ever a man deserved the praise (and the award) David bestowed upon him, that man was Graham Wood. David also delivered us a few well-chosen words spiced with a smidgen of propaganda and jokes that are show stoppers – telling us what we know already but love to hear – they're the greatest of guys. This year we were entertained by the obligatory comic, also a bonus in the swirl of pipes, Kirsty Greenwood's lovely highland dancing, and a Sept of the Gunn Clan, Cecil George, stirring us with his magnificent Burn's 'Address to the Haggis' – I swear it, we could all but taste the heather.

Having written earlier that cream rises, it was the final day that saw the ascendancy of George Paterson, who took just 69 strikes (the

lowest gross round recorded) to clinch a bevy of awards. First he took the William Hargreaves Trophy for low nett (67), plus the ICI Professional Products Trophy for low nett (221) over 54 holes, although it was a shame that the three-way tie left Mike Sheehan and Michael Finney (both also on 221) pretty well out in the cold, after the card playoff. The Netlon Trophy (54 hole low gross) was presented to Malcolm Latham for his exceedingly worthy efforts over the 54 holes.

To clinch the supremacy of Scottish talent, George Paterson, Alick Mackay and Paul Murphy waltzed away with what is always a mostly highly prized trophy – the Jubilee Cup – for team honours and for the honour of the North of Scotland.

Let us give thanks then to Dunbar Golf Club and its most talented team, also to ICI Professional Products and their many colleagues, who contributed so unstintingly. We learned from David Siddon that this classic event moves to the West Country in 1994 and, no doubt, many of the old and familiar faces will make this, as always, an event not to be missed.

TRATION!

the celebration of the 1993 BIGGA-ICI National Golf Tournament



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TOURNAMENT RESULTS

THE FISONS BOWL – Monday:

1st – David Worsfold
75-5=70
2nd – Stuart Greenwood
78-7=71
3rd – Michael Finney
78-7=71
Gross – Alastair Holmes 75
Longest drive – Andy Peel
Nearest the hole – David
Spurden

THE STANDARD GOLF TROPHY

– Tuesday:
1st – David Spurden
82-10=72
2nd – Mike Hughes 78-5=73
3rd – Graeme Ferguson
81-8=73
Low Gross – Barry Holt 78

THE VITAX PUTTING TROPHY

Winner – Barry Holt

THE DAVID ROYLE MEMORIAL
TROPHY (nett 36 holes)
Senior 0-14
1st – Mike Hughes 146
2nd – Michael Finney 146

THE PATTISON TROPHY
(nett 36 holes)
Junior 15-28
1st Colin Garnett 154
2nd Andrew Smith 156

THE TORO TROPHY

(low gross 36 holes)
David Worsfold 158

OVER 55's (36 holes)
Gordon Payne 160

THE ICI PROFESSIONAL
PRODUCTS TROPHY
(combined nett 54 holes)
Winner – George Paterson
221

SENIOR 0-14
1st – Mike Sheehan 221
2nd – Michael Finney 221
3rd – Barry Holt – 223

JUNIOR 15-28
1st Colin Garnett 234
2nd Andrew Smith 239
3rd – Mike Bryant 241

THE WILLIAM HARGREAVES
TROPHY (Final day)
1st – George Paterson
69-2=67
2nd – Barry Holt 76-4=72
3rd Stephen Pope 82-10=72
Gross – Barry Holt 76
Longest Drive – Malcolm
Latham

NEAREST THE PIN

(Awarded by Jim Fry)
Stephen Goode

THE NETLON TROPHY
(54 hole gross)
1st – Malcolm Latham 234
2nd – Barry Holt 235

THE JUBILEE TEAM TROPHY
Alick Mackay, George
Paterson and Paul Murphy
(North of Scotland)



Clockwise: Cecil George's 'ode to the haggis'; Jubilee Team winners, Mike Hughes in full flight; and ICI Professional Products' David Siddon, left, presenting a tankard to Dunbar head greenkeeper Graham Wood

