

HAYTER

CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT FINAL

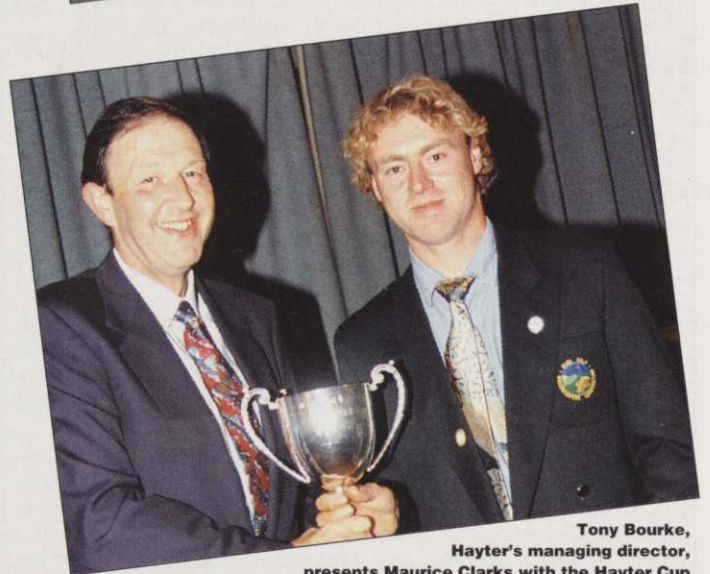
Pannal



Caddy reflects on boss's shot



The winning Northern team



Tony Bourke, Hayter's managing director, presents Maurice Clarks with the Hayter Cup



Kim Macfie, Hayter's sales and marketing manager, shows how it's done

beaters



Kevin Fowler, putting on 17th

Maurice Clarke celebrated his victory in the Hayter Challenge Tournament final by scraping off his goatee beard. But his success at picturesque Pannal was anything but a close shave.

The 31-year-old 14-handicapper was one of three golfers who shot a nett 67 in the morning of this 27-hole competition. But the others couldn't keep up the pace in the afternoon and Maurice, the first assistant at Corrstown GC, near Dublin Airport, won by more than a whisker. A 20ft chip-in on the 5th followed by another birdie on the 7th gave him a gross score of 39 and a nett score of 32 in afternoon.

**Report and photographs
by Chris Boiling**

One of his co-leaders in the morning was his 61-year-old father, Tommy, the head greenkeeper at Corrstown, who was playing just in front of Maurice. "I had the added incentive that I wanted to beat the old man," said Maurice.

Tommy, a 12-handicap player, started the afternoon in superb fashion – with a birdie. "But I got so excited I went to pieces," he said jokingly.

The other morning leader, Steve Milne, a 21-year-old assistant at Exeter Golf Club, didn't go to pieces but still finished two shots adrift of Maurice with a nett 34 off a 24 handicap. Like Maurice, Steve had someone in his family to thank for his success: his 29-year-old brother is a pro. "He set me on the right track," says Steve, who has been playing for two years and has had about eight lessons.

David Spurden keeps his eye on the ball



Tommy Clarke, the over 55s winner



How your team performed:

NORTHERN 885

MIDLAND 906

SOUTH WEST AND WALES 910.5

SCOTTISH 914

EIRE 917.5

NORTHERN IRELAND 946.5

SOUTH EAST 950

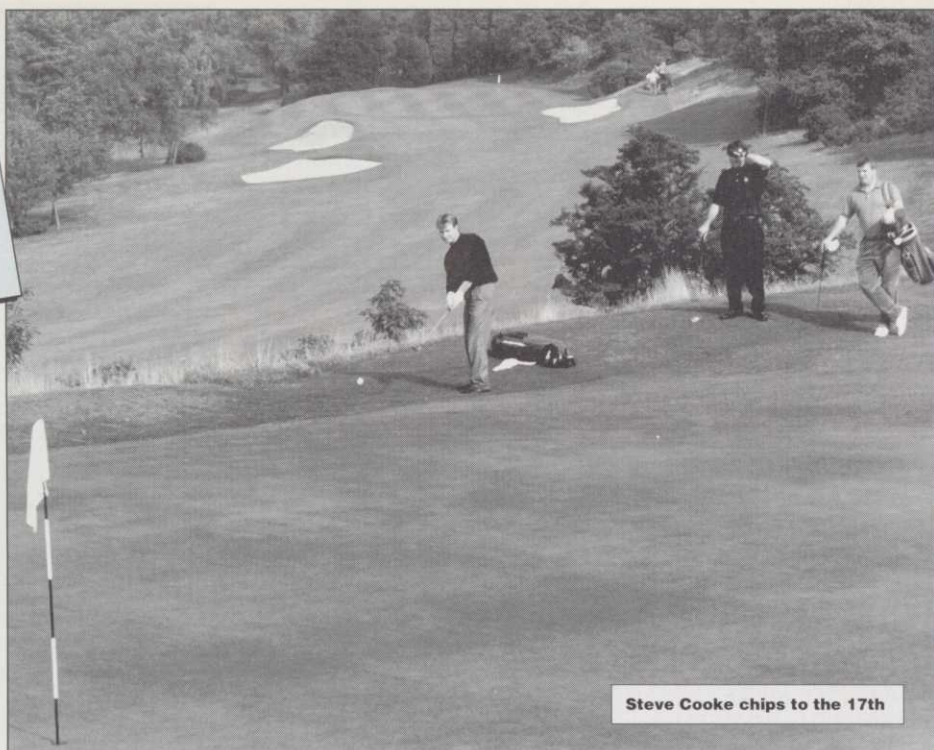
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Several other golfers went round the 6659-yard par 72 course in sixtysomething in the morning. Paul Godwin and Mike O'Neill shot nett 68s, and Kevin Peace came in with a nett 69. But, after a quick lunch, this tiring course took its toll and they all slipped back in the afternoon.

Those who came good second time around the first nine were Graeme MacDonald, who added a nett 33.5 to a nett 72, John Moorhouse who added a 33 to a 72, Joe Bedford who added a 33.5 to a 79 and Alan Baxter who recorded a 32 after a morning 73.

However, the Hayter Challenge Tournament, now in its second year, is about more than individual scores. The pride of the regions is at stake. And once again the Northern team have something to gloat about.

"The sun shone again for the righteous," said regional administrator Bob Lupton who picked up the team trophy and a cheque. The winning team comprised: Tony Mears, Ian Hutton, Gary Potter, Alan Baxter, John Waite, David Spurden, Chris Powley, Chris Fiddell and John Jones. The runners-up again were the Midlands team, led by Roger Willars, the only playing captain in the competition. He says he stepped in to save the team's honour when a qualifier cried off and the reserves were unavailable.



Steve Cooke chips to the 17th

They don't know what they missed. Even those greenkeepers who didn't win a prize said they had enjoyed the day, the course and Pannal's hospitality. Most said they enjoyed it so much that they are going to try harder next year to make it through their section and region qualifying rounds to get to the final. Roger Willars has already booked his accommodation!

Verdict on the course

The winner, Maurice Clarke, spoke for everyone when he said: "The course was excellent and the greens were in great condition. The course is not too difficult, but you can get in trouble if you don't keep the ball straight". Head greenkeeper Kevin Wroe, who took over recently from Alan Gamble, and his team did a superb job with the presentation of the course.

Results

Overall winner: Maurice Clarke (Eire), 99

Regional team prize: 1, Northern, 885; 2, Midlands, 906

Category 1 (0-9 handicap): 1, John Moorhouse (Midland), 105; 2, Graeme MacDonald (Midland), 105.5; 3, Paul Godwin (SW/SW), 105.5.

Category 2 (10-18): 1, Maurice Clarke (Eire), 99; 2, Alan Baxter (Northern); 3, Tommy Clarke (Eire), 106.

Category 3 (19-28): 1, Steve Milne (SW/SW), 101; 2, Chris Powley (Northern), 109; 3, Alex Robertson (Scotland), 111.5.

Over 55s: Tommy Clarke (Eire), 106.

Under 21: Steve Milne (SW/SW), 101

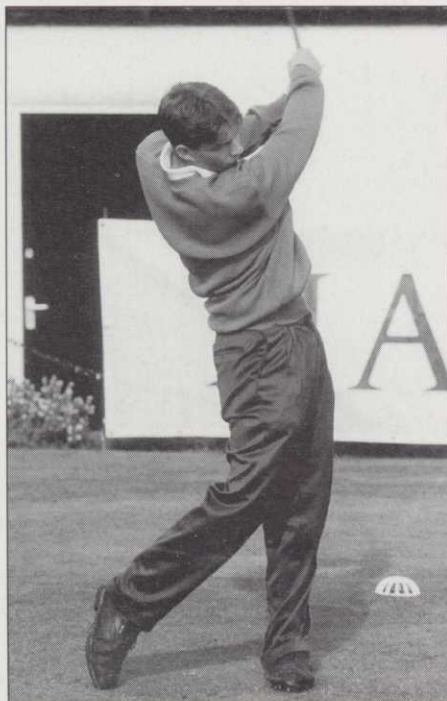
Best Gross: Ron Christie (SE), 112

Nearest the pin: David Behan (Eire), 5ft 11in

Longest drive: Ron Christie (SE)



John Moorhouse



Steve Milne



Tony Mears