



# On course

# for a great Final

**T**his is Pannal Golf Club. This is where the Hayter Challenge will be decided. After battling their way through section and region qualifying rounds, this is where 63 greenkeepers will fight for the honour of being the Hayter champion.

Great players have won on this 97-year-old course. Legendary players have won here too. Nick Faldo won the British Youths Amateur Championship here in 1975 with a 10-under-par total of 278. Lee Trevino triumphed here in an exhibition match three years earlier. He wise-cracked his way to a 66 and on one hole he was overheard saying: "I'm playing in Paris, France, and then in Birmingham but I'm not sure which country that's in."

There's no doubting where Pannal is, there's a great big arrow pointing to the course from the A61 Leeds to Harrogate road.

The 6659-yard par 72 moorland course was designed by Alex Herd in 1906 and opened for play a year later. Since then it has been updated and altered by various leading architects, including James Braid and the Hawthrees. In its early days the course was fields and heathland with stone walls providing obstacles and very few bushes and trees. Now there are trees and shrubs everywhere adding interest and colour to the North Yorkshire course.

The thing most golfers like about this members' club is the panoramic views. From parts of the back nine you can see York Minster, the white horse at Kilburn and the magnifi-



Above: the clubhouse and, top, views like this one from the 17th green make a visit to Pannal well worthwhile

## HAYTER

cent railway viaduct that stretches across the valley.

It's the sort of course you can easily fall in love with. In the clubhouse they tell the story of head greenkeeper Alan Gamble's encounter with an American. Alan, who retired this summer after 17 years service with the club, spotted the American playing off the white tees, went over and told him he couldn't do that. The American replied with words to the effect: "I've paid my

money I can play where I want."

"No, you can't," said Alan and referred him to the secretary.

Next day the American was back again. Taken aback, Alan went up to him and said: "I'm surprised to see you again."

"I'm leaving for the States tomorrow and had to play this course one more time before I went back. I love it. If I could wrap it up and take it home with me, I would."

Many of the Hayter Challenge finalists will probably want to take it home as well – and transplant it on their sites. Alan kept it to a very high standard and new head greenkeeper Kevin Wroe, 35, seems to be following suit.