

# MEETING



## HAYTER CHALLENGE

### RESULTS

#### Regional Team Prize

1. Scottish 899; 2. Midland 909.5

#### Overall Winner

William Banks (South East) 102

#### Best Gross - 27 holes

Derek McJannett (Northern) 107

#### Category 1 (Handicap 0-9)

1. Alexander Reid (Scottish) 105.5; 2. Derek McJannett (Northern) 107; 3. George Brown (Scottish) 108.

#### Category 2 (Handicap 10-18)

1. Ray Hayden (Eire) 107; 2. Paul Harley (Northern) 107.5; 3. Alan Roberts (Midland) 112.5.

#### Category 3 (Handicap 19-28)

1. William Banks (South East) 102; 2. Ian Dunmore (Midland) 111; 3. David Mowatt (Scottish) 111.5

#### Over 55s

George Brown (Scottish) 108

#### Under 21s

Alexander Reid (Scottish) 105.5

#### Nearest the Pin

Charlie MacDonald (Midland)

#### Longest Drive

Ian Dunmore (Midland)

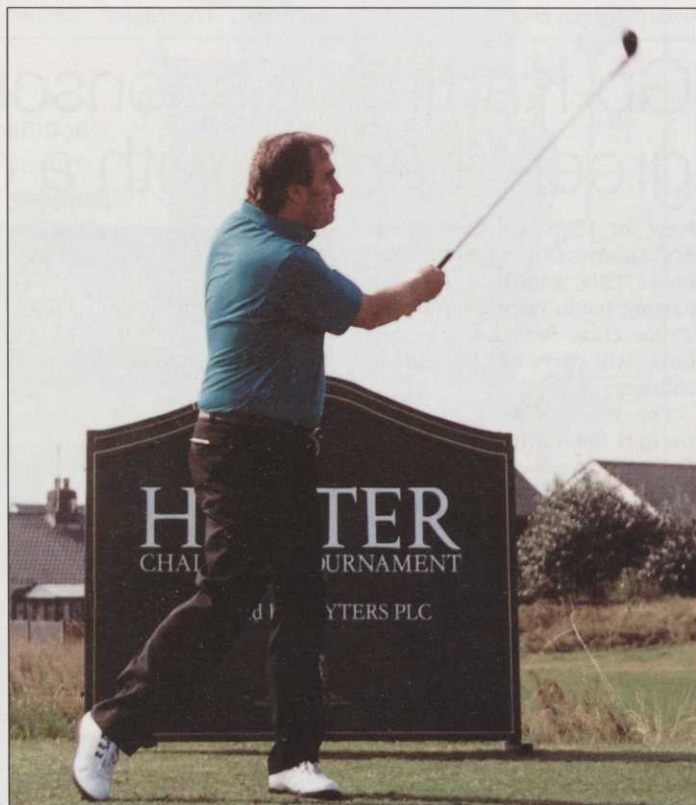
**Perfect conditions greeted the 63 Hayter finalists and, as Scott MacCallum witnessed, they produced golf to match the occasion.**

**T**he Hayter Challenge has a reputation for across the board excellence. The sectional and regional qualifying events bring out the best in those attempting to progress further; the courses used are among the best in the country while the magnificent sponsorship support at every Hayter day is second to none.

All those elements were to the fore at West Lancashire Golf Club for the 1995 Hayter Challenge Final.

The quality of the golf play was superb in all three categories, the course was one of the finest links in the country presented in excellent order and Kim Macfie and his Hayter colleagues were at their hospitable best.

There are some links courses which really do require a bit of wind to add steel to their defences and sharpen their teeth. The most famous links of them all, the Old Course at St Andrews can demand the power of Hercules and the touch of a safe cracker to break 80 if the wind blows but caught on a calm day



**The Palmeresque Kim Macfie swing**

in October by Curtis Strange a few years ago even it gave up a 10 under-par 62.

West Lancashire isn't like that. It's a beast even on a calm day and the finalists should know

because they benefitted from a perfect day practice round and an equally calm competition day, a situation rare – if not unknown – on the north west coast in mid-September. Even at its most





Northern



Midland

# THE CHALLENGE



John Muir, centre, and his West Lincs greenkeeping team

benign birdies were as rare as copies of *The Sun* in nearby Liverpool – it's still banned in much of the city following its coverage of the Hillsborough Disaster.

As always, for every set of unlucky losers there is a multi talented victor and on this occasion it was the team from the Home of Golf which prevailed and broke its duck in the event.

Scotland, captained by BIGGA's answer to Bernard Gallacher, Elliott Small, romped home by over 10 shots with an eight out of nine scores counting 27 hole total of 899. The Midland region edged home second just ahead of

the Northern region.

It was a magnificent effort by the boys in blue whose spirit was epitomised by the performance of the "old man of the team", and adopted Scot, George Brown. Turnberry's finest was "nobbled" the night before the competition and forced to drink vast quantities of the aforementioned spirit by a former colleague. He came out the following morning somewhat sluggishly but by the afternoon was back to his best posting a gross sub-par total for the final nine holes. It was good enough to carry him to the over 55s prize with a score of 108.



Scottish



Eire



Northern Ireland





South West and South Wales



South East

# 'West Lancs tests every club in the bag'

His presence, and ability to come back from an excessively hard night, inspired the younger members of the team, particularly Alexander Reid of Letham Grange who shot a best of the morning nett 68 on his way to clinching the under 21 prize with a score of 105.5.

The quality of the golfer mustered by the teams was exceptionally high with many Category one players headed by Derek McJanett of Sherwood Forest GC who posted a gross one under par total of 107 off a scratch handicap. It brought him the best gross prize six shots ahead of Shaun Richards, the one handicapper who was the gross winner at the National Tournament at St Annes Old Links the previous month.

The top individual prize was



Hayters MD Tony Bourke, back left, with Barry Heaney and category winners William Banks, Alexander Reid and Ray Hayden

claimed by Willie Banks of Herne Bay GC and the South East Region. Willie, who has only recently returned to the game after a lay-off, posted a nett 72 in the morning but struck a purple patch in the afternoon nine holes completing them in a nett 30 shots.

Before a shot was played in anger there was a surprise for Bert Cross, the long time starter of the Finals whose work was recognised with the presentation of a magnificent Starter's Jacket to add a touch of sartorial elegance to the stylish way in which he has always sent players on their way.

Praise for the course was universal and a credit to Head Greenkeeper John Muir and his

team. John has been at West Lancs for 11 years and is reaping the rewards for his hard work.

Working together with his deputy, Mike Norman and the rest of his team of six John recently improved the dog leg left 13th 100% by building mounding to prevent the dog leg being carried from the elevated tee. The area from which the soil used to build the mounding was utilised by a new turf nursery.

An Open qualifying course West Lancs tests every club in the bag and the quality of the condition and presentation is matched only by the layout itself. While links courses in Scotland can have heather protecting their honour and snaring errant shots West Lancs has brambles which are just as effective as their Scottish equivalents at wrapping themselves round a clubhead.

The gala dinner in the spacious

West Lancs' dining room was a splendid affair with an excellent speaker in former Guards Sergeant John Welsh regaling tales from his past and a selection of his finest jokes – some of them repeatable. It was also an opportunity for Kim Macfie to reinforce Hayter's sponsorship of the event and announce a new "Ryder Cup" style event to be launched next year involving greenkeepers from around the world.

The Hayter Challenge Final was an ideal opportunity to display the qualities of the new FM514 Fairway Unit Mower to the assembled greenkeepers.

The midweight machine has five floating heads, a Kubota 35 hp diesel engine, power on-demand four wheel drive, seven or 11 blade cutter 26 inch heads. Cost of the FM514, which was launched in prototype form at Harrogate earlier this year and is now in full time production, is £23,995.

Already it has attracted much interest, including in the USA and Japan and the West Lancashire practice range was the ideal place for finalists to put the new machine through its paces.



George Brown, Course Manager, Turnberry:

"It's extremely manoeuvrable and very fast if required to be so. The steering and traction are also very positive and the fact that it is British is a big plus. I also like the fact that the machine is extremely simple to operate. I'm also pleased to learn that there are grass buckets because it's sometimes important to be able to present your course at its Sunday best."

## Ian Holoran, Foreman, Middlesbrough Municipal Golf Centre:

"An impressive machine.

It has a good turning circle which is great for going around bunkers and winter greens

and it certainly scores over gang mowers because of its ability to present the course so well. You sit high up which means visibility is good. I do think the cab should be standard in this country (cab comes as an optional extra at £2,500). It has plenty of power and a good Kubota engine. It's also a UK company so parts back-up should be good and I particularly like the lever to drop the cutting blades which I much prefer to a pedal."



## Buster Lewer, Course Manager, Dainton Park GC:

"It's a super machine. The weight is right and it feels good. It's the lightest machine on the market. The visibility is great and overall I can't really fault the machine.

If there is anything it's that you've got to get out of the machine to move the cutting units up to their vertical position but that only takes a couple of seconds. Using this machine the presentation of the course would be excellent."

