

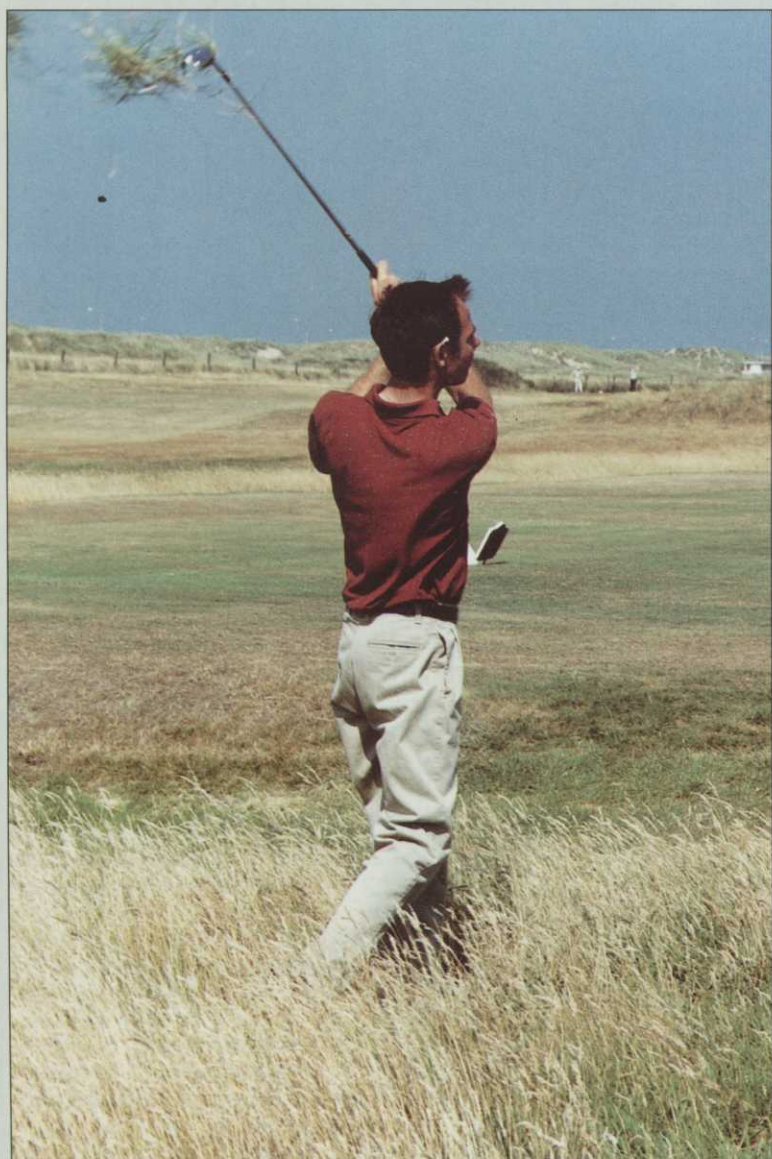
## 1995 NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Sponsored by:

**Miracle  
Amenity Care**



# MAD DOGS AND GREEN



Richard Barker finds a bit of trouble on the final day



One of the St Annes Old Links watering holes

**The National Tournament saw a record entry and record temperatures. Scott MacCallum was on hand to record events.**

**T**he National Tournament, major sponsor Miracle Amenity Care, has long been renowned for its weather. Over the years our intrepid men have coped with most that mother nature could possibly throw at them but this year they almost had to give best to some of the hottest conditions any British greenkeeper could expect from the north west coast of England in July.

From the relative comfort of the St Annes Old Links Clubhouse we counted them out

and some five hours later counted them back again looking as though they were, not finely tuned golfing machines but, overweight jockeys who'd been forced to sweat it out in the sauna prior to the big race.

It wasn't conventional galleries our men had watching them as they struggled manfully around the magnificent links course but rabid canines and anglophiles who'd happened out around noon.

The Monday night Lancashire Hot Pot evening was amended to become Lancashire Cold Salad evening and the "set in stone" club rules calling for jackets and ties to be worn after 8pm were finally relaxed allowing the oxygen supplies delivered by the local paramedics to be returned only half used.

Several players thought they'd become delirious and seen a mirage through the heat haze on the final day only to discover it was just Clive Higgenbottom dispensing drinks from his 4x4.

If you are catching my drift you'll appreciate that it was rather warm at St Annes Old Links for the Miracle Amenity Care National Tournament this year.

In many ways the stars of the week were Geoff Whittle and his team who produced a course in magnificent condition belying the fact that there had been fewer drops of rain over the course in the past few months than new jokes in Frank Carson's Blackpool summer show. Incidentally Frank and Eddie Large, Vaudeville (summer) members at St





**Pots of success:** from left, Mark Whittle, Robert Pearce, Mark Ellis, Chris Ball, John Berry, BIGGA Chairman Barry Heaney, Mark Cutler, Kevin Yeoman, Shaun Richards and Mike Sheehan

# KEEPERS

**"Sun Beams keep falling on my head": Barry Heaney finds a novel way of sheltering from the sun**



**The overladen prize table**

Annes Old Links, teed off early during the tournament to fit in their regular games.

Rumour had it the sponsor's products had something to do with the condition and it that were the case what could be more fitting?

So what is there to report from the '95 National Tournament other than the searing temperatures? Well we had a record entry of 84 – although unfortunately a few fell by the wayside and didn't complete the 54 holes. Despite the pace of play which revived memories of that famous old fable "The tortoise and the snail" and taxed both concentration and patience good golf were required if a prize was to be lifted.

Ah yes the prizes. If ever there was incentive to spend a little more time on the practice

ground this was it. Televisions, CD players, cameras, radio cassettes, luggage, binoculars were just a few of the rewards on offer if that little white ball more or less did as it was told during the three days.

But back to the golf. The first man out on the first day led the way for much of the opening round. Kevin Yeoman, off a handicap of 25, produced a fine nett 67 to concentrate the minds of those behind. Kevin, Dartmouth G&CC, looked like holding on until Mark Cutler, Edgbaston GC, came in with a nett 66 of his handicap of 15. The scratch prize went to Shaun Richards of Taunton and Pickeridge GC who shot an excellent 73.

Shaun, who currently plays off 0.7, might have been challenged by Barry Holt who was





# MAD DOGS AND GREENKEEPERS

going well until the 12th when he inadvertently dunted his putter and the head fell off. Putting with a 3-iron taxes even Ben Crenshaw and Barry dropped several shots on the home run. It was Barry's second piece of misfortune in successive National Tournaments. Last year at Dartmouth, if you remember, he was leading going into the final round but ended up knocking the first three shots of the day out-of-bounds.

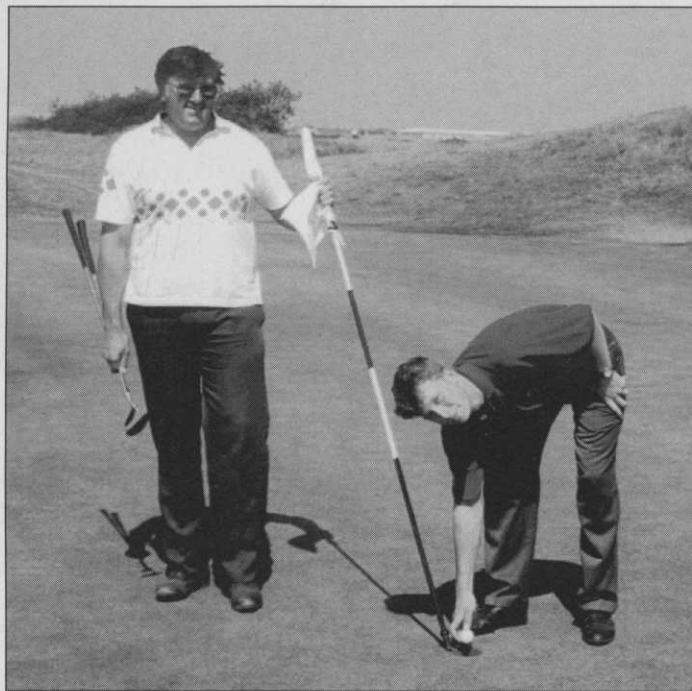
The Monday evening entertainment was provided by The Chorley Mashers a three piece Lancashire folk group who could turn their hand to anything from the traditional tunes of the area to spoof Buddy Holly songs. The music and the witty repartee with the audience was the ideal accompaniment to the heat wave's stand-in for the Lancashire hot pot.

By Tuesday, despite a little more breeze, St Annes Old Links was resembling a scene from the London Marathon with drinks stations placed strategically around the course and desperate competitors making slight detours from their preferred route to quench an aching thirst.

The men who were coping best were Mike Sheehan, of Mere G&CC, who was combining his on-course heroics with a dual role as Bert Cross' right hand man and tournament administrator, Kevin Yeoman, Shaun Richards and Dean Eldridge of Ellesborough GC who had the advantage of his lovely girlfriend caddying for him. All had either clinched trophies already or put themselves in position to win one of the 54 hole awards.

Tuesday also saw the holding of the Vitax Putting Cup over St Annes Old Links excellent putting green – a bowling green in a previous guise. The man who proved to have the magic putting wand this year was Mark Whittle of Mentmore GC who flew round in a mere 33 strokes – in putting terms three under-par.

The Gala dinner on Tuesday night was a huge success with an attendance of almost 150 which was a record for any dinner held in the club. The catering staff did a marvellous job coping with the numbers and serving up such an excellent meal. The main speakers at the dinner were BIGGA Chairman, Barry Heaney; Club Captain, Leon Gaskill and Dewi



Above: James Seisun retrieves the ball after his hole-in-one on the 9th  
Below: Dewi Morris displays a National Tournament shirt



Morris, England scrum half in the recent Rugby World Cup. Dewi, a late replacement for Bill Beaumont who was called away on business, was in fine form recounting tales from the World Cup and spilling the beans about the nicknames of some of his team mates – his recent retirement from international rugby obviously allowing him to speak more freely! We can only hope that he doesn't bump into Brian Moore or "Captain Darling" alias "Bum Chin" alias Will Carling in the next few weeks.

With all to play for on the

Wednesday the golf reached spectacular heights. None greater than 18 year-old James Seisun's tee shot on St Annes Old Links signature 9th hole – see cover of July's magazine.

James, of Farnham Park GC in Bury-St-Edmunds, who has only been playing the game three years, hit the perfect tee shot, it bounced twice before finding the bottom of the cup before an appreciative audience including Miracle Amenity Care's Roger Mossop whose enthusiastic leaping up and down and cheering alerted those in the clubhouse to

the feat. It was James' first hole-in-one and, needless to say, clinched the nearest the pin competition for the day!

At the head of the field the battle was fierce with Mike Sheehan and 22 year-old Mark Cutler eventually winning the Miracle Amenity Care Trophies in the 1-14 and 15-28 categories respectively and Shaun Richards clinching the best gross Hardi Amenity Sprayers Trophy with an excellent three round total of 222. Mid Anglia won the Jubilee Cup thanks to the combined efforts of Robert Pearce, Mark Ellis and Mark Whittle.

## RESULTS

### 54 Hole

Nett (1-14) 1. M. Sheehan 211; 2. C.J. Ball 212; 3. D. Eldridge 215.

Nett (15-28) 1. M. Cutler 210 (Miracle Amenity Care Trophy); 2. K. Yeoman 210; 3. R. Pearce 214.

**Winner of the Hardi Amenity Sprayers Trophy for Best Gross** – S. Richards 222.

**Section Team and winner of Jubilee Cup** – Mid-Anglia R. Pearce, M. Ellis and M. Whittle 661.

### 36 Hole

Nett (1-14) 1. M. Sheehan 139 (David Royale Cup); 2. D. Eldridge 140.

Nett (15-28) 1. K. Yeoman 136 (Pattison Cup); 2. M. Cutler 142.

Nett (55+) 1. W. Shipley.

Monday

Nett. 1. M. Cutler 66 (Fisons Bowl); 2. K. Yeoman 67; 3. J.H. Borja 68.

Gross S. Richards 73

**Longest Drive** A. Clarke.

**Nearest Pin** S. Sullivan

### TUESDAY

Nett C. Ball 67 (Standard Golf Trophy); 2. N. Rawlings 69; 3. M. Sheehan 69.

Gross. D. Eldridge 74.

**18 Hole Putting** M. Whittle (Vitax Putting Cup)

**Longest Drive** M. Ewan.

**Nearest Pin** P. Fitzjohn.

### WEDNESDAY

Nett. 1. J. Berry 68 (W. Hargreaves Trophy); 2. M. Cutler 68; 3. I. Rose 70.

Gross. S. Richards 75

**Longest Drive** A. Peel

**Nearest Pin** J. Seisun 9th (Hole-in-One); B. Holt (16th)