

Reports and photographs by SCOTT MacCALLUM



The Americas: Winning team in the first Hayter International Cup

Greenkeeping unites under Hayter banner

The Hayter International Cup brought greenkeepers together from all four corners of the globe and friendships were forged both on and off the golf course.

The first time you play sport at representative level is a daunting experience. Whether it be for your class, your school, a club or, for the chosen few, your county or country or even, in the case of the Ryder Cup, your Tour or continent, the weight of responsibility is enormous and the desire not to let anyone down huge.

Well spare a thought for those 24 players in the Hayter International Cup at West Lancashire Golf Club. They weren't just playing for themselves. They didn't even have the hopes of their club, county or country riding on them.



Before the off!

They were the representatives of, on one side, the entire continent of the Americas and, for the other team, the Rest of the World!

If carrying the banner on behalf of billions played on the minds it certainly didn't weigh them down. Quite the reverse in fact. It inspired them to reach some giddy heights in both the morning

fourball matches and the afternoon singles.

The match could have swung either way and in fact was decided by two matches in the final three out on the course which both went down the final hole. Had the Rest of the World extracted two wins instead of a defeat and a half the match would have been forced into a play-off with a player selected by each Captain sent out to play four extra holes and then sudden death if required.

The 10-8 result to the Americas ensured that a new and exciting competition had been born and fuelled the resolve of both teams. One, to retain the Cup when it is played on their home soil in two years time and the other to go over to the States and bring it back... although with players from Australia, Sweden, Ger-

many, Spain and the home countries "back" is perhaps a misnomer. The Cup will, in fact, reside at Aldwark Manor if and when the result is reversed.

First of all though it has steeled both those players who competed this year and BIGGA members to make the Hayter Challenge a priority next year. Finishing top player of your resident country with a handicap of 12 and under will guarantee a place on the Rest of the World team.

But golf was not the only reason for the event. As a forum for interchanging ideas and greenkeeping practices and generally learning about other countries it was unmatched and the 24 players, two Captains, Association officials wives, partners and caddies all now have firm friendships in place which will last lifetimes.

As Americas Captain Bruce

Williams, and President of the GCSAA said at the closing banquet.

"The 24 players who qualified, or were chosen, to compete for their team could not have been bettered as ambassadors for their profession, or their respective countries and Associations."

Dean Cleaver Rest of the World Captain and Chairman of BIGGA was fulsome in his praise of Hayter for the commitment shown by the company and, in particular, Kim Macfie, the Sales and Marketing Director whose concept the match was.

HAYTER INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

FOURBALLS

Americas Names First.

- Jim Dusch (US) and Randy Nichols (US) halved with Derek McJannet (Eng) and Andreas Kauler (Ger).
- Sam Williamson (US) and Thom Charters (Can) halved with Michael Dohlon (Swe) and Peter Schumacher (Aus).
- Ricardo De Udaeta (Arg) and Paul McGinnis (US) lost to Fredrik Goa (Swe) and Cosme Bergareche (Sp) 2&1.
- Doug Meyer (Can) and Gary Grigg (US) halved with Sandy Reid (Sco) and Ignacio Soto Alacron (Sp)
- Dean Morrison (Can) and George Renault (US) beat Brian Mulholland (NI) and Matthias Ehser (Ger) 6&5
- Bob Heron (Can) and Eduardo Torres (Arg) beat Ian Buckley (Wal) and Peter Frewin (Aus) 1up.
- Fourball Result: Americas 3.5 Rest of the World 2.5.

SINGLES

Americas Names First

- Jim Dusch beat Michael Dohlon 5&4.
- Randy Nichols beat Peter Schumacher 5&4.
- Sam Williamson lost to Derek McJannet 2&1.
- Thom Charters beat Andreas Kauler 3&1.
- Ricardo De Udaeta beat Sandy Reid 2up.
- Paul McGinnis lost to Ignacio Soto Alacron 5&3.
- Doug Meyer beat Fredrik Goa 1up.
- Gary Grigg lost to Cosme Bergareche 4&3.
- Dean Morrison halved with Ian Buckley.
- George Renault lost to Peter Frewin 7&6.
- Bob Heron beat Brian Mulholland 1 up.
- Eduardo Torres lost to Matthias Ehser 3&2.
- Singles Result: Americas 6.5 Rest of the World 5.5.
- Overall Result: Americas 10 Rest of the World 8.



Clockwise, from top, a new job for Tony Bourke, as assistant scoreboard operator; Dean Cleaver presents Bob Heron with the International Medal Winner's prize; Dean Morrison, with his wife as caddie; Thom Charters defeats Andreas Kauler; Tony Bourke, Neil Thomas and Kim Macfie walk the course; a tense moment for Michael Dohlon



THE ALTERNATIVE PRIZE TABLE

- The Three Consecutive Shots of the Week Cup: Bob Heron nett albatross at the 11th in match with Brian Mulholland – two drivers and a single putt.
- The Putt of the Week Shield: Ian Buckley's 30 footer for birdie on the 17th to go one up in his match with Dean Morrison.
- The Comeback of the Week Spoon: A sub plot was a match between Steve Mona and Bruce Williams and Kim Macfie and Paul Bevan of Australia which resulted in the first going to America 8&7 and the return at Fairhaven going to the Scottish Aussie combination 6&5.
- The Achievement of the Week False Teeth: Bert Cross' pronunciation of the players' names on the 1st tee was undoubtedly one of the

- great moments in sport and well worth the hours of practice the night before.
- The Outside Interference of the Week Ashtray: Trevor Leger reporting for Golf Course News also got into the action when he came across a ball during a search. He told the stricken player of the discovery only to be told it was the wrong one. Trevor picked it up just as the player said, "Ah. I changed ball at the last hole. It is mine." Oops.
- The Injured Warrior of the Week Band aid: Gary Grigg who battle through the afternoon round while his feet were attacked by a plague of blisters.
- The Mr and Mrs Gold Rings: Ignacio Soto Alacron who left Fairhaven to get married in Spain

- on Saturday and return to Scotland on honeymoon.
- The "Why did I come here again?" Loving Cup: David Goldie who travelled all the way from Australia to caddie for Peter Frewin, got a better offer from a young lady he met of the flight over and missed the match!
- The Wally of the Week Quach: The unnamed person who left all his shirts and underwear in a drawer in the Royal Hotel, Waterloo, and only realised after he had checked into the hotel in Lytham. Forced into some emergency shopping.
- The Wally of the Week Rose Bowl: The unnamed person who left her coat in the Blundellsands Hotel and only realised after



The vanquished: Beaten but not unbowed



Doug Meyer escapes from a bunker

Northern lights shine brightly at Fairhaven

Fairhaven Golf Club is a tough golf course. It is long, peppered with bunkers and difficult enough to ensure that even in perfect conditions the lowest score in the Open Qualifying in July was a 64.

Not bad when it is being attacked by some of the best players in the world. The Course Record 64 came in fact from American Justin Leonard who has won on the US Tour this year.

So when the winds got up on the morning of the Hayter National Final and the tees were back as far as they could go we knew scoring was going to be at a premium.

A total of 63 players plus 23 in the Hayter International Medal played the course with handicaps ranging from +1 upwards and the best gross score didn't break 80.

In fact Graeme MacDonald's 81 was the best score of the day and although, no doubt one of the highest scores he has made in this excellent summer he has been having he should be extremely proud.

Another group who should hold their heads high are those nine who represented the Northern Region who won the team prize by a mammoth 12 shots.

A combination of strong leadership from Captain Bob Lupton, consistent play and a will power which dragged them out of Blackpool's night spots before the over indulging had a chance to affect their game ensured that they would be too good for the other six regions on the day.

One man who certainly didn't rave the night away before the match and who reaped the benefits was Toddy Huddleston of the South East Section. Toddy, who plays of 24, shot an extremely respectable nett 81, which although beaten by quite a few others during the day, had a special claim to fame. Toddy is 82 and by some considerable margin he was the only man to beat his age on the day. In fact, if 22 handicapper Brendon Harman of Eire lived to 108 he would only just have equalled his age on his nett score.

arriving in Lytham.

■ The Wally of the Week Coat Hanger: Peter Schumacher who left his best suit in the Fernlea Hotel and had to have it sent back to Australia.

■ The New Job of the Week Statuette of a Swinging Golfer: Tony Bourke, Managing Director of Hayters, promoted to Assistant Scoreboard Operator.

■ The Dual Nationality Passport: Derek McJannet and Ian Buckley who qualified as an Englishman and a Welshman respectively but who are very definitely Scottish and English.

■ The Mark Thatcher Book of the Road: Brian Mulholland and Terry Crawford who were aiming for Lytham but hit Manchester instead.

■ The Heroes of the Week Gold Medals: John Muir and Peter Simpson who produced wonderful courses for the matches to take place.

■ The Unsung Heroes of the Week Shield: The North West Section members who gave up their weekends to ensure everyone arrived at their appointed hotels on time.

■ The Bloody Typical Brickbat: British Rail for transporting some of the team members an hour up the track from London and then going all the way back again because of a fire.

■ The Bloody Typical Bowl of Raspberries: British Airways for leaving someone's luggage at Heathrow and not putting it on the shuttle to Manchester.



Stephen Heap is presented with the overall prize by Bruce Williams

Gala dinner had flavour of Wales

The severity of course and weather can also be witnessed by the fact that the best nett score of the day was a 74 – a score with which very few of the finalists would even have qualified for the final.

Stephen Heap, of the Midland Region's Rothey Park GC, was the overall winner off his handicap of 24 which gave him a one stroke win over Brough GC's Paul Neve of the winning Northern Region team.

The gala dinner in the evening had a Welsh flavour to it with the six course meal including leek soup, Welsh rack of lamb and Welsh Cheese followed by the Cor Meibion Ardurwy Male Voice Choir from near Harlech in Wales – a choir which included the Head Greenkeeper at Royal St David's Golf Club.

HAYTER CHALLENGE RESULTS

(All scores Nett unless stated)

- Regional Team Prize: 1. Northern Region 642 2. Midland Region 654.
- Overall Individual Winner: Stephen Heap, Midland, 74.
- Category 1. Handicap 0-9. 1. Paul Fitzgerald, Eire, 77; 2. Graeme MacDonald, Midland, 78 (BIH); Alex Russell, Northern, 78.
- Category 2. Handicap 10-18. 1. Philip Wentworth, South West and South Wales, 76; 2. Robert Washbrook, South East, 77; 3. Martin O'Shea, Eire, 80.
- Category 3. Handicap 19-28. 1. Stephen Heap, Midland, 74; 2. Paul Neve, Northern, 75; 3. John Cuffey, Northern Ireland, 76.
- Best Gross: Graeme MacDonald, Midland, 81 (Gross).
- Over 55s: Tom Mulqueen, Eire, 80.
- Under 21: David Gibbons, Midland, 80 (BIH)
- Putting Competition. Brian Hillen, Scotland, 29.
- Longest Drive: Bob Walker, South West and South Wales
- Nearest the Pin: James Logan, Northern Ireland.
- Special Prize: Toddy Huddleston, South East, whose nett score of 81 beat his age by a shot.
- International Medal. 1. Bob Heron, Canada, 76; 2. Sandy Reid, Scotland, 78; 3. Doug Meyer, Canada, 79. (BIH).



The winning Northern team. Bob Lupton receives the prize from Hayters MD, Tony Bourke



Participating teams, from top: Eire, Northern Ireland, South East, Midland, Scotland and South West & South Wales

