

Finalists prepare for the big finish

With the completion of the three remaining Regional Finals the final field for the 1997 Hayter Challenge has been assembled.

HAYTER CHALLENGE

for the National Final at Ganton Golf Club on September 17 and 18 were:

Cat 1. 1. Mike Hughes, Edgbaston - net 35.5. 2. Tony Cheese, Dartmouth - net 36. 3. Andrew Duncan, Kettering - net 36.

Cat 2. 1. Julian Chesson, Three Hammers - net 36.5. 2. Antony Bindley, Kirby Muxloe - net 37.5. 3rd Ian Needham, Beedles Lake - net 38. (Unfortunately Ian Needham is unable to play in the Final so Dean Jones of Gerrards Cross, who was 4th with a net 38, will take his place). Cat 3. 1. Jason Hatton, Brocket Hall - net 31. 2. Mark Bindley, Kirby Muxloe - net 35.5. 3. Martin Jones, Bridgnorth - net 36.5. Peter Larter

South East Regional Final

The weather certainly gave the region fair warning, on the evening before the Finals, the

The Midland Regional Final of the 1997 Hayter Challenge Competition was held at The Warwickshire Golf Club in atrocious weather on June 26. The staff at the Warwickshire did a tremendous job in keeping the course open, and the Region is grateful for the opportunity to play and for the excellent service provided by all departments. However, despite all of their efforts the weather did intervene and the round had to be reduced to nine holes. The conditions didn't stop many good scores being posted, and a number of close countbacks resulted.

The winning section prize was taken by the Midland Section with an aggregate score of 382, with the Mid Anglia Section being close runners-up on 386. The individual winners and qualifiers



Hayter's Kim Macfie, left, congratulates Mike Hughes on his performance with Regional Chairman Antony Bindley looking on

town of Bognor Regis (about 7 miles away from Ham Manor Golf Club), was closed due to flooding. It was starting to look as the Region's good fortune in obtaining such a course as Ham Manor for the finals, together with its magnificent clubhouse was going to be wasted. The efforts of George Barr and this staff working in atrocious weather conditions to produce the course in such pristine condition looked to be of no avail. However the morning of the 27th started dry and it looked as if luck (and some hard work very early in the morning with the squeegee) was with us! As Ham Manor is situated in the extreme south-western corner of the Region it must have been a relief for those finalist who had travelled such a distance that they were actually going to play.

The Competition started at 10am in the dry and it wasn't until the Chairman of the Association Pat Murphy together with Kim Macfie of Hayter's arrived that it started to rain. Perhaps it was down to them as exactly the same thing happened when they attended the Midland Regional Final the day before! The rain however got steadily heavier and with some difficulty all players, including Pat and Kim, managed to complete nine holes before the play had to be called off the for day.

Lunch was taken earlier than planned after which Kim presented the winner, second and third of each Handicap Category with superb hip-flasks, as if going to Ganton for the National Finals was not reward enough!

Winners were:- 0-9 1. A. Sheehan (Essex) 2. N. Gilham (Kent) 3. D. Murdoch (Surrey); 10-18 1. I. Sutcliffe (Surrey) 2. R. Malt (Kent) 3. J. Selwood (Essex); 19-28 1. M. Mison (East Anglia) 2. T. Hindmarch (Kent) 3. B. Jackson (Kent).

It should be mentioned that Martin Mison, playing off 28, single putted six of the nine, flooded, greens played to finish with a net 29, a score that even had those recording and checking the results confused! If there had

been an award for "Gentleman of the Day" it would have gone to Barry Speller, Adebridge. He and I know why. Derek Farrington

Northern Regional Final

Held at Matfen Hall GC in the North East it was a long way to travel for many of the Northern Region members, particularly those from North Wales, but was well worth the effort for all who had qualified.

Thanks to Jimmy Richardson and his staff for presenting the course so well and also the clubhouse staff for making us so welcome. Thanks also to Hayter for generously sponsoring this event.

The following qualified for the final at Ganton in September where they will defend the trophy won last year at Formby.

Cat 1. Paul Pearce, David Norton and Russell Lewis; Cat 2. Michael Coultas, John Waite and David Spurden and Cat 3. Paul Neve, Richard Smith and Emyr Rowlands.

Well done - see you at Ganton! Sara Lupton

■ The teams already confirmed were Scotland and the South West and South Wales:

Scotland Cat 1. 1. D. Leith, St Andrews, 73-1=72; 2. S. Taylor, Killermont, 74-1=73; 3. D. Wilson, Irvine Bogside, 81-8=73; 4. C. McKay, Elmwood, 79-6=73. Cat 2. 1. A. Wilson, Kirkhill, 86-14=72; 2. J. Johnston, Turnberry, 86-13=73; 3. A. Torrance, King James, 86-11=75; 4. C. Cumming, Fortrose, 87-12=75. Cat 3. G. Shearer, Balmore, 91-22=69; 2. S. Carmichael, Fines GC, 92-22=70; 3. D. Nelson, Brunston Castle, 91-21=70; 4. A. Robertson, Grangemouth, 91-20=71.

South West and South Wales Cat 1 - 1. R. Daly (D & C) 65; 2. L. Millar (S. Coast) 69; 3. D. Bray (D & C) 74. Cat 2 - 1. A. Knight (S. West) 71; 2. P. Wentworth (S. Coast) 73; 3. M. Porrish (D & C) 73; Res. A. Cosh (S. Wales) 73. Cat 3 - 1. A. James (D & C) 68; 2. J. Cooper (S. West) 76; 3. A. Rideout (S. Coast) 77; Res. J. Braithwaite (S. West) 77.

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