



Ganton photograph by BRIAN MORGAN

End of an Era

The last playing of the Hayter National Final at Ganton was an occasion to reflect on five outstanding years during which time laughs were had and friendships formed at an equal rate of knots.

Like any good thing which comes to an end there is always a tinge of sadness and, although the excellent relationship of Hayter and BIGGA will continue in other areas, the feeling that an enjoyable era had come to a close was just below the surface in Scarborough.

That sadness was magnified many times over by the subsequent news that David Spurden, Head Greenkeeper at Ganton, and member of the Northern Region team during the week, had been killed in a dreadful accident while out on the course less than a week later.

It is perhaps appropriate that the last Hayter Challenge Final should be the final big event, of many huge events, for which such a staunch BIGGA member had

HAYTER CHALLENGE *the final final*

prepared Ganton. It was an event when David was with his colleagues and he could share in the banter and bon homme for which Hayter events, whether they be at Section, Region, National or International level, have become famous.

There can be no better tribute to David than the stream of compliments he received from the other 62 greenkeepers for the breathtaking quality of the golf course during the week of the Hayter Challenge.

The competition, our friends from Hayter, Ganton itself, but perhaps most of all, David Spurden, will live long in the memories of those who were at Ganton for the last playing of the Hayter Challenge Final.



David Spurden: Breathtaking quality of his golf course is a fitting tribute

HAYTER CHALLENGE

the final final

On her debut as team Captain South West and South Wales Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, inspired her team to a famous win. Here she takes us through the eventful week.

The coach was booked and the weather looked set fair. The players turned up on time at their chosen pick up points and we kept almost precisely to the timed schedule prepared. All was going too well! This was not to last.

The coach was a rickety old thing which at times, with a following wind and a down hill slope, almost reached 70 mph! It was so noisy that we could not listen to the radio and I could not hear a word that was being said in the body of the coach. (Just as well, probably!) As we approached Scarborough the bus started leaping about and all sorts of funny noises were coming from the engine. "Oh, b., I think I have run out of petrol," said the driver. With a lot of revving and a great deal more of praying we lurched forwards and a local told us that the nearest petrol station was only four miles down the road.

Four miles – it must have been eight, or it felt like it! The bus spluttered and tumbled on ever forwards "It will be ok. as long as we don't have to go uphill," our driver inspired us! At last the petrol station was spotted and just as we pulled onto the forecourt the petrol finally ran out.

Hardly believing our good luck we coasted to the nearest pump. Hooray! we had made it, – well, not quite – the petrol cap was on the wrong side of the bus and the filler would not reach. Out of the bus my trusty team and push! After some delicate manouvres the petrol cap was linked with the filler and we actually missed hitting anything on the way. How, I shall never know.

We left the petrol station to the delight and astonishment of

Humphries' Heroes



everyone on the forecourt who sent us off with laughter and applause which would have done justice to the last night of the proms! Having negotiated the one way system several times and from different directions, we finally found ourselves behind the Irish team who had the sense to stop and ask directions! We stuck to them like glue in what sounded like first or second gear (Genevieve had nothing on this old crate!) and eventually arrived at our hotel where we were met with a delightful staff, wonderful food and a view that was nothing less than magnificent.

Practice day dawned with a cloudless sky, warm sunshine and no wind whatsoever – just per-

fick! What a lovely course Ganton is – completely natural and beautifully cared for – a real joy to play.

Competition day dawned. After having tucked my team up the previous night with hot chocolate and bedtime stories at 10pm. (believe that and you will believe anything), they all turned up bright eyed and bushy tailed (with the exception of the one who crept in to the hotel at 6.45am thinking he had arrived unnoticed!) and played out of their boots

The South West & South Wales Region won the Region Shield for the first time ever – a wonderful achievement over such a tough course. We also took first prize in divs. 2 and 3 and 3rd place in div

I and also won the nearest pin on the 5th. I have not named individuals on purpose. These will appear in the official results. The achievement was, I believe, a team effort and the glory should reflect on all who took part. I was especially proud of the player who finished the first 18 holes in the growing cold, wet and dark at about 5.30 having had a very poor round and still completed the last nine of the 27 holes for the sake of the team result.

A great dinner followed and whoever follows Hayter as sponsor has a tough act to follow. Much celebrating continued into the very early hours (so I hear!).

It was a very quiet journey home!



South East



Northern



Scotland



A gaggle of Regional Administrators? A Regiment of Regional Administrators? A file of Regional Administrators? Whatever! Kim Macfie and Neil Thomas flank Regional Administrators old and new

Alternative awards

The Sellafield Shield for Services to the Environment

The South West and South Wales Region who attempted to fuel their mini bus with fresh air.

The Golden P45 for Career Move of the Week

The Editor of a popular greenkeeping magazine who managed to pour the main sponsor's gin and tonic down the trousers of next year's National Chairman.

The BIGGA Medal for Outstanding Achievement

Dave Spurden and his team who ensured that few, if any, tournaments will be played on a better prepared course in 1997.

Rookie of the Week Rosette

Paula Humphries, who guided her team to a first victory on her debut in the event

The "You Bet" Consolation Bit of Plastic

The entire field, who narrowly failed in an attempt to play a full round of golf quicker than a decent athlete could run two marathons.

The BIGGA Standing Ovation

To Kim Macfie and everyone at Hayters who have been such wonderful sponsors for the past five years.



Individual winner Nick Webber collects his trophy from Tony Bourke and Pat Murphy



Kim Macfie presents Neil Thomas with a memento to mark the end of the Hayter Challenges



Neil Thomas and Pat Murphy present Kim Macfie with a token of BIGGA's appreciation for all of his work over the last five years

HAYTER CHALLENGE

the final final

RESULTS

HAYTER TROPHY

- 1. South West and South Wales 943.**
Richard Daly, Laughlan Millar, Chris Bland, Anthony Knight, Phil Wentworth, Martyn Parrish, Anthony James, Jason Cooper and Matthew Hawker. Non-playing Captain Paula Humphries
- 2. South East 963.5**
Andy Sheehan, Neil Gilham, David Murdoch, Ian Sutcliffe, Jonathan Selwood, Jonathan Hill, Martin Mison, Trevor Hindmarsh and Barry Jackson. Non-playing Captain Derek Farrington.
- 3. Midland 969.5**
- 4. Northern 990**
- 5. Scotland 994.5**
- 6. NIGGA 1033**
- 7. GCSAI 1048**

BEST NETT 27 HOLES

- Nick Webber (NIGGA) 102
Best Gross David Murdoch South East 118

Over 55s

- Andy Keenan NIGGA
- #### Under 21s
- Greg Hunt Midlands
Longest Drive - Nick Webber
Nearest the Pin - Chris Bland SW & SW

Category Winners

0-9

1. Nick Webber NIGGA 102
2. Andy Sheehan South East 111
3. Paul Fitzgerald GCSAI 111

10-18

1. Anthony Knight SW&SW 106
2. Julian Chesson Midlands 114.5
3. Greg Hunt Midlands 114.5

19-28

1. Anthony James SW&SW 111
2. David Nelson Scotland 114.5
3. Barry Jackson South East 119

Four Qualifiers for Hayter International Cup in Atlanta, Georgia, on October 10-16, 1998 are: Andy Sheehan, England; Russell Lewis, Wales; Derek Wilson, Scotland and Nick Webber, NIGGA



NIGGA



GCSAI



Midland