

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