



BIGGA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT 1997

in association with

MIRACLE PROFESSIONAL



The 18th green after a hour of rain which would have got Noah a little twitchy and searching through his tool box

The preview for the National Tournament in association with Miracle Professional carried the phrase "Up Periscope". It was based on the fact that much of Cooden Beach Golf Club is below sea level. On the afternoon of the what should have been the final round of the 54 hole tournament a periscope was exactly what Head Greenkeeper, Stefan Antolik, needed as he sped off on a three wheeler to consider the future playability of the back nine after the thunder plump to end all thunder plumps.

As it was, just as he disappeared down the 18th fairway the rain started again and even the option of a 45 hole event disappeared.

Indeed the only way any golf could have been played on the Wednesday afternoon was if the Man from Atlantis, Captain Nemo and Jacques Cousteau had all doned waterproofs and teed it up.

A total of 51 millimetres of rain fell between 11.45am and 3.30pm which added to the 15 millimetres which fell after the first round give added credence to the views of Stefan in June's preview that he wouldn't mind the then drought continuing.

The golf itself was of a remarkable standard. Before the first round the Club Secretary, Terry Hawes, expressed his reservations about the ability of any of the competitors to get near par.

After two holes Steve Sullivan

WINNING in the rain

may have been forgiven for agreeing with him. He included a fresh air shot in an attempt to dislodge the ball from an awkward spot behind the green on his way to an 8. Channelled his anger in the most positive way possible the 3 handicapper from Craigie Hill GC in Perth retorted by birdieing the next three holes.

Gordon Child, BIGGA's Vice Chairman, and a fine golfer in his own right (although not this particular week), was the man marking Steve's card. Gordon's view was that the round was made on the back nine, playing at its toughest, when Steve produced a string of fine pars. The gross 73

was the round of the week and drew admiration from the Secretary, particularly as it contained that unwelcomed snowman.

Mike Hughes was not far behind after a 75 but the defending Champion, John Berry, struggled in the first round and his name did not appear among the prize winners at the end of the week.

Before the rains came in the evening - there was a three hour thunder storm - drinks were enjoyed on the veranda of the Cooden Beach Hotel during the traditional Monday night barbecue. The evening was spiced up by the appearance of magician,

Mark Wild, who kept everyone amused and by the end of the evening was a veritable Pied Piper to the children.

A familiar figure walking the beach on the morning of the second day was Roger Willars, former Midland Regional Administrator. Roger has shot a fine opening round and was either seeking inspiration from the English Channel or harking back to his days in the Home Guard. Only kidding, Roger.

Steve Sullivan, unhappy with his driving, shot a 78 in the second round, again with an 8 on his card. The gross prize for the day went to Richard Barker, who later



Report
and pictures
by SCOTT
MacCALLUM



saw his blazer used as a prop by comedian Barry (Harvest) Moon in the excellent post Tournament Dinner cabaret. I'm sure a darned needle will repair the damage.

The final day wash out left Steve Sullivan high, if not dry, as champion over the curtailed 36 hole distance.

It was perhaps fitting that he took the honours as he had featured in Greenkeeper International last year by saying that his favourite holiday destination was "Wherever the venue is for the National Tournament".

It was the fifth successive year that Steve his wife and, appren-

tice photographer son, Kevin, had visited the National Tournament but by far his biggest haul of prizes. He became the proud winner of four trophies, a framed picture of Cooden Beach GC donated by Stefan Antolik, a watch and a television set.

In fact the presentation resembled an episode of The Sullivans complete with repeats.

One man who had more time on his hands than he perhaps wanted on the final day was David Luxford, of Sisis, who had travelled down to present the SISIS Trophy for the best nett score on the final day. Alas no takers!

Pictures, this page, clockwise from top: Quite a haul for winner Steve Sullivan • Johnny Beck, of Miracle Professional, about to break into 'Singin' in the Rain' • Stefan Antolik arrives at the halfway house during the second round • The lavish prize table from which the National Tournament in association with Miracle Professional has become known • Richard Minton presents Stefan Antolik with a tankard in recognition of the excellent work he and his team did to prepare the course



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→ The presentation also had one final drama. Richard Minton, of Miracle Professional, was deputising for Roger Mossop who was unable to attend due to business pressures. It was Richard's big moment – his one chance to get himself onto the cover of the magazine. Having geared up and beautified himself in preparation the camera decided to pack up just as his big moment arrived. Fortunately a new battery solved the problem and Richard had his moment. I hope you think it was worth it!



Peter Richmond is presented with the Vitax Putting Trophy by Alan Stowe



Stefan Antolik presented Steve with a framed print of the scene of his triumph



David Luxford, of Sisis, with the forgotten trophy



Barry Moon – no dark side to him!



Mark Wild keeps the Chairman's grandson and son, Lee and Ian, transfixed

RESULTS

Tournament restricted to 36 holes due to rain on the final day.

Overall

- Miracle Trophy** (Best Nett) - Steve Sullivan
Hardi Trophy (Best Gross) - Steve Sullivan

36 Hole

- David Royale Trophy** (Best Nett - 1-14) - Steve Sullivan - 145
Patisson Trophy (Best Nett - 15-28) - Paul Neve - 153

- Toro Trophy** (Best Gross) - Steve Sullivan - 151; 2. Mike Hughes - 152
2. (Nett - 1-14) Peter Holtham - 148
2. (Nett - 15-28) Roger Willars - 145
Best Nett (55 and over) - Peter Biscoe 152

- Jubilee Cup** (Section Team) - Midland

Daily Prizes

- Day 1**
Fisons Trophy (Best Nett) Steve Sullivan - 73 - (3) - 70
Best Gross - Mike Hughes - 75
2. Nett - Roger Glazier - 83 - 9 - 74
3. Nett - David Roy - 88-13-75

- Nearest the Pin**
Maurice Hume

- Day 2**
Standard Golf Trophy (Best Nett) Alan Roberts - 81 - 11 - 70
Best Gross - Richard Barker - 77
2. Nett - Peter Hotham - 81-10 - 71
3. Nett - Steve Wood - 85 - 12 - 73

- Longest Drive**
1st. Thorbjorn Raun.
18th Richard Pride.

- Nearest the Pin**
Thorbjorn Raun.

- Vitax Putting Competition**
1. Peter Richmond 32;
2. Neil Woolfry 34; 3. Robert Pearce 34.