

BT Mobile sponsored BIGGA's second golf day, and walked off with some of the top prizes as well...

UPWARDLY MOBILE



The second annual BIGGA Golf Day more than lived up to the standard set by its predecessor as 34 teams put club to ball on one of the few decent days served up by the month of June.

With the ability to enjoy oneself just as important as a talent for holding difficult putts and driving long distances the old adage about it being more important to take part than to win found its true home.

There were more non winners than winners at Aldwark Manor Golf and Country Club on the evening of June 22 but even those who had left their best shots on the practice range had contented smiles of their faces as they watched the wonderful prizes being presented.

The Texas Scramble format with three drives from each player and a maximum handicap allowance of six ensured a tight competition, tight that is apart from the winning team who came from the sponsors. BT2 took no prisoners with a magnifi-

cent score of 56.8, over three shots clear of another British Telecom team, representing BT Internet, showing that for sure if "Driving is for Show Putting is for Dough".

The day was graced by several well known faces with the star guest being Ian Mercer, alias Gary Mallet from Coronation Street. Ian played in the day as part of the Granada Studio's team which would have also featured Phil Middlemiss, Des Barnes to you and I. Unfortunately Phil's show biz lifestyle got in the way of his trip to Aldwark Manor and he had to cry off a week before the day.

Ian thoroughly enjoyed his day and mingled with all the guests even finding time for a few holes the day before and the day after the event thanks to a window in his filming commitments on "The Street".

From the sporting world football, cricket and rugby union were represented with ex-Scottish Internationalist Bobby Moncur, now employed by Aldwark Manor, ex-Yorkshire County Player, Ashley Metcalfe, and our own Midland Regional Administrator, Peter Larter who is, of course, an ex-British Lion.

The day will have bitter sweet memories for two of the competitors who shall remain nameless. Those who know the first hole at Aldwark Manor will recall that it is a par 3 of around 160 yards with a tight entrance guarded by out of bounds and a tree to the left and some trees and the driveway on the right. One player saw his errant tee shot slice off to the right bounce off the bonnet of a car and finish six feet from the flag. The legacy was a fine start for one team and a dirty big dent in the car of another of the players, a man indeed, whose journey to the day the year before had been interrupted by a broken windscreen.

"BT Mobile is delighted to have been the sole sponsor of the 1998 BIGGA Golf Tournament. Judging

by the positive feedback received, not only from our guests but from the other companies that attended this was clearly a successful and enjoyable day," said Gill Shaw, Events Manager, BT Mobile.

"I was particularly impressed by BIGGA on the day, who catered for all the participants' needs, no matter what the requirement, nothing was too much trouble.

I was extremely pleased with the high levels of participation. Everyone appeared to be enjoying themselves and I am now really looking forward to receiving the complimentary video.

"As the UK's leading provider of mobile communication products and services we are committed to sponsoring events such as BIGGA, that deliver our overall business objectives and further develop the strong relationships upon which our business is founded," added Gill.

1st. BT2.

Paul Titman, Eric Black, Stuart Johnson and Phil Purssey.

2nd. BT Internet 2.

P. Monaghan, D. Hinchcliffe, J. Braidy and D. Dwight.

3rd. Turf Mech.

Andy Davey, David Serles, Alister Rowell and Craig Hardy.

Nearest the Pin. Frank Flaherty.
Longest Drive. David Norton.

The day also featured the drawing of the Buy a Brick Raffle which raised a substantial sum of money for the new headquarters which is making great progress a 100 yards from the existing office.

Remarkably the top prize, a set of golf clubs and bag was won by BIGGA Past Captain Barry Heaney, whose name was drawn out by current BIGGA Chairman Gordon Child.

A full list of prize winners appears on page 10.

A passing cameraman is visibly shocked at the amount on the plate of Aldwark Manor's Head Greenkeeper, Richard Gamble





Above: Past Chairman, Barry Heaney receive top prize in the Buy a Brick Raffle from Gordon Child.

Above Right: BT Mobile 2, Paul Titman, Eric Black, Stuart Johnson and Phil Purssey showed the rest of the field a clean pair of heels to take top honours.

Right: Richard Minton, Kim Macfie, Bob Moncur, James McEvoy and David Butler contemplate the day ahead.





Above: BT Internet 2 (Runners-up) pictured receiving their prizes from Ian Mercer.
Below: Third placed Turf Mech receive their prize from Ian.



Below: Ian Mercer displays a touch of style, and a lovely pair of knees, on the 1st tee



Winner of the putting competition Iain MacLeod (above) and the nearest the pin Frank Flaherty receive their hip flasks from Ian.





Right: Golf Day sponsors, BT Mobile display their wares.

Below: BIGGA Executive Director, Neil Thomas, mistook this wedge for a cricket bat.

Below right: The Rovers with a beer garden? I think not! Ian Mercer and pals relax after a hectic day.

