



Top and bottom left: Despite the horrendous rain prior to the Championship Andy Campbell and his team had both courses looking magnificent

Above: Tony James receives the wonderful National Championship trophy from Richard Minton, National Sales Manager of Scotts, and David Jenkins, Managing Director of Charterhouse/Redexim

Bottom right: Players and caddies ready themselves before tackling the Cheshire Course









The Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship supported by Softspikes, was a truly outstanding event. Carden Park showed its true quality in every way and both on and off the course it was an occasion which will be remembered by all who attended.

Pictures by Alan Birch

CHAMPIONSHIP



Sitting six shots off the lead going into the final round, Tony James' thoughts may well have gone back to July and Carnoustie where Paul Lawrie recovered from ten shots back to win.

If this were indeed the case such memories obviously inspired the 30year-old to some outstanding deeds over Carden Park's Nicklaus Course. Where he had putted poorly over the first round, with seven three putts and a four putt, he was inspired on the greens and shot a nett 64 to snatch the title of BIGGA's Champion Golfer by a single stroke.
"I got up early on the second day,

bought a course planner and spent an hour on the range. I thought I had an outside chance," explained the Tehidy Park Assistant.

"It is by far the biggest event I've ever won and I feel just brilliant.

"It was a beautiful place to stay and to play and it was a great honour to be a part of the event ... an even greater honour to win.

Since returning to work he has spent time fielding the congratulations of his club members while the replica trophy has pride of place among his BIGGA memorabilia in his home.

While Tony was a deserving winner credit must also go to David Cuthbertson, who led after the first round then chipped in twice at the beginning of the second round only

to be overtaken by Tony's late charge.
The quality of the golf and the golfers was extremely high with 13 entrants at two handicap or better and a further 26 between three and five handicap.

The gross prize went to one of the scratch men Tony McLure, whose two round total of 147 was a superb achievement with the courses playing

While the honours on the course

were handed out there is no doubting the real heroes of the event - Course Manager Andy Campbell and his team.

With five and a half inches of rain falling four a half days before the event and both courses closed the day before everyone arrived and the Nicklaus course under three feet of water in places Andy did a more than passable impression of King Canute to have them playable at all.

The fact that both courses were played, as per the programme, is a tribute to the endless hours of work carried out, often well into the night.

We look forward to returning next year...hopefully after a long dry spell!

Winner of the BIGGA Championship 1. Anthony James, Tehidy Park, 139 Nett; 2. David Cuthbertson, Slaley Hall GC, 140;

3. Anthony Knight, Kingsdown GC, 142.

36 Hole Aggregate, Gross

1. Tony McLure, Whickham GC, 147; 2. Lee Corfield, Golf de Rimaison, France, 149 (better second round); 3. Greg Evans, Ealing GC, 149.

1st Round Winners 0-9. D. Davies, 72; 10-17. T. Bremer, 75; 18-28. C. Pennycuick, 72.

2nd Round Winners

0-9. S. Harvey, 67; 10-17. A. Howarth, 70; 18-28. P. Neve, 73.

Regional Team Cup
1. Northern - 1176, T. McLure, T. Weston, D. Collins, D. Davies, D. Hayes, D. Cuthbertson, P. Neve and P. Bowler.
2. South West & South Wales - 1181, J. Hamlet, A. Knight, M. Grogan, A. Gawman, T. Smith, A. James, L. Corfield and N. Webber.

Putting Competition Brian Turner, Sunningdale GC, 33

Par 3 Competition. Allen Lewis, Llanymynech GC, 26













Above: Did you hear the one about the wonderful After Dinner Speaker? John Simonett involved a huge number of the guests in his act.

Below: It's not how, it's how may. The scoreboard conceals many a story behind its simple numbers.



Above: The Championship Banquet on the Monday evening was a most enjoyable occasion and (bottom) After Dinner Speaker John Simonett did manage to confuse Bert Cross with a knotty problem.

Right: Richard Minton; BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child, David Jenkins and Carden Park Course Manager and Master Greenkeeper, Andy Campbell pictured with the impressive array of silverware.







Above. Richard Minton with Tony McLure winner of the Gross prize, Tony James, with David Cuthbertson, runner-up in the individual but winner of the team event with the Northern Region; Bert Cross of the Northern Region and David Jenkins



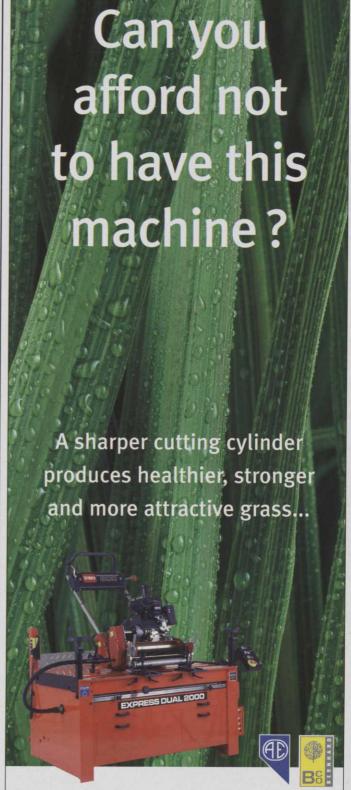
Above: Tony McLure played some fine golf to clinch the gross prize



Above: David Cuthbertson led after the first round and only Tony James' 64 denied him overall victory.



Above. Anthony Knight finished third on 142 after two solid rounds



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