



St ANDREWS
2000

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THE
CHAMPIONSHIP

HOLE	+ PAR -	PLAYER	SCORE
7 0	2 0 UNDER	WOODS	
7 2	1 1 UNDER	ELS	
7 1	1 1 UNDER	B	2 7 7
7 0	1 1 UNDER		
7 2	1 UNDER		2 7 8
	9 UNDER		
	9 UNDER		
	8 UNDER		

Tiger Woods safely aboard the 17th green and about to be anointed Champion

BIGGA's Greenkeeping Support team was on duty at this year's Open Championship at St Andrews. The 52-man team contributed towards the smooth running of a magnificent week and witnessed golfing history at the same time.



Tiger Tiger burning bright

On the eve of the Championship a unique event took place at St Andrews in the shape of the Champion's Challenge which involved 20 Open Champions from the past playing in a team match over the 1st, 2nd, 17th and 18th holes.

It was a wonderful occasion graced by many legends of the game, from 88 year-old Sam Snead, winner in 1946, through to Paul Lawrie, the defending Champion.

One man who didn't play in the event but who will now play every time it is repeated is Tiger Woods.

The man who is now widely regarded as the world's top sportsman never mind golfer, marched to his first Open in a style which suggested he will win many more.

The significance of this year's triumph was that he became the youngest ever winner of the Grand Slam the Masters, US Open, Open Championship and the US PGA and he currently holds all but the

Masters at the same time. Indeed he is only the fifth player to join that elite band.

From the moment he cruised through the back nine on the first day the result was never in doubt and his rounds of 67 66, 67 69 gave him a record 19 under-par total and a winning margin of eight shots, to go with his 15 shot margin at Pebble Beach the previous month.

Prior to the week he had set a goal of playing all four rounds in the 60s and not going into any of St Andrews' 112 formidable and potentially score wreaking bunkers. He succeeded in both counts.

In many people's eyes keeping out of the sand is the key at St Andrews and particularly this year when Eddie Adams and his team renovated them all to produce a set of beautifully re-vented bunkers which sent shivers down the spines of all the players.

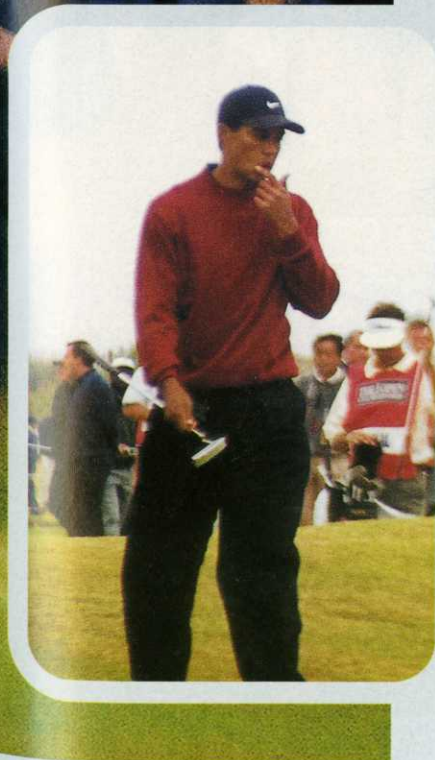
Such was the fear factor that the primary thought in the minds of players was to avoid the bunkers and that fact was borne out by the statistics produced by BIGGA's Greenkeeping Support Team. Only 448 bunkers were found during the course of the

week, by far the lowest number ever recorded and more than 1000 fewer than at Carnoustie last year which only has three more bunkers on the course.

Despite the lack of "victims" the bunkers influenced thinking to the extent that they defended the reputation of the course. It is remarkable statistic that although Carnoustie produced a winning score of 290 to St Andrews' 269, the best individual round of the week was only one different 67 at Carnoustie to 66 at St Andrews.

Eddie Adams and his team - he could call on 70 greenkeepers from the other St Andrews Links Trust courses - were universally praised for the condition of the course which was traditional links at its best. New R&A Secretary Peter Dawson was quoted as saying, "We wanted a hard fast running golf course. Eddie Adams has supplied that and all credit to him for it."

For his part Eddie, who was able to spend quite a bit of time talking to colleagues in the BIGGA marquee during the course of the week, joked that he had the fastest fairways in the world.



Support Team Info

Dudley Hart seemed to cope with the bunkers better than most. He was in two and holed his escape from the 4th and hit the pin with his attempt from the 15th. Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member, Kneale Diamond, of Hanbury Manor Golf Club.

Sergio Garcia is never one to miss a chance for a bit of showmanship. After chipping in for an eagle on the 14th he kissed the pin at the point where the ball had bounced off and down into the hole. Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member Mark Ellis, of Stocks Hotel Golf and Country Club.

The pace of play proved quite lucrative for Lee Trevino. With time on his hands he went ball searching in gorse on the 4th hole and was successful in coming out with one. Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member Ian Semple, Old Folds Manor Golf Club.

The two men at the centre of the Ryder Cup bookgate saga, Nick Faldo and Mark James were out at different times of day but thanks to St Andrews double greens found themselves on the same putting surface when Faldo was playing the 16th and James the 2nd. No glances were exchanged. Information supplied by the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member, Alan Halfyear, of Rother Valley Golf Centre, Sheffield.

Simon Dyson, "did a Hale Irwin" during his fine opening round 72 when he missed from an inch. The young Yorkshire player had a ten footer on the 4th for his third birdie in succession to take him to three under but the ball horseshoed out leaving him with a two inch tap in. However, he merely brushed the top of the ball leaving it short and he had turned a potential three into a bogey five. Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member, George Barr, of Ham Manor Golf Club.

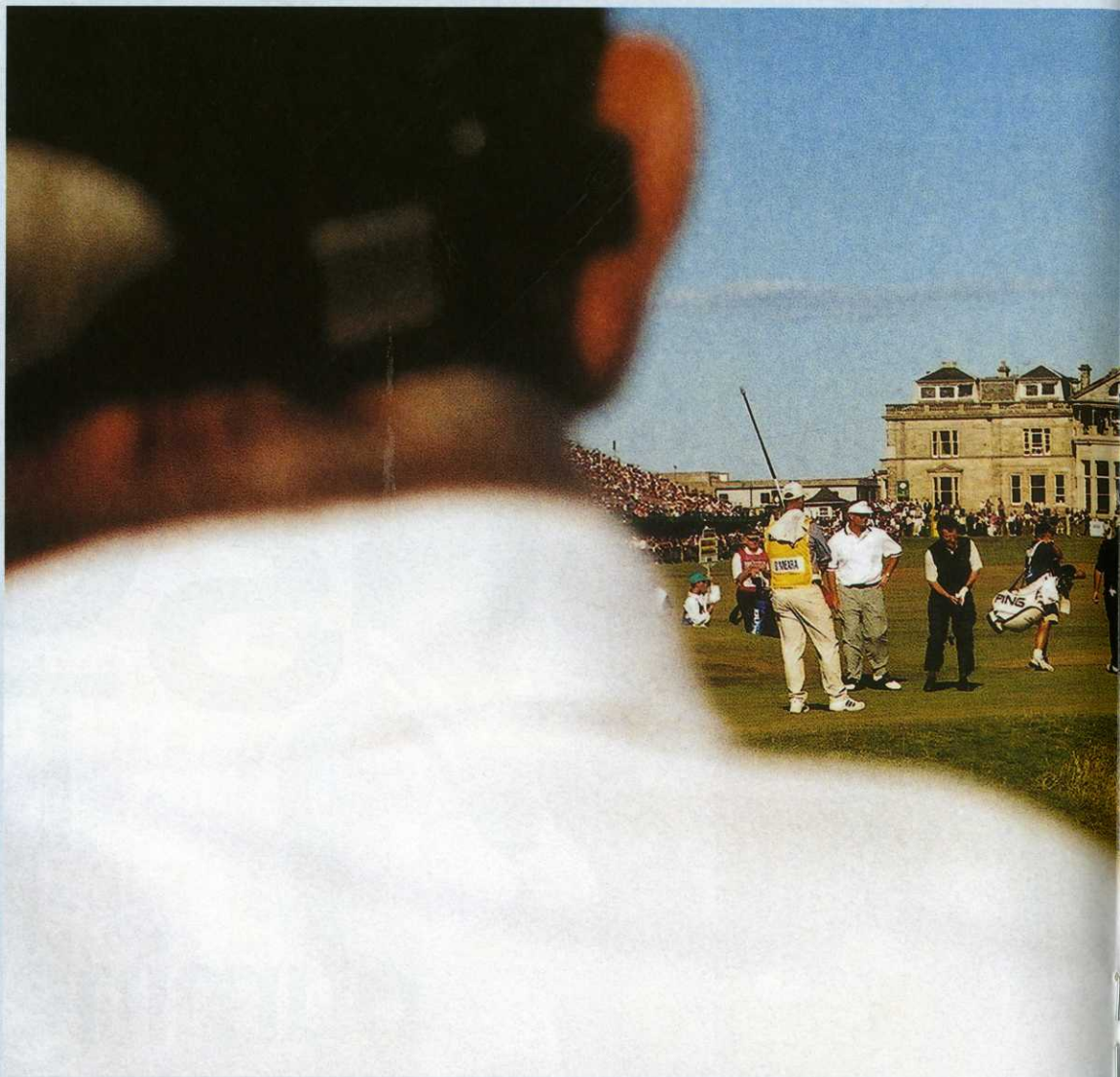
Gary Player's famous black and white trousers created some interest during the second round. During a delay in play Nick Price took a Unisys man, with a black and white shirt, over to Player and asked him to swap shirts so that Gary would be completely matching. Player originally wore the trousers 40 years ago and he revealed that his waist is now an inch narrower. Lee Trevino was a tad upset because his waist is now five inches wider! Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member Gavin Kyle, of Hendon GC.

Michael Jonzon's caddie didn't expect a stunning back nine on the second day to make the cut. He handed his caddie's badge over to a member of the gallery on the 9th when his player was six over. Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member, Robert Hogarth, of Cardrona Hotel Golf & Country Club.

Brian Davis found the easiest way to negotiate the huge 2nd green was to take a wedge. Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member, John Wells, of Brocket Hall.

The fine tradition of streaking at The Open, which reached a peak at St Andrews five years ago on the 18th green, was revived during the second round when a female exponent of the art ran across the 16th green. Sandy Lyle was teeing off at the 17th at the time and hit the best drive of his threeball. Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member, Alan Halfyear, of Rother Valley Golf Centre

Tony Johnstone took the "along the ground rather than through the air" nature of the links land conditions to an extreme when he played the 18th hole on Friday. He took putter from 100 yards out. Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member, Ian Barr, of Largs GC.



Above: The Champion's Challenge attracted huge galleries on the Wednesday



Above: Eddie Adam was remarkably relaxed all week. Pictured with Elliott Small and Scottish Chairman John Scott



Above: Open stalwarts, Cecil George and Jimmy Nielson retired from the team after this year's Open after many years service on the 1st tee. Both will still be welcome visitors to the Open every year.



Above: John Wells of Brocket Hall, prepares before going out with the last match on Sunday where he saw some action at the 17th



Above: While Tiger Woods will be remembered for making history at St Andrews, another piece of history was made by the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team. Stig Persson, of Sweden, predicted exactly the number of bunkers which would be found during the week the first time the feat has been achieved in the six years of the competition. He was presented with a bottle of whisky by Neil Thomas after the Championship.



Above: A member of the St Andrews' Greenstaff finishes off the 2nd and 16th greens on the Sunday morning. A check of the watch shows that everything's under control.



Above: Unfortunately, the traditional photograph of the Support Team with the new Champion was unable to be taken due to a decision to keep the area around the 18th green as clear as possible for safety reasons. The triumphant team still celebrated on the 1st fairway later however

Colin Montgomerie comfortably made the cut but his frustrations on the greens nearly got the better of him. When he made his first birdie on the 9th during the second round after a series of missed putts he turned to referee David Garland and said that if he hadn't made it David would have been refereeing a two ball. Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member, Neil Whitaker, of Arkley GC.

Jack Nicklaus hit what he thought was a fine drive at the 4th but discovered that it had only reached the first grassy mound. "I'm getting old if I can hit a great drive and not even reach the fairway," he said. Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member, Anthony Davies, of Prestbury GC.

Ian Woosnam's caddie had a joke at Lee Westwood's expense during the final round. In the wake of Westwood's statement that he was a golfer not a 400 metre runner. Wobbly got a chunky KitKat from a girl in the gallery and offered it to Westwood. Westwood went over to the girl and gave her two golf balls for it and then got his own back by throwing Woosie's putter into the gallery. Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member, Iain Barr, of Largs GC.

Jean Van De Velde always seems to find himself in unusual situations in the last round of The Open. This year his tee shot at the 2nd landed near a path on the right side of the fairway and the ball was picked up by a little girl who ran off with it. Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member, Roger Clark.

Paul Azinger was out in 30 in the final round but found trouble at the 12th when he found thick gorse. BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member, Alan Halfyear fought his way into the bush to mark the position of the ball and held his rake up so Azinger could retreat to the nearest point of relief. Alan emerged covered in thorns having been well reported on both television and radio for his efforts. He was rewarded with Azinger's ball.

The now traditional Scotland England football match saw Scotland build on the success of the win at Wembley in the European Championship play-off second leg with a fine 10-4 victory in the Duffus Park, Cupar. The stars of the show were George Barr, who scored a hat trick, the Scot's attacking minded right sided midfielder who showed remarkable composure to control a through pass from Marshall Sloss and then send Russell Black, the English keeper the wrong way.



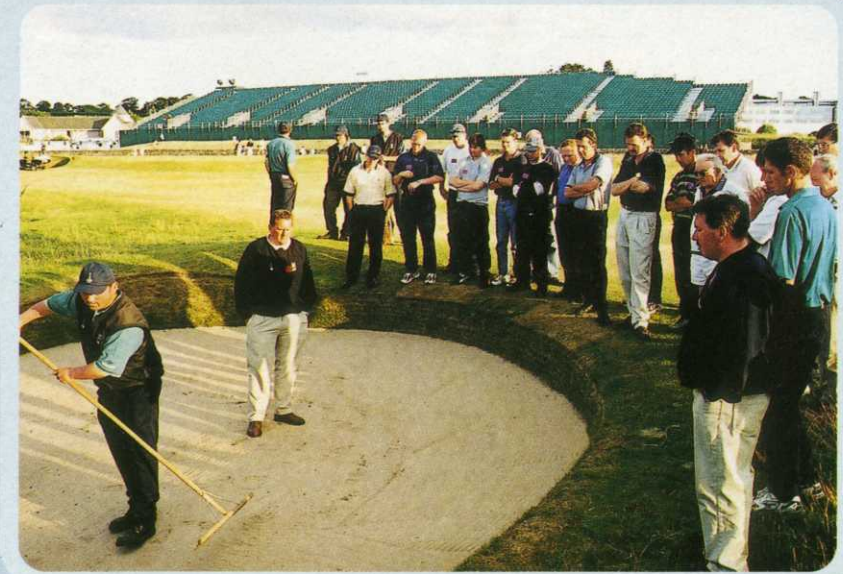
Above: The BIGGA Marquee was busy all week



Above: Bert Cross and Gordon Child manned the BIGGA cabin



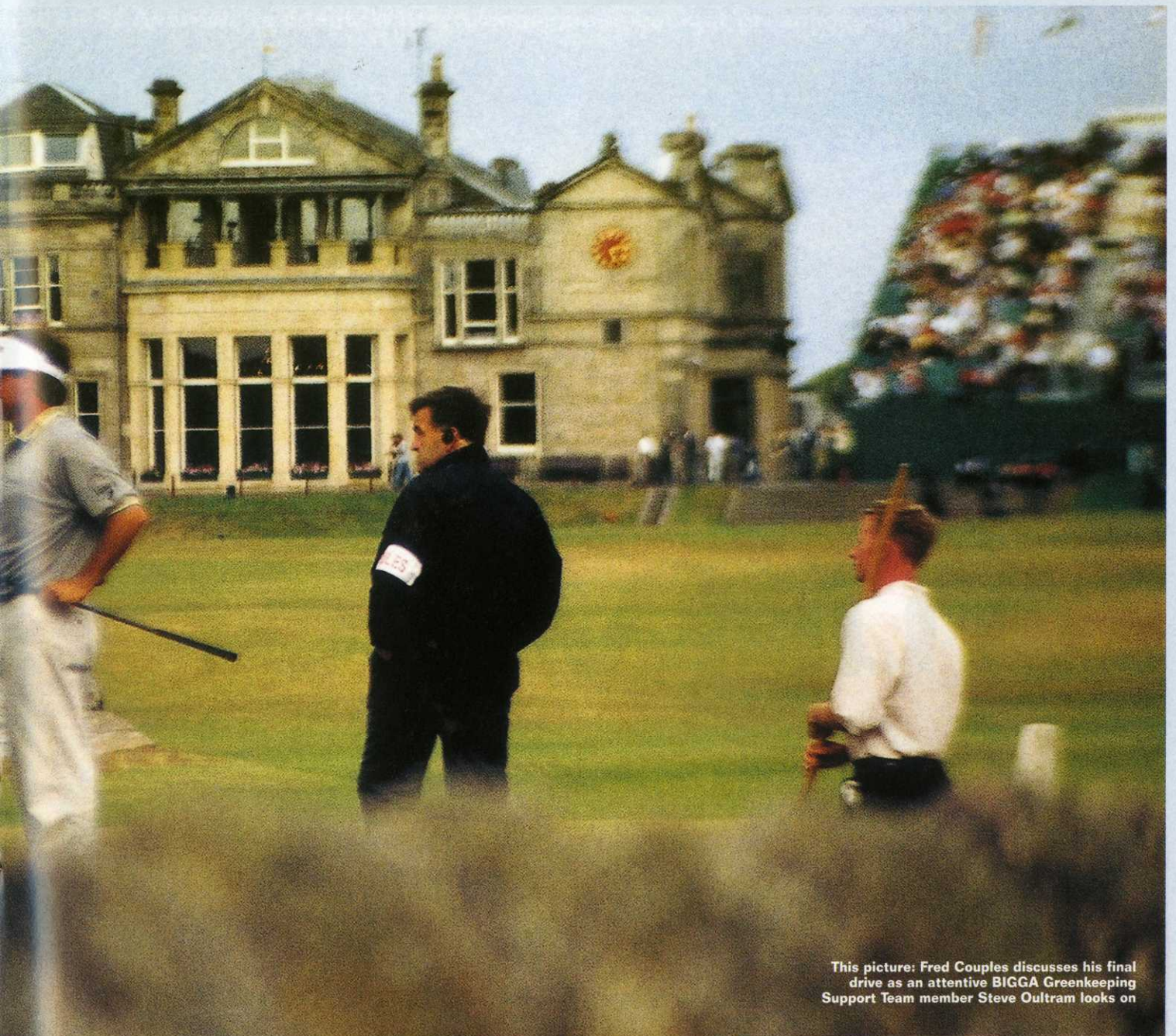
Above: Burntisland Head Greenkeeper, Steven McAughey, was at the Championship as part of the Open team of part-time fire fighters



Above: With so much publicity aimed at the Old Course's Bunkers Head Greenkeeper took the opportunity to hold a briefing with the Greenkeeping Support Team on the course on Wednesday evening to explain how he wanted the bunkers raked. Standing in the appropriated named Scholar's Bunker on the 17th Eddie, and a colleague, explained and demonstrated what was expected of the team then Grant Moir, of the R&A Rules Staff, gave a short briefing on the procedures while working out on the course



	St Andrews 1995 - 112 bunkers	Lytham 1996 - 185 bunkers	Troon 1997 - 84 bunkers	Birkdale 1998 - 117 bunkers	Carnoustie 1999 - 115 bunkers	St Andrews 2000 - 112 bunkers
Rd 1	214	501	344	355	539	148
Rd 2	201	577	272	406	468	164
Rd 3	130	269	107	226	202	65
Rd 4	156	271	136	153	265	71
Total	701	1,618	859	1,140	1,474	448



This picture: Fred Couples discusses his final drive as an attentive BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member Steve Oultram looks on



Left: Steve Pope grabs a bite to eat

Far right: Ian Leonard sports a different rake-carrying technique

Below: Paul Murphy and Nick Cain walk the fairways

