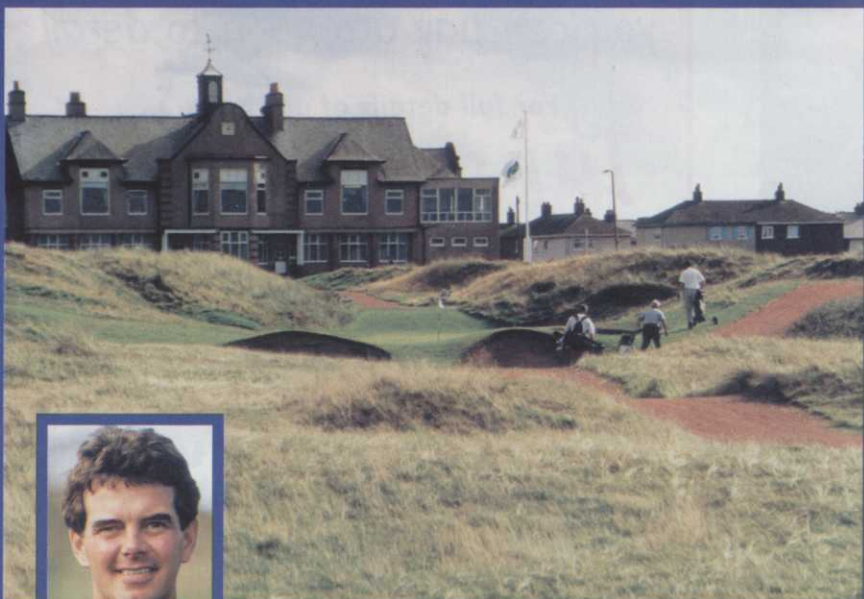


# THE RAIN MAN



Peter Simpson, Head Greenkeeper at Fairhaven, produced an imposing test for the competitors, particularly in the wet conditions



Geoff Whittle's St Annes Old Links brought the best out of the field

Like his namesake, Mr Hoffman, Dustin Houghton proved himself to be a bit of a Rainman when it came to conquering the difficult wet conditions on the second day of the Scotts/Charterhouse BIGGA National Championship. In successfully doing so he went on to become a deserved winner of the splendid trophy.

The 29-year-old Head Greenkeeper from Seaford Head, in East Sussex, shot a nett 69 over St Annes Old Links and then followed it up with a nett 71 at Fairhaven despite the wet conditions.

"I obviously knew I was in with a chance after the first round but tried to put it out of my mind over night," he explained.

"I had a few drinks and my roommate, Richard Clark, gave me a superb talking to which put me in the right mood for the next day."

Halfway round Fairhaven he knew that he only had to keep playing consistently and he would have a great chance.

"I don't use a wood off the tee, only a 3-iron, and this policy served me well. I also holed three or four long putts which made a difference,"

said the 26-handicapper "I'm absolutely ecstatic to have won. It is like our Olympics and this is by far the biggest golf event I've ever won," added Dustin.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALAN BIRCH

The Competition Scratch Score for each Day of the National Championship was as follows - courtesy of Doug Bell.

1st Day: St Annes Old Links  
SSS 72 CSS 73

2nd Day: Fairhaven  
SSS 73 CSS 75



Above: Eventual winner Dustin Houghton starts his campaign at St Annes



Above: The four Northern Ireland representatives made a huge impact on proceedings over the two days



Left: Eventual runner-up, Richard Andrews, produced one of his best shots at St Annes' 9th. His 4-iron to three feet left him a tap in birdie but he was still one more than his Highgate GC colleague James Seisun who holed in one at the same hole five years ago in the National Tournament

**COMPLETE RESULTS OVERLEAF**



Above: BIGGA Chairman Elliott Small, Bert Cross and Richard Minton, of Scotts, enjoyed a threeball on the opening day



Above: Graham Wallace, not only won the longest drive but took the nearest the pin with this effort on Fairhaven's 17th

# THE RAIN MAN

Right: National Championship winner, Dustin Houghton receives his trophy from Richard Minton, UK Sales Manager of Scotts UK Professional and Philip Threadgold, Sales Director of Charterhouse UK



## CHARTERHOUSE/SCOTTS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS ROUNDUP

### 36 HOLES AGGREGATE NETT

1st Dustin Houghton	140
2nd Richard Andrews	142
3rd Antony Kirwan	(on last 18) 144
4th Richard Barker	144

Putting Competition  
Richard Pendlebury (on last 6) 16

Nearest the Pin Competition and Longest Drive - Graham Wallace

### 36 HOLES AGGREGATE GROSS

1st Noel Crawford	147
2nd David Leith	149
3rd Michael Wilson	150
4th John Hutton	(on last 19) 155

**REGIONAL TEAM CUP**  
Winners - South East Region  
Richard Andrews, Dustin Houghton, Antony Kirwan, Andrew Howarth, John Groombridge, Ian Semple, Andy Sheehan, Richard Clarke

### 1st Round Prizes - Monday

0-9 Barry Holt	70
10-17 Kevin Irving	69
18-28 Alex Robertson	74

Runners Up - Midland Region  
Richard Barker, Barry Holt, Les Howkins, Mike Smith, Michael Hughes, Simon Austin, Graham Wallace, Dave Leatherland

### 2nd Round Prizes - Tuesday

0-9 Eamonn Crawford	(on last 9) 72
10-17 Richard Mullen	74
18-28 Nick Bird	73

3rd Northern Region  
4th Scottish Region  
5th South West & South Wales Region



Left: BIGGA Chairman, Elliott Small enjoys a joke from after dinner speaker, John Welch



Below: The victorious South East team



Above: Graham Wallace, longest drive and nearest the pin winner



Above: Noel Crawford - 36 hole gross winner