





David Duval may have been crowned Champion but it was Ian Woosnam who was singing the blues at the Lytham Open Championship

Lytham & blues

The Open Championship at Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Club may have ended with David Duval endearingly searching for his name on the old Claret Jug as he took the applause of the galleries but the player many people will remember most from the 2001 Open will be that of Ian Woosnam.

Being Welsh he is no doubt equipped with a fine voice but it was more likely to be the Blues rather than anything more uplifting he was singing on his way home. Having started the final round as joint leader and almost holing his initial tee shot things were looking up only for his caddie to discover a 15th club in his bag. The two shot penalty, and two bogeys he suffered immediately after, as he struggled to come to terms with his misfortune, represented the difference between himself and the eventual winner.

It was just one of the incidents witnessed by the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team which once again took an active role in ensuring that the Championships ran as smoothly as possible.

Lytham is the most heavily bunkered of any of the Open rota courses and the team raked a total of 1585 bunkers during the four days of the Championship - a total only beaten in the seven years statistics have been kept by the Lytham Open of 1996.

HRH the Duke of York took a keen interest in the Support Team talking

to a number of the team on the Saturday. He asked Billy Merritt, of Beacon Park GC, how many bunkers he had raked and Billy was able to consult his bunker card and tell him that it was five. Prince Andrew said he'd had a fairly quiet day then.

He also asked to have a look at the pictures drawn by Duffy Waldorf's children on his golf balls which he had given to Alan Halfyear of Rother Valley Golf Club in Sheffield. He was particularly interested in one which sported a Union Jack.

He had a long chat with Graham Whyllie, of Malone Golf Club, in Belfast, which was captured on television about the work of the Support Team with Graham asking him about his own game.

Sir Michael Bonallack BIGGA President, visited the Marquee to present Brian Sullivan with his Master Greenkeeper Blazer and plaque. A short time later Jamie Patino President of Valderrama Golf Club popped in to collect a copy of Wildside of Golf and the Bunker statistics.

	'95 St Andrews	'96 Lytham	'97 Troon	'98 Birkdale	'99 Carn'ctie	'00 St Andrews	'01 Lytham
Bunkers	112	185	84	117	115	112	197
Rd 1	214	501	344	355	539	148	557
Rd 2	201	577	272	406	468	164	547
Rd 3	130	269	107	226	202	65	224
Rd 4	156	271	136	153	265	71	257
Total	701	1618	859	1140	1474	448	1585

Open divots

Des Smyth had a superb Championship but it did not get off to a particularly auspicious start when he produced a 50 yard drive at the 2nd on the first day. Put it down to 2nd tee nerves! Information supplied by Gareth Roberts, of Hankley Common Golf Club.

BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member Steve Wenlock, of North Worcestershire Golf Club could be forgiven for thinking it was a strange and wonderful world when he was asked by an official to rake a bunker at the side of the 15th green because there was a "six foot strawberry in it". Information supplied by Steve Wenlock. Volvic had a promotion which involved giant fruit.

Stuart Appleby was so enamoured with the Saturday pin placements that he asked if Ray Charles had selected them. Information supplied by Richard Saunders, of St Neot's Golf Club.

Daren Lee encountered a small problem during the second round when a small boy picked up his ball which was in the rough and ran off. Information supplied by George Barr, of Ham Manor GC.

That same George Barr was helping Peter Lonard find his ball in the right rough on the 17th hole in the final round and stood on it. George told the referee and Lonard got a free lift.

What gratitude! Lee Westwood threw his ball to the crowd on the 4th hole during the final round only for a little boy to pick it up and throw it back to him. Information supplied by Neil Woolfrey, of Great Lever & Farnworth GC, Bolton.

Mark Garrod, of the Press Association and Secretary of the Association of Golf Writers won the Hayter Harrier lawn mower for being closest in his estimation of how many bunkers would be found during the course of the four days. Mark will be presented with his Harrier by Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director of Hayter in the near future.

The competition within the greenkeepers was won by Andy Smith, of Howley Hall Golf Club, in Leeds, and Secretary of the Northern Section.



Top: The Cabin Crew. Bert Cross, Peter Boyd and Past Chairman, Elliott Small, who just couldn't stay away

Above: The BIGGA Marquee contained some familiar faces

Left and below: Alan Halfyear with the two Duffy Waldorf golf balls which so intrigued the Duke of York





Left: Jimmy Neilson and Cecil George may have retired from 1st tee duties but they were just as active throughout the week

Above: The Support Team.

Below: Peter Boyd, John Pemberton and Bert Cross discuss contingency plans for poor weather with David Rickman, Rules Secretary of the R&A.





Above: An action shot from the third round

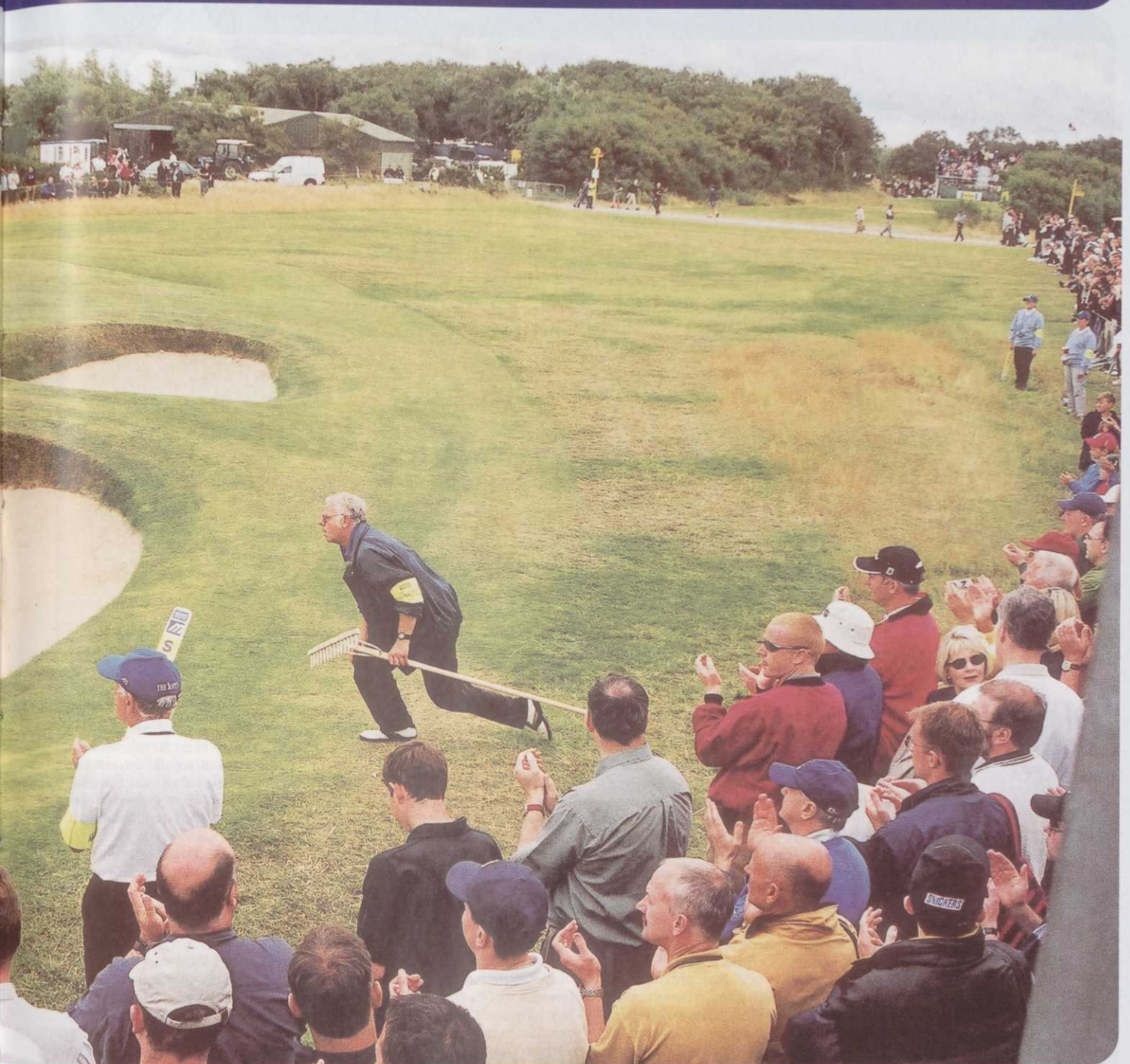
Right: Sir Michael Bonallack, Marybeth and Brian Sullivan with Clive Osgood

Below: Start 'em young! Young Cameron Campbell son of Master Greenkeeper Andy, gets in some practice for the 2015 Open.



Below: Tony Woolley enjoyed his Saturday at the top of the leaderboard





Above: Chris Reid springs into action

Below: The BIGGA marquee provided a magnificent view of the practice range and Tiger Woods trying to solve his swing problems

