

# Horne Park Wins Through to the USA



Horne Park GC from Surrey, has won the Great Britain National Final of the 2006 John Deere Team Championship, held for the first time at East Sussex National GC, Uckfield, in September. Steve Mitchell reports...

The winning team from Horne Park - made up of Club Owner Neil Burke, Secretary Elaine Purton, Head Greenkeeper Danny O'Rourke and John Deere Dealer Salesman Andy Page of Palmer's Turfcare at Hailsham, East Sussex - will be travelling to America in November to play in the 20th John Deere World Team Championship Final. This is being held at Reynolds Plantation Resort in Georgia, with the winners from Great Britain and Ireland playing against teams from Asia, Australia, Canada, Germany, Norway, Sweden and the USA.

Horne Park's net score of 57 (15 under par) in the modified scramble event, was 1.7 shots ahead of Welwyn Garden City from Hertfordshire, and 2.1 ahead of the third place team from Tydd St Giles Golf and Leisure Centre in Cambridgeshire - whose greenkeeper Kevin Goude, won the prize for Longest Drive at the East Course's 446 yard 9th hole. Nearest the Pin on the 137 yard 8th hole was won by Jim Fergusson, Secretary at Douglas Park GC in Glasgow.

"Going to the USA will be the experience of a lifetime for all of us," said Horne Park GC Club Secretary, Elaine Purton. "The way we played in both the regional and national finals, we thought we had a pretty good chance of winning. Over 36 holes we really couldn't have done any more; the final was enormous fun, everyone played their part and it really was a team effort, right the way through.

"In a scramble format things have to happen for you, and they did - we chipped in three times, holed a wedge from 80 yards... about the only thing we didn't manage was a hole in one, so we knew we'd take some beating on the day. We were all very impressed with East Sussex National, the course and the facilities were excellent all round, and now we're really looking forward to representing Great Britain in the World Final in November."

Altogether 21 John Deere dealerships organised Regional Qualifiers for this year's tournament, the fourth held in Great Britain and Ireland, with a total of 362 teams competing across both countries. Adare Manor Hotel and Golf Resort from Co Limerick won the Irish National Final, also held in September for the first time at the PGA National Ireland and Palmerstown House golf resort near Dublin.



The winning team from Horne Park GC



BIGGA Chief Executive, John Pemberton

Donations are traditionally made to greenkeeping associations in all the countries which take part in the Team Championship, and this year John Deere Limited has contributed a total of £9050 to support the educational activities of BIGGA and GCSAI (Golf Course Superintendents' Association of Ireland). Donations to BIGGA now total £34,475 since the Team Championship started in Great Britain and Ireland in 2002.