

GENTLEMAN DON: 1938 - 2007

It's with great sadness that a true friend to greenkeepers all over the West Country passed away suddenly on Monday, May 14, 2007.

I first met Don when I was a young lad starting on my career path at Saunton GC in North Devon. Don at the time had his own Company based at Bovey Tracey in Devon making and selling topdressing across the South West, his Company also sold fertilisers and course sundries.



First and foremost Don was a family man who loved his wife and daughters and later on his grandchildren. West Country greenkeepers and groundsman both young and old were an extension of Don's family, he always had time to have a chat and always asked about the family before turning to the topical sports story of the day.

Don lived life to the full with his positive attitude that rubbed off on everyone he met, he would always see the good points in people and encourage them with his positive manor.

During recent times Don has been working for Roffeys as their representative in the Devon & Cornwall area, he was also the Section's events organiser for Devon and Cornwall where he continued to drive the Section forward.

I'm sure Don would like us to remember him with a smile, many of you will have your own memories of gentleman Don, my most fondest memory has to be Don taking an order for materials on the back of a cigarette packet and losing it before he could place the order back at his desk.

Richard Whyman, BIGGA Past Chairman

BMW SUPPORT TEAM 2007

Once again a team of volunteer greenkeepers were on hand at The Wentworth Club for the BMW PGA Championship, held at the end of May.



Some of this year's BIGGA Support Team with Chris Kennedy and winner, Anders Hansen.

A small team were on stand-by duty on the Thursday and Friday of the event in case of bad weather. Fortunately the weather was kind on these two days, and glorious sunshine was experienced by all with only our Chairman, Billy McMillan, suffering with a touch of sunburn on his visit to the Course!

A rapid change in conditions meant that the full contingent of 40 volunteers were armed with squeegees as well as bunker rakes for the last two days of the Championship.

With the help of Chris Kennedy and his greenstaff, the West Course stood up well to a day of incessant, and at times, very heavy rain with no delays in play on the final day.

Once again this year competitors had to negotiate a few subtle changes and modifications to the Course instigated by Ernie Els and Chris.

The winner of this year's event was Anders Hansen who beat Justin Rose on the 1st extra hole of a play-off.

Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator

COMMENDATION AWARD

The Altonwood Golf Group based in Godstone, Surrey has been given a Special Commendation at South East Learning Skills Council's (LSC) inaugural Employer of the Year Awards. The company collected the commendation in the medium employer category. Employing about 100 people, five of Altonwood's young employees are on work-based Apprenticeship programmes with Kent-based Hadlow, one of the UK's leading land-based colleges.

The awards ceremony was hosted by former Olympic athlete Colin Jackson CBE who also presented the prizes. Speaking on behalf of Altonwood, Matt Macklin said 'The commendation means a lot to us. As a result of taking on Apprentices, we have invested in the development of young people and now have a quality, enthusiastic confident, qualified staff and increased staff retention. We aim to take on more Apprentices in the future.'