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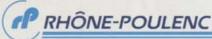
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Where to contact BIGGA

Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York, North Yorkshire YO6 2NF

> Tel: 01347 838581 Fax: 01347 838864

International e official monthly magazine

of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association

EDITORIAL Editor: Scott MacCallum

ADVERTISING

Sales and Marketing Manager: James McEvoy Sales and Marketing Assistants: Amanda Mayo Jenny Panton Telephone: 01347 838581 E-mail: general@bigga.demon.co.uk

PRODUCTION

Design and Production Editor: Tim Moat, telephone 01904 610611 ISDN: 01904 626130

E-mail: timmoat@headline-comm.co.uk

PRINTING

Hi-Tec Print, Unit 7, Universal Crescent, North Anston Trading Estate, North Anston, Sheffield S31 7NZ Tel: 01909 568533, fax: 01909 568206

Greenkeeper International: winner of Certificate of Merit in Magazine of the Year category, Editing for Industry Awards 1994 and 1995

Industry Awards 1994 and 1995
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retulation is by subscription. Subscription (IK E34 per year, Europe and Eire, E44. The zine is also distributed to BIGGA members, clubs, local authorities, the turf industry, ies and central government.

■ The next edition of Greenkeeper International should be with you by August 30.

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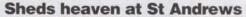
AUGUST 1997

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Open triumph for everyone

The Open Championship was another glittering golfing highlight - and yet again BIGGA was in the thick of it, with our Support

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Cover

Royal Troon, plus the BIGGA support team, in the midst of Open excitement.



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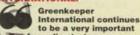
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SCOTT MacCALLUM

Presenting a definitive A-Z of our industry...

don't get much free time but occasionally, when I do, I doodle and compile lists and play with words. What am I doing... I'm revealing to all you readers what a sad anorak I am! Let's start again.

I don't get much free time in my hectic devil may care lifestyle but occasionally, between rock climbing, hitting the clubs and mixing with celebrities, I unwind by compiling the odd list. The latest is an A-Z of greenkeeping. See what you think and if you can do better, and I'm sure you can, I'd be delighted to publish it.

- **A:** Armchair. From where most members pick up their appreciation of US golf courses and demand that all British courses should look the same.
- **B:** Bar. The informal information exchange which works best for many greenkeepers.
- **C:** Committees. The guiding light for so many greenkeepers.
- **D:** Divots. Always there, or soon to be there, to scar the most perfect of fairway.
- **E:** Experts. The world is full of them and a rare few are the genuine article.
- **F:** Fusarium. Life would become boring without it.
- G: Greenkeeping. Says it all.
- **H:** Harrogate. A Mecca for greenkeepers.
- **!:** Irrigation. Is there any club still out there without some form of irrigation?
- J: January. It must be BTME!
- **K:** Ken Richardson. Your beloved Education Officer.
- **L:** Learning. Greenkeepers never stop see above.
- **M:** Machinery. Where huge advances have been made.
- **N:** National Tournament.

Highlight of the year for many.

O: Open Championship. Highlight of the year for many.

P: Poa Annua. A regular and unwelcome visitor.

Q: Queue. Often seen at the bar at BTME.

R: Richard Barker. He would be upset if he didn't get a mention.

S: Sections. 26 of them, in five regions, make up BIGGA.

T: Turfgrass. For good foundations.

U: Uranium. Makes you light up at night.

V: Valderamma. The stunning venue for next month's Ryder

W: Water. Wettest June on record but still not enough of the stuff.

X: Xylophone. A musical instrument and one of only six words in the Pocket Oxford Dictionary beginning with "X".

Y: Yard. Imperial measure most UK courses are currently measured in until the EC get hold of the subject.

Z: Zigzag. The intricate pattern which can be woven into the green particularly after a particularly late night – see "Bar".



As I see it...
BY PAT MURPHY
BIGGA CHAIRMAN

oving into July my schedule was as hectic, but no less enjoyable, as ever. In fact, some of my experiences this month I'll treasure for the rest of my life.

After a productive board meeting at Aldwark Manor I headed to The Belfry as a guest of RiteFeed, one of the Association's Golden Key sponsors. It gave me the opportunity of seeing the excellent

new PGA National course and meet up with Derek Ganning and his team. The greens on the

new course were absolutely brilliant.
I'd like to thank John Walker and Richard Lawrence for their hospitality, part of which I was able to repay by acting as a

courier and taking soil samples from The Belfry back to the STRI on my way home.

The final Hayter Regional Final at Matfen Hall ended the jinx Kim Macfie and I had endured at the two previous finals which had to be restricted to nine holes because of the rain. I played

another 10 holes and can say that my golf is improving and will

continue to so long as Kim keeps providing the golf balls.

I travelled to The Open on the Tuesday and was privileged, along with Kim Macfie, to be a guest of the Editor at the Golf Writers' Dinner. It was a superb occasion attended by, among others, Ernie Els, Tom Lehman and Tom Kite, with speeches by five times Open Champion Peter Thomson and Colin Montgomerie. I was honoured to meet Colin and his wife before the dinner as they are friends of Kim's, while I also bumped into Jaime Ortiz-Patino, owner of Valderrama whom I'd met at the GCSAA Show in February.

It was a superb week. The highlights were meeting Viscount Whitelaw and his wife in the BIGGA marquee where Bob Lupton, Gordon Child and Elliott Small were presented with watches to mark their retirals from the role of Regional Administrator. I also met members and non-members from as far afield as Sweden, America and Australia, while I certainly impressed Scottish Chairman, Sam Morrison, with the news that I'd given up smoking.

My big moment came, however, when I had a picture taken, with the Support team, crouching next to Justin Leonard, the new Open Champion. I congratulated him on his victory and he held up the famous claret jug and said to me, "Get your hands on that."

I'd like to thank all the staff and members of the Association who made The Open the success that it was.

I got back to the work on the Monday afternoon and had all Tuesday at the club before travelling to Cornwall for a meeting. It involved getting up at 4.30am to

catch a train in Leeds and not getting home before 10.35pm.

All in a month's work.



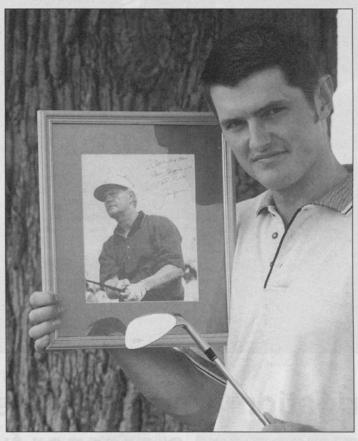
Famous connections bring benefit to club

Tim Lower from Eastbourne was glued to the television during the Open Championship at Royal Troon. The 29 year-old Head Greenkeeper at Battle Golf Club in East Sussex had a special interest in three times Open Champion Jack Nicklaus.

Tim's family connections led to Battle Golf Club receiving a signed photograph of one of the greatest golfers of all time when the new nine-hole golf course opened for play at Netherfield Hill, just two miles from the historic town of Battle.

"It was my mother's idea. She was so chuffed when she heard that I had been appointed the greenkeeper at Battle that she organised the picture with a personal message from Jack Nicklaus through my step-father," says Tim proudly about his mother Marjorie.

His mother's first husband was Ken Bowden who lives in America and has a long association with Jack Nicklaus having worked with him for more than 30 years writing teaching books with the player.



Barking up the right tree

Eamonn Wall & Co is copromoting a one-day seminar on "Trees in a Golfing Landscape" with the Mersey and Red Rose Community

The seminar will take place on September 10 at Blundells Hill GC, St Helens. Topics covered will include constraints on planting on a golf course, golf strategy and the roles trees can plan, principles of golf course design and the benefits of trees, successful tree establishment, the need to manage woodlands and the grants available for new planting.

For further details contact Paul Nolan, The Mersey Forest. Tel: 01925 816217.

A similar event is being held at Addington Palace GC on September 29. Further information on this seminar can be obtained from Lawrence Dennis-Smither Tel: 0181 654 3061.

Toro relocates an international site to Bournemouth

The Toro Company has relocated its international commercial department – previously based in Oevel, Belgium – to its UK office in Bournemouth, in a move which sees the UK become Toro's European headquarters for sales and marketing of professional turf maintenance equipment and irrigation systems, as well as consumer division products sold under the Wheel Horse banner.

Toro's European Sales Manager Bob Buckingham, with colleagues Christian Grisard Van Roey and Charles Gregory, have transferred to the UK office.

Bob Buckingham said: "Toro has relocated its European Sales HQ to the UK office in recognition of the demand here for our products in both the golf and non-golf industries. This office is now the centre of our sales operations in Europe for all three aspects of our business – turf equipment, irrigation systems and Toro, Wheel Horse and Lawn-Boy consumer-products.

"We strongly believe in having our own personnel based locally in the markets we serve," he added, "therefore we will retain sub-offices in Spain, Italy, France, Germany, Belgium and Holland."

Details of the office are The Toro Company, Homelife House, 26-32 Oxford Road, Bournemouth BH8 8EZ. Tel: 01202 209281, Fax: 01202 291918.

Appointment for Martin Brothers

Martin Brothers (UK) has appointed Tim Edwards, formerly of Tarmac Top Sport, as Regional Sales Manager for South Wales and the Midlands.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ Douglas Bell joins BIGGA next month as the part time Regional Administrator for the



Northern Region.

A face known to a number of members as Douglas joins the Association direct from his post as Secretary/Manager at West Lancashire Golf Club which hosted the final of the Hayter Challenge in '95 and the inaugural Hayter International Cup between the Rest of the

Douglas has been at West Lancs for 13 years having previously spent six years at Secretary/Manager at Woolton GC in south Liverpool.

World and the Americas last

Prior to that he worked in the finance department of Runcorn Development Corporation and the City Treasury in Liverpool.

A Liverpool man, and fan, he was born in West Derby and among his interests is football. As well as formerly being a referee at local level he has been the Honorary Financial Secretary to the Liverpool County Football Association for the last 24 years.

"I have a great many friends in golf and in my new role I am looking forward to meeting up with them and making new friends through BIGGA," said Douglas.

He takes over the reigns in the Northern Region from Bob Lupton.

■ Amenity Land Services Ltd, is hosting two open days this month. Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 of August will be Open House for the Telford based company. All aspects of turf production and maintenance will be on display including ALS' own. Contracts Division which will be demonstrating spraying, vertidraining and overseeding on the turf fields. Also in attendance will be Rhone Poulenc, Sharpes International, Chemlock Environmental, Scotts UK Ltd, Vitax, Bathgate Sand and Top Dressing, Hall Market Harvesters and Amenity Technology. To book your place contact Duncan Burton Tel: 01952 641949.





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Students sample the **European dimension**

The demand for a greater knowledge of the European dimension, as part of the national diploma course, was met recently when students from Reaseheath College visited Holland, courtesy of Mommersteeg International.

The five-day study tour was led by Phil Davies, Mommersteeg's Amenity Product Manager. The visit provided students with a comprehensive insight into the demands on Dutch grass breeders, turf producers, local authority and parks groundsmen, football stadium groundsmen and golf greenkeepers.

First stop on the tour was a visit to Mommersteeg International's headquarters at Vlijmen to learn, from John Verhoeven, Product Manager and Jos Deckers, Area Manager for Europe and South America, about the breeding, trialling and testing of



Students at the Efteling Golf Park at Kaatsheuvel

grasses and seed production for the European market. Students had the opportunity to take a close look at a specially-constructed par three golf hole, which has been sown with a variety of Mommersteeg mixtures as part of

its comprehensive trials work.

For Jos Deckers the shudents were an impressive group. "The professionalism shown by the students from Reaseheath is very encouraging for the future of greenkeeping.'

Go-ahead for centre

A new training centre and extra office accommodation is to be built for John Deere Limited's UK headquarters in Langar, near Nottingham, at a total cost of £2.5 million.

The training centre will replace the company's existing facilities at nearby Bingham, which were established 16 years ago. John Deere Limited is the UK and Irish arm of the world's largest manufacturer of agricultural and groundscare machinery, and commenced trading at Langar in 1966.

The first sod at the new site was turned, and a commemorative tree planted, by Doug Walker at a special ceremony held at Langar in June.

Doug was closely involved with the establishment of John Deere Limited in the UK in the mid-1960s, becoming Managing Director in 1968. He



was succeeded on his retirement by the current managing director, Alec McKee, in February 1993.

Success in Scottish Championships

Over 70 players took part in this year's Scottish Championships on another beautiful day at Craigmillar Park in Edinburgh.

We had an excellent day, the course was in excellent condition thanks to Stephen Sinclair and his merry men, the catering and bar staff were most solicitous in looking after the inner man and the club were most welcoming. What more could we ask for? Well the Vice Captain Ronnie Galbraith kindly presented the prizes and Tom Lawson, the Secretary, could not have been more helpful and even found time to play as one of our guests. So all we needed was some good golf and we certainly got that. I think the prize list speaks

for itself, suffice to say the handicap secretaries need to have their pencils sharpened after this lot.

Best Scratch - Scottish Champion; S. Taylor, Killermont, 64; Best Nett - G. Shearer, Balmore, 76-20-56; Best Head Greenkeeper - S. Sinclair, Craigmillar Park, 79-12-67; Best Assistant - G. Tough, Carnoustie, 67-scr-67; Apprentice - S. Farish, Powfoot, 75-6-69; Best Veteran - E. Small, Tulliallan, 76-8-68. 1st Class - 1. R. Hensby, Tulliallan, 72-9-63; 2. S. Greenwood, North Berwick, 76-8-68; 3. J. Urghuart, Tain, 71-2-69. 2nd Class - 1. R. Thompson, Peebles, 80-13-67; 2. C. Wallace, Wishaw, 83-15-68; 3. D. Roy, Linlithgow, 82-13-69. 3rd

Class 1. M. Carey, Balmore, 82-22-60; 2. A. Russell, Torphin Hill, 87-18-69; 3. J. Nisbet, Peebles, 90-21-69. Patrons' Prize - R. Auld, Scottish Grass Machinery, 90-22-68: Guests Prize - T. Lawson,

Secretary-Craigmillar, 75-6-69. Team Prize - West Section.

I must finish with a word of thanks once again to the patrons of the Scottish Region for all their marvellous support both for this tournament and all the other events held each year in the Region and Sections.

Elliott Small

Heathland plants and wildlife on forum's agenda

Heathland conservation on golf courses is one of the topics to be examined in the **Annual Heathland Forum** this year, organised by the Staffordshire and West **Midlands Heathland** Partnership.

A number of courses in this area either have, or have the potential to support, a variety of heathland plants and associated wildlife. Modern course management recognises the value in incorporating the needs of wildlife into the maintenance programme for golf.

The Annual Heathland Forum will be held on Wednesday 13 August, 1997 at Beau Desert Cannock. Staffordshire, starting at 9.30am. Numbers are restricted, so interested parties should contact Sue Sheppard on (01785) 277256 at the earliest opportunity.

Promotion

Robert Brewer, Course Manager at St Mellion since September 1995, has been promoted to Course Manager/Director of Golf. Robert, who previously worked at Sunningdale under Jack McMillan and spent five years at Dukes Dene, will be in charge of a pro shop, four professionals and shop assistants. He will continue to look after 18 greenstaff, two courses, four tennis courts and a bowling





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AD REF

Big-hearted golf club rewarded with mower

Swansea-based golf club, Pennard, was the 1996 prize winner in the annual Golf Foundation/Kubota Prize Draw which took place at Wentworth earlier this year.

The prize, an 18hp Kubota front mounted ride-on mower worth over £8000, was presented to the Club's Captain and Vice-Captain on Wednesday 22 April at Kubota's dealership Celtic Mowers.

Pennard was one of 129 golf clubs which qualified for the Kubota prize draw by donating £250 or more to the Golf Foundation's annual fund raising appeal.

Pledging support again for the 1997 draw which will take place in early 1998, Kubota's Marketing Manager, Stuart Ellis said: "Kubota has been supporting the valuable work of the Golf Foundation now for many years and is delighted sponsorship of the event continues to help raise funds for the charity."



From left: David Rees, Vice Captain, Pennard GC; Dr Philip Dixon, Golf Foundation & Welsh Golf Union representative; Kim Davis, owner, Celtic Mowers; Colin Hennah, Kubota Regional Sales Manager; Beverley House, Golf Foundation and Ladies Welsh Golf Union representative and Peter H Jones, Captain, Pennard GC (seated on mower)

On track to raise cash for charity

British Seed Houses Sales Manager, Simon Taylor is set to go 'state side' running this year's New York Marathon in a bid to raise £2,000 for Help the Aged.

Simon, 34, who is based at British Seed Houses amenity division in Warrington, has just started a six month training programme for the 26 mile race, which will take place on November 2 with a field of more than 35,000 competitors. He hopes to finish in around three hours.

No stranger to gruelling events, Simon last year took part in the London marathon, raising over £1,600 for a local hospice.

"Running in New York will be a great experience, even though in November it can get very cold!" said Simon. "I'm working hard to get as many sponsors as I can before I go, but of course I could always do with more. I'm hoping companies within the amenity grass industry will be kind enough to support me."

Anyone wishing to sponsor Simon should contact him at British Seed Houses: telephone 01925 654411.

Principal thanks great teamwork

Anthony Fox OBE, Myerscough College's Principal, retires at the end of August.

His time at the College has included periods as a student, lecturer, Farms Director and Vice Principal, until the appointment as Principal in 1985. Under his leadership the College has grown to become one of the nation's leading centres of excellence in agricultural and horticultural education.

One of Mr Fox's major successes has been in co-ordinating the planned development of the College onto a single site at Bilsborrow.

This will be fulfilled during 1998, giving students access to a comprehensive range of educational resources covering 14 subject areas. He states: "I am proud of my achievements and I am proud of the staff that have helped make this happen. It has been great teamwork."

Although retiring, Mr Fox is not leaving the area. He will continue to be involved in the local community and the wider sphere of land-based education.

Myerscough College's new Principal is Professor John Moverley, Head of the School of Agriculture and Horticulture at De Montfort University since 1988.

Professor Moverley, like Mr Fox, is a well respected figure in the land-based industries.

He commented, "I see terrific potential here at Myerscough. The College has an excellent reputation already and I am looking forward to getting myself established in the county."

Impressive line-up for seminar

This year's Midland Region seminar will be held at Northampton Rugby Club on Wednesday November 19.

Speakers are Jack McMillan Golf Course Management Consultant: "Progressive Greenkeeping"; George Brown - Golf Course & Estate Manager Turnberry Hotel; Andrew Laurence - BIGGA Insurance Broker: "Members Insurance Cover Explained"; Peter Jones - Golf Course Consultant: "Budgeting for Greenkeeping"; Noel Green -Runner-up Toro Student of Year 1996: "My Last Year's Experiences"; Mike Wadley -Sec. Northamptonshire County Golf Club: "Communication - Between Committee and Green Staff"; Danny Godfrey - Boughton Loam Ltd: "Breeding, Production and Selection of Grass Seed"; David Powell -Head Groundsman Northampton RFC "Development of The Saints Rugby Ground"; Roland Taylor - Grassblades Marketing: "The Merits of a Mechanic on the Greenkeeping Staff".

Application forms will be sent out to Midland Region Members this month. If you don't receive an application form contact Peter Larter Tel No/Fax: 01480 437507.



Finalists prepare for the big finish

With the completion of the three remaining Regional Finals the final field for the 1997 Hayter Challenge has been assembled.

The Midland Regional Final of the 1997 Havter Challenge Competition was held at The Warwickshire Golf Club in atrocious weather on June 26. The staff at the Warwickshire did a tremendous job in keeping the course open, and the Region is grateful for the opportunity to play and for the excellent service provided by all departments. However, despite all of their efforts the weather did intervene and the round had to be reduced to nine holes. The conditions didn't stop many good scores being posted, and a number of close countbacks resulted.

The winning section prize was taken by the Midland Section with and aggregate score of 382, with the Mid Anglia Section being close runners-up on 386. The individual winners and qualifiers

HAYTER

for the National Final at Ganton Golf Club on September 17 and 18 were:

Cat1. 1. Mike Hughes, Edgbaston – net 35.5. 2. Tony Cheese, Dartmouth – net 36. 3. Andrew Duncan, Kettering – net 36.

Cat 2. 1. Julian Chesson, Three Hammers – net 36.5. 2. Antony Bindley, Kirby Muxloe – net 37.5. 3rd lan Needham, Beedles Lake – net 38. (Unfortunately lan Needham is unable to play in the Final so Dean Jones of Gerrards Cross, who was 4th with a net 38, will take his place). Cat 3. I. Jason Hatton, Brocket Hall – net 31. 2. Mark Bindley, Kirby Muxloe – net 35.5. 3. Martin Jones, Bridgnorth – net 36.5.

Peter Larter

South East Regional Final

The weather certainly gave the region fair warning, on the evening before the Finals, the



Hayter's Kim Macfie, left, congratulates Mike Hughes on his performance with Regional Chairman Antony Bindly looking on

town of Bognor Regis (about 7 miles away from Ham Manor Golf Club), was closed due to flooding. It was starting to look as the Region's good fortune in obtaining such a course as Ham Manor for the finals, together with its magnificent clubhouse was going to be wasted. The efforts of George Barr and this staff working in atrocious weather conditions to produce the course in such pristine condition looked to be of no avail. However the morning of the 27th started dry and it looked as if luck (and some hard work very early in the morning with the squeegee) was with us! As Ham Manor is situated in the extreme south-western corner of the Region it must have been a relief for those finalist who had travelled such a distance that they were actually going to play.

The Competition started at 10am in the dry and it wasn't until the Chairman of the Association Pat Murphy together with Kim Macfie of Hayter's arrived that it started to rain. Perhaps it was down to them as exactly the same thing happened when they attended the Midland Regional Final the day before! The rain however got steadily heavier and with some difficulty all players, including Pat and Kim, managed to complete nine holes before the play had to be called off the for day.

Lunch was taken earlier than planned after which Kim presented the winner, second and third of each Handicap Category with superb hip-flasks, as if going to Ganton for the National Finals was not reward enough!

Winners were:- 0-9 1. A. Sheehan (Essex) 2. N. Gilham (Kent) 3. D. Murdoch (Surrey); 10-18 1. I. Sutclifffe(Surrey) 2. R. Malt (Kent) 3. J. Selwood (Essex); 19-28 1. M. Mison (East Anglia) 2. T. Hindmarch (Kent) 3. B. Jackson (Kent).

It should be mentioned that Martin Mison, playing off 28, single putted six of the nine, flooded, greens played to finish with a net 29, a score that even had those recording and checking the results confused! If there had

been an award for "Gentleman of the Day" it would have done to Barry Speller, Adebridge. He and I know why.

Derek Farrington

Northern Regional Final

Held at Matfen Hall GC in the North East it was a long way to travel for many of the Northern Region members, particularly those from North Wales, but was well worth the effort for all who had qualified.

Thanks to Jimmy Richardson and his staff for presenting the course so well and also the clubhouse staff for making us so welcome. Thanks also to Hayter for generously sponsoring this event.

The following qualified for the final at Ganton in September where they will defend the trophy won last year at Formby.

Cat 1. Paul Pearce, David Norton and Russell Lewis; Cat 2. Michael Coultas, John Waite and David Spurden and Cat 3. Paul Neve, Richard Smith and Emyr Rowlands.

Well done – see you at Ganton! Sara Lupton

■ The teams already confirmed were Scotland and the South West and South Wales:

Scotland Cat 1. 1. D. Leith, St Andrews, 73-1=72; 2. S. Taylor, Killermont, 74-1=73; 3. D. Wilson, Irvine Bogside, 81-8=73; 4. C. McKay, Elmwood, 79-6=73. Cat 2. 1. A. Wilson, Kirkhill, 86-14=72; 2. J. Johnston, Turnberry, 86-13=73; 3. A. Torrance, King James, 86-11=75; 4. C. Cumming, Fortrose, 87-12=75. Cat 3. G. Shearer, Balmore, 91-22=69; 2. S. Carmichael, Fincs GC, 92-22=70; 3. D. Nelson, Brunston Castle, 91-21-70; 4. A. Robertson, Grangemouth, 91-20=71.

South West and South Wales
Cat 1 – 1. R. Daly (D & C) 65; 2.
L. Millar (S. Coast) 69; 3. D. Bray
(D & C) 74. Cat 2 – 1. A. Knight
(S.West) 71; 2. P. Wentworth (S.
Coast) 73; 3. M. Porrish (D & C)
73; Res. A. Cosh (S. Wales) 73.
Cat 3 – 1. A. James (D &C) 68; 2.
J. Cooper (S. West) 76; 3. A.
Rideout (S. Coast) 77; Res. J.
Braithwaite (S. West) 77.

