THE 1985 Open Championship saw the English and International Golf Greenkeepers' Association represented for the first time at this prestigious annual event. Our hospitality marquee was hosted by members of the board of management and available to EIGGA members and non-members alike.

On behalf of the EIGGA executive, I would like to extend a sincere vote of thanks to the R & A, which was most generous in its contribution of a superbly positioned site.

Thanks are also due to Greenkeeper, the main sponsor of the marquee, and its publisher Michael Coffey, who is also a trustee of EIGGA.

Further sponsorship was given by national company members Ransomes, SISIS, Lely Import and T. Parker & Sons. We gratefully acknowledge the support these companies gave the association.

EIGGA sends its congratulations to Royal St George's and all those involved in staging the Open. Particular mention must be made of head greenkeeper Derek Scarborough and all his green staff for the course's fine condition.

Finally, my thanks go to my colleagues on the EIGGA board of management who manned the marquee — particularly national chairman Bill Lawson and Michael Coffey, who both worked extremely hard throughout the week.

Danielle Jones, EIGGA General Administrator.

THE initial reaction upon arriving at Sandwich was sheer pride at the sight of EIGGA and Greenkeeper flags flying high over the big marquee set in a prime position.

The first people I met were Michael Coffey and his wife Anthea before going on to meet Peter Wisbey at his home club North Foreland.

As the week went by, we had many visitors from all parts of the world, plus old friends such as Mr and Mrs Jack McMillan, Mr and Mrs Joe McKean, Jim Arthur, Dr Peter Hayes and Nick Park. The Press corps was well represented by editors Robin Stewart (Greenkeeper), Malcolm Campbell (Golf Monthly) and John Lelean (Golf Greenkeeping And Course Maintenance), as well as Greenkeeper's regular contributor John Campbell. It was also good to see Peter Wilson and Peter Dutton of the English Golf Union.

When Sunday finally arrived, everyone felt that all we set out to do had been achieved and followed the high standard set by SIGGA at last year's Open.

I would like to add my thanks to all the EIGGA board of management who took days out of their annual holidays to do a stint in the marquee and my special thanks go to president David Low for spending the full week with us and SIGGA member Frazer McNeill, who was also a loyal supporter throughout the week.

Bill Lawson, EIGGA Chairman.