

GREENKEEPER TRAINING

One of the speakers at EIGGA's annual conference at Warwick University was Peter Wilson of the English Golf Union and former Chairman of the Greenkeeper Training Committee. Amongst the many points he raised in a very comprehensive address was the matter of training centres. The GTC has now decided to back four colleges who will offer block release training in greenkeeping in England these are: Askham Bryan College
Sparsholt College
Cannington College
Reaseheath College
with Elmwood College covering Scotland. These colleges are now official approved by the County Unions with a number of counties being affiliated to each college.

A joint meeting of all the lecturers under the Chairmanship of Dr Peter Hayes with Jim Arthur and a representative of City & Guilds is to take place to standardise courses and the scheme will commence with the new academic year in September.

Mr Wilson pointed out that although the nomination of these "official" colleges would not prevent other agricultural/horticultural colleges running courses any candidate wishing to become a qualified registered greenkeeper on completion of this course would still have to attend a weeks course at one of the four colleges and pass an examination to attain registration.

USGA GREEN SECTION

The United States Golf Association — Green Section held their customary morning session at the 57th GCSAA Annual Conference in San Francisco. Apart from being very well attended — with nine of their top agronomists passing on the "Best Turf Tips of 1985" (something that the STRI's advisors might like to copy when putting on their "roadshows" this year) — the main debate was "A critical look at contemporary golf course architecture".

The essence of the argument that developed was that there is a vast difference between Americas golf course architecture of the 1920s and the new designs being built today and equally as large a difference between the courses being designed today by the likes of Nicklaus and Dye and the other more "moderate" architects.



DISTANCE LEARNING AT ELMWOOD

The Scotec Part 3 Supervisory Course adapted by Mr. A. Smith, the Course Tutor, so it could largely be taught on a Distance Learning basis (one week in college instead of the normal five), appears to have gone down well with the Greenkeeping Industry.

The National interest in the course can readily be seen by studying the list of those attending:- Gary Armstrong — Co Durham, Robert Brewer — Glasgow, Thomas Byrne — Glasgow, Ronnie Christie — Criol, Graham Clarke — Leeds, Stewart Cruickshank — Larbert (Stirlingshire), Alan Ferguson — Bathgate, Charles Fotheringham — Falkirk, Christopher Gray — Isle of Wight, Iain Gunn — Kingussie, Robert Hardie — Aberdeen, Alastair Holmes — Berwick-upon-Tweed, Neil Metcalf — Aberdeen, Paul Morrison — Irvine, Chris. Nicolle — Guernsey, Alastair Taylor — East Kilbride, Andrew Terry — Stratford-upon-Avon, Graeme MacNiven — Effingham (Surrey), Stuart Townsend — Linlithgow.

The USGA and Gene Baston President of the GCSAA gave a clear warning that the courses that utilise the more extreme design features will shortly even in the USA price themselves out of the market — Baston making the plea that mowing one in one banks is at best **very** time consuming! Although it would seem that the funds of the US golfer are limitless with a round at Pebble Beach now costing £100, including compulsory buggy hire, and with the golfers going off every ten minutes there is a two month waiting list for a tee off time!

DISTRIBUTOR CLARIFICATION

Recent advertisements appearing in Greenkeeper regarding Weather-Matic and their distributorships may be misleading to customers of Watermation, who have been the

Weather-Matic distributor in the United Kingdom and Ireland for 16 years. Watermation wish to announce that they are still the Weather-Matic distributor and that a full range of Weather-Matic parts will continue to be available from Watermation at Monument Way East, Woking, Surrey (telephone: 04862 70303).

MOLES...

Again at the EIGGA conference the delegates learned a great deal about moles and their eradication. It would appear that amongst other attributes moles live in the dark are virtually blind, equipped with vicious claws and teeth, eat grubs as well as other moles and are likely to mate only once a year and then by taking a run at their partner of anything up to 800 yards. Perhaps its all they deserve.