Support grows for Education and Development Fund

Cash pours in to boost profession’s future

The Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund continues to grow. Former members of the British Golf Greenkeepers Association will be interested to note that the Trust fund established to administer the funds of the former Association has now been finally wound up by the Trustees and a second and final cheque paid into the Education and Development Fund. The fund has benefited thereby to the extent of £22,611.53 and this has provided a firm base for the new fund to move forward and further advance the status of the profession and standards of golf course management. Over the last five years the Trust Fund has been wisely administered by Alan Gamble, Ivor Scoones, Alan Kite and the late Water Heeles. The thanks of all members are due for their stewardship.

Following the report in the May magazine that Gordon Child and Norman Exley have become members of the Silver Key Circle, another Regional Administrator, Elliott Small has joined them in membership. It is particularly encouraging that Association members wish to support the new fund and we look forward to seeing Gordon, Norman and Elliott sporting their attractive silver key ties.

A donation of £1,000 has been received from the Golf Society of Great Britain. In expressing every good wish and encouragement for the Association’s work, the Golf Society is pledged to support the amateur game and, in pursuance of this sees the furtherance of the aims of the Association as highly appropriate. Neil Thomas, Executive Director comments: “This most welcome donation is further evidence of an increasing momentum within the game to support BIGGA’s aims and objectives. This donation follows a previous donation in 1991 and the Association’s Board of Management wishes to express its great appreciation to the Society.”

The Golf Society of Great Britain was founded in 1955 by the late Sir Aynsley Bridgland of Princes Golf Club and aims to promote goodwill and the interests of amateur golf. It is non-profit making and donates large sums to golf’s governing bodies towards international match expenses.

It is also most pleasing to report that the first donation has been received from one of BIGGA’s sections. A cheque for £200 was recently presented by the Scottish Region Central Section and BIGGA Vice-Chairman John Crawford, who is also Secretary of the Central Section, reports that the donation was made possible by the section setting up its own Education Fund a few years ago and that hopefully donations such as this can be continued in future years. Executive Director, Neil Thomas commented: “I am delighted at Central Section’s initiative and it is the support now forthcoming from our membership which will give a real boost to the fund. Contributing Regions and Sections will be presented with plaques in recognition of their support. The progress of the fund since its launch by our President, Viscount Whitelaw, at the BTME in January has exceeded my expectations and enhanced promotion and financing of educational programmes in the future now seems assured.”