Beyond dispute, the 'hottest ticket in town' for any golf event has to be those precious little holographed numbers produced each year for The Masters, tickets which cost just $100 for the whole week. Indeed, so precious have they become that a whole mini-industry erupts each year, with travel companies happy to pay hugely inflated prices in order that they may sell 'Masters Packages' which include air flights, Cadillac limo's, swanky hotels and champagne receptions on the lawns of some of Augusta's stately homes. Despite valiant and increasingly successful attempts by the Masters committee to bring transgressors to book, men have been known to cheat and lie for tickets, on occasions even ending up in jail by attempting to produce forgeries. How refreshing then, to discover that American golf course superintendents may enter Augusta National on production of a Class One membership card, whilst those superintendents engaged on the course during the tournament are invited to accompany, it's enlightening, heartening, and indicative of the high regard that such an exclusive body has for those who care for America's courses.

By contrast, the miserly administrators of the 1993 Ryder Cup have seen fit to snub our profession by refusing point blank to grant any concessions to British greenkeepers, though in a letter sent in answer to an official BIGGA request, a director was quick to point out that 'of course, all your members will be most welcome to purchase tickets'.

Murmurs of discontent are rumbling throughout the States where the exorbitant prices bandied around by hotels in and around Birmingham. Though tickets can be had, the preferred method of ticket sale appears to be the package (at prices starting around $1,300 without airfare), and American pro's are encouraged to earn sales commission by referring golfers through PGA Travel, the monopoly agency in America for the biennial matches. One such includes riding with the big-wigs on Concorde, invites to the opening and closing ceremonies, tickets that include VIP hospitality at the 18th and five star accommodation and luxury travel, all for a tag of - wait for it - just $13,000 per person! With that sort of obscene extravagance, it's no surprise that Britain's greenkeepers are left out in the cold. Frankly, I think the whole thing stinks!

It appears that I opened a fine bag of worms in April with the publication of 'Greens must not be spared', and though I did not share Mr Travers' views and indeed agonised over printing them, I decided that his comments deserved exposure, it's no surprise that Britain's greenkeepers are left out in the cold. Frankly, I think the whole thing stinks!

The fact that so many of you ask questions and refuse to take opinion as gospel truth is one that I find refreshing - keep those letters rolling, please.

DAVID WHITE

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A SHARE OF OUR £600 BTME '94 COMPETITION

BTME PRIZES ARE JUST THE TICKET!

THE FIRST THREE QUESTIONS

1. In our April issue's BTME Update we carried a letter of congratulation from a sales director of one of the industry's leading companies - what is his name?
2. In the BTME column in May, we introduced our new sales and marketing assistant with special responsibility for the BTME - what is her name?
3. In this month's BTME Update we indicate the number of promotional information packs which have already been sent to interested companies - how many?

Here's your chance to WIN your way to BTME '94!

Starting this month and every month until September, we will be posting a number of easy to answer questions. All you need to do is keep your answers handy and safe until our September BTME Update, which will have the final questions and details of where to send your entry.

There will be three winners. First prize will go to the sender of the correct answers, whose entry is drawn first from the hat. He or she will win:

• A single night's accommodation and a seat at all the seminars. Prize value: £100.
• Return rail travel, two night's accommodation and entry into ALL the educational seminar sessions. Prize value: £200.
• Return rail travel to the prestigious venue in Harrogate, three night's accommodation in a top class hotel and entry into ALL the educational seminar sessions. Prize value: £300.

The third entry drawn wins for the sender:

• A single night's accommodation and a seat at all the seminars. Prize value: £100.

Answer the first set of questions, left, hold on to your answers - and YOU could be a BTME winner!