BIGGA IN EUROPE - HOLLAND

On 28 October, ten BIGGA members met for their first official meeting, staged at De Hilversumsche, a club offering us a most hospitable welcome and the use of their fine tractor in the room.

According to the agenda of about eight points, the meeting began with an explanation of the present situation within BIGGA, and of course the future, especially the Association's desire to become more active internationally.

A 'Master Plan' for Europe was brought forward and a proposal was made urging members to travel to Harrogate for BTME '94 in order to attend the next European Forum, where all kinds of ideas and good intentions will be discussed. Hopefully, some of these will be put into practice within a reasonable time-span.

On the subject of raising 'live' matters amongst members, the meeting decided on the following: 1) what kind of relationship will there be between BIGGA Holland and the Netherlands Greenkeepers Association (NGA)? It must be made clear that this must be one of a positive and constructive nature. An invitation will be sent to the secretary of the NGA to meet and discuss such matters, whilst at the same time the Netherlands Golf Federation will be invited to meet BIGGA Holland members. Members will be kept up to date on these activities. We have agreed that our next meeting will take place in February 1994.

Further points discussed posed questions of 'how and when' sponsorship is going to be increased. It was decided that members here: 1) The position of the course manager/head greenkeeper. 2) The level of maintenance of Dutch courses. It became clear that on education and training, we in Holland might benefit from UK programmes which have already proved their value in Britain.

At the time scheduled the first meeting came to an end, though with many things requiring further thought and planning. In the bar we enjoyed a few drinks, sandwiches etc. BIGGA Holland has been lucky to find local sponsorship so quickly, provided by Pro-Grass (Professionals in Grass service). Pro-Grass managing director, Jan van Mondfrans, (a BIGGA member), will support this foreign section in the immediate future and we are most grateful for his kind gesture.

My personal thanks to Rob Judels, who has provided me with the notes taken by him, vitally necessary if I am to make a full report, which will most certainly find its way onto Neil Thomas's desk at Aldwark Manor.

FREDERICK ten HAGE

KENT

September 15 saw our Autumn Tournament at Langley Park, a day blessed by a fine morning, though a dull afternoon, and all a welcome change from the very wet weather we seem to have had of late. The morning Stableford competition was a hotly contested affair, with both Malcolm Arthurs and Brian Willmot (a hot-shot, Ian Rawlins. It appears he had to take his hot-shot, Ian Rawlins. It appears he had to take his}

CLEVELAND

At the time of writing (23 Sept), greenkeeping students on C&G block release courses have not received results from their previous year of work. This is unusual, normally the whole block is completed in a year. We can only hope that better improvements next year. Students should enrol without delay for new courses. This means pressure on colleges. A wet September meant irrigation finished earlier than usual here in Cleveland - and the swallows all disappeared. This is not unusual here in Cleveland - and the swallows all disappeared. This is not unusual here in Cleveland - and the swallows all disappeared. This is not unusual here in Cleveland - and the swallows all disappeared. This is not unusual here in Cleveland - and the swallows all disappeared. This is not unusual here in Cleveland - and the swallows all disappeared.

Acting as an assessor for candidates in the north east for the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year, I was very pleased to tell these young men and women that they would be expected to visit their golf courses. The interesting variations and superb conditions presented - from the north east to Cheshire and North Wales - indicated that applicants had worked hard on presentation, also on keeping records regarding pesticides, safety requirements and COSHH. Final decisions were made at the sheds, both