In reflecting on the wholly unwarranted attack by the EGU on BIGGA through the pages of ‘Amateur Golf’ magazine and wondering still on the motivation for which no explanation has yet been given, the statement that “BIGGA... have the support of grants and gifts from the turf grass industry, though not without certain 'strings'”, merits further comment. Traditionally greening has always enjoyed the support of companies within the industry and for many years this was at a local level and was reflected particularly in backing for section seminar programmes and prizes for golf tournaments. With the advent of BIGGA, it was inevitable that the nature of this support would change. In just a few years, companies found that they were now working closely with a large, professionally run Association which operated nationally and regionally as well as on a section basis. Companies continued to wish to support greening and the development of their profession but found there were now conflicting pressures at the respective levels of BIGGA. The Association for its part had no wish to see companies pressurised in this way and saw a need for consistency and fairness in its relations with companies working in the industry. After careful consideration, BIGGA’s Education and Development Fund was established in January 1992.

This fund enables those companies so wishing to join either the Golden or Silver Key circles, thereby enabling the development of BIGGA’s education and training programmes at national level.

Whilst eleven companies are currently taking this route, the Association is mindful of those companies who wish to continue with longstanding support at regional and section level, rather than nationally. This support continues to be much valued. The benefit of the Education and Development Fund to companies is that it provides equal recognition to all and that companies can clearly identify the educational and training projects on which their contributions are being spent. A meeting of Golden Key supporters was held at Aldwark Manor last October and set guidelines for the utilisation of company contributions. It was agreed that BIGGA’s Education Sub-Committee should determine spending priorities which would then be communicated to Golden/Silver Key supporters at two meetings each year. All Golden/Silver Key supporters are to be acknowledged for each and every spending programme whether or not they are specifically funding a particular programme. The com-

BIGGA Staff Profile
LOUISE LUNN Sales and Marketing Assistant

Louise was one of the driving forces behind this year’s BTME and had a chance to compare her role with her American counterpart when she went with the BIGGA delegation to the GCSAA show in Dallas. She says she loves working on the Exhibition—and work has already begun on the 1995 event. Louise moved to the Association from a family business, to further her career in sales and marketing. She has a degree in hotel management and institutional catering and worked in Switzerland for seven months as part of the course. Hobbies include travel and cooking and up to the age of 13, Louise was a keen ice skater. If things had turned out differently, maybe Great Britain might have picked up a gold at Lillehammer...
companies agreed that they were anxious to avoid overt commercialism whilst their contributions to the fund would continue to be acknowledged and their companies to be profiled.

The fund then is established on a sound basis. Last year saw the production of the first training video - 'Setting the Standard - In Spray Application' and the recent BTME saw the launching of the video 'Keeper of the Green - A Career in Golf Course Management'. Shortly BIGGA members will be provided with a pocket booklet on weeds, pests and diseases and plans are in hand for an environmental project during 1994. None of these developments would have been possible without the fund or, importantly, without company support of the fund. BIGGA enjoys a friendly, business-like relationship with all these companies, membership of the Golden/Silver Key circle brings practical benefits whilst the spending priorities of the fund are the subject of open discussion. It all seems a far cry from "gifts... though not without certain strings".

Another area of industry support which may not be commonly known is the BTME Steering Committee. This committee meets three times a year and fifteen companies are currently represented on it. The Committee over the last few years has been of inestimable value in planning and improving the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition, the success of which is due in no small measure to the spending priorities of the fund and the subject of open discussion. It all seems a far cry from "gifts... though not without certain strings".

Stalwart dies

Doris Plain, a familiar face at many regional tournaments, has died after a short illness. She accompanied her husband of 47 years, Bob (ex-head greenkeeper at Ellesmere Golf Club near Manchester. The 29-year-old replaces Andy Peel who has gone to Bull Bay GC after three and a half years at Ellesmere. The category one golfer takes over there from Deric Carter who has retired after 28 years at the Anglesey course.

Open invitation

Members wishing to be considered for the greenkeeping support team at the 123rd Open Championship at Turnberry, July 14-17, should forward their name and address to Samantha Collins (Sami) at BIGGA HQ as soon as possible. Preference will be given to members who will be able to attend from Wednesday July 13-Sunday July 17 inclusive.

The players will be competing for a purse of £1.1 million - that's £100,000 more than last year. First prize is up by £10,000 to £110,000.

Radio 5 will be broadcasting special preview programmes and phone-ins as well as live commentary from all four days.