Developing the Regional Administrator's role

It is a pleasure this month to welcome Derek Farrington as BIGGA’s Part Time Regional Administrator in the South East Region. Derek is recently retired from his role as Manager of the Surrey County Staff Club which is unique in local government and provides recreational, social and conference facilities for staff of Surrey County Council, Royal Borough of Kingston, Kingston University and Kingston College. Prior to this he had been employed as a Principal Management Services Officer. Derek has settled in Worthing in West Sussex and now sees golf taking over from cricket as his main interest. He is currently a member of Coombe Wood Golf Club, Kingston. I wish him well in his new role and he will soon become a familiar figure to our South East Region members. In writing of Derek’s appointment, it seems an opportune moment to reflect on the developing role of the Regional Administrator. Back in 1987 when the regional and section structures were established, the appointment of five Regional Administrators was considered essential in order to ensure the efficacy of administration at regional level. Funding was extremely limited and the call went out for volunteers. These were soon forthcoming and in the intervening years, although personnel have changed from time to time, these posts have proved significant in ensuring the smooth running of the Association. As the Association has many regions as well as with Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers and their staff. Allied to this is the need at regional level to implement membership drives to meet the present day needs of our members. In a gradual, phased movement to “employee” rather than “volunteer” posts, the Board of Management’s philosophy has centred very much on the need to establish lines of communication with all golf clubs in the Regions as well as with Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers and their staff. Allied to this is the need at regional level to implement membership drives to increase the Association’s membership. The Regional Administrator will have a clearly defined role in promoting the welfare of the individual member who in turn will be encouraged through his/her section to contact the...
Regional Administrator when a need arises. While the Regional Administrator will have an administrative and organisational role to fulfil in his Region, there will be an emphasis on personal contact with the individual member and importantly with the golf club through the Chairman of Green and Secretary. BIGGA's role will become better understood in golf clubs while there should be discernible benefits for greenkeepers' professional development particularly in terms of support from within clubs for educational and training programmes. The Regional Administrator will need time and there will be large geographical areas to be covered but he will have a key role in the further development of both BIGGA and its members interests.

As I have stated, the Board of Management has embarked on a phased programme of implementing "employee" as opposed to "volunteer" Regional Administrator posts. Subject to financial considerations, the Board of Management has set a target date of 1st October 1997 to establish such posts in all five regions but, in a phased programme, the timing of the remaining appointments will be line with the wishes of the individual Regional Boards and the prevailing circumstances in those regions. In conclusion, the work of the Regional Administrators and their contribution to BIGGA, both current and past post holders, since 1987 needs to be recognised. These are members who have given freely of their time to promote the best interests of their Association. In doing so, they have had to balance their Association's demands and their full time roles as golf club employees. It has not been easy and I thank them for their unceasing efforts which have contributed in a substantial way to the strong, professional association which they and their fellow members can enjoy and participate in today which is well set to meet the challenges of the future.

New MD for Ransomes

Jeremy Hockham, pictured, has been appointed Managing Director of Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies Ltd.

Given direct responsibility for managing and developing the people, programmes and business prospects at Ransomes' Ipswich site, Mr Hockham's appointment will enable Ransomes Group Chief Executive, Peter Wilson, to direct closer attention towards other parts of the business, as Ransomes continues to seek and implement cost and efficiency improvements both in Britain and overseas.

Gaining a First Class Honours Degree in Engineering at Brunel University and an MSc in Robotics and Automated Systems from Imperial College, London, Mr Hockham has appropriate previous experience at British Aerospace and the Chloride Group. Aged 35, he is married with two young daughters.

Greenkeeper moves on

Headland Amenity has appointed former greenkeeper Jim Darling as its northern amenity manager.

Jim, pictured, will service the amenity sector in Scotland, Cumbria and the North East of England providing expert technical advice to greenkeepers and turf managers in the area. He will also service the existing Headland Amenity distributorship within the region.

Formerly a sales representative for Vitax, Jim is a qualified greenkeeper and has been head keeper at a number of well-known courses. His main hobby is golf.

ISO 9000

In last month's Greenkeeper International it was stated that "Toro has been awarded the prestigious ISO 9000 certification for international quality consistency at its US manufacturing plant in Wisconsin. It is the first commercial turfcare equipment manufacturer to receive the designation."

Kim Macle, Sales and Marketing Director of Hayter would like to point out that in the UK, BS 5750 was the forerunner to ISO 9000 and those accredited with this standard were therefore also accredited with ISO 9000 when this became the recognised international standard. Hayter achieved BS 5750 in January 1993 and, as stated, subsequently became recognised under ISO 9000.

News from Headquarters is that Ken Richardson has been sacked from his role of part-time news gatherer at Hayter Section events for failing to inform the Editor of the strip pergramme that "did her stuff" attended the 4th green at Sene Valley in Kent. Worse still he didn't even take any pictures.

Anyone wishing to replace Ken and provide such titbits of information at future Hayter events should contact the Editor.