PAT SUCCEEDS DEAN AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION

The BIGGA Annual General Meeting held in the Majestic Hotel on the Wednesday of BTME week was the occasion for Dean Cleaver formerly to hand over the Chairmanship of the Association to Pat Murphy.

As BIGGA chalked up 10 years since its formation the AGM was an opportunity for Executive Director Neil Thomas to report on a successful year in the run up to the 10th anniversary and outline what the coming year has in store while the Association’s first Chairman Walter Woods spoke on where the Association had come from and his pride at how it has developed.

Walter then took up his place as a Guardian of the Association, replacing the retiring Bill Lawson, alongside the other Guardian, Brian Gilbert of the R&A.

Gordon Child, of the South West and South Wales Region, became Vice Chairman of the Association, replacing the retiring Barry Heaney, 96 Past Chairman, and Harry Diamond, of Scotland, retired from the Board of Management to be replaced by Robin Greaves, of the South West and South Wales, and Jim Paton, of Scotland.

The response to Pattisson’s 100/100 Club was exceptionally good at the Show. The Club was conceived to celebrate Pattisson’s 100th anniversary and provide 100 golf clubs with £100 to put towards BTME or a BIGGA training course.

To encourage 100/100 Club members to visit the Pattisson stand the 25th, 50th and 75th member to make an appearance received a gift. The lucky three members were 25th Derek Neave, of Brough GC, Hull; 50th Ian Beech, of Newcastle Under Lyme GC and 75th, Doug Fernie, of Epsom GC. They each received a Ryder Cup presentation box produced by Pattisson’s sister company. Doug is pictured receiving his gift from Northern Area Sales Manager Peter Marshall.

The first ever AGM of the Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Associations (FEGGA) was held in the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate during BTME.

A measure of the progress made since a meeting was held at the same time the previous year to look at the possibilities of forming such a Federation can be made by the fact that over 50 attended the AGM and 12 of the 16 affiliated National Associations were represented.

A wide ranging discussion covered the annual membership fee and the need to assist smaller associations and the agreement on the constitution.

It was also agreed that the interim Board elected at an earlier meeting remain in position for another year until the Federation has established itself.

Member Associations are Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Northern Ireland, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland while later during BTME a representative from Portugal indicated the desire of his National Association to join.

The picture shows the FEGGA Board. L-R Roland Favrø, Elise Jarvenen, Per-Olof Ljung, Vice Chairman, Dean Cleaver, Chairman and Claus-Detlef Ratjen.