The key to success

At the end of March I had the pleasure of attending the North West seminar at Mere Golf & Country Club in Cheshire. The day was organised by my old friend Bert Cross. Bert and I go back a long way, to our army days, both serving in the Kings Regiment in Korea in the early 1950s. So we had much to talk about over dinner the night before and very enjoyable it was too. The seminar had to be good to match the luxurious venue, and so it proved to be. The papers given by all the speakers were excellent, discussing new courses from Scotland to Saudi Arabia, although I prefer the Scottish version to the desert where golf just doesn’t seem right. They were all very interesting. There were also papers on nutritional values and pest control which gave the day a nice balance. The attendance of about 100 delegates, many of whom were trade people, must have been gratifying to Bert and his committee, but sent a clear message to the greenkeepers who did not turn out. You don’t know what you’re missing! A message which seems to echo many educational events.

Why are we greenkeepers so backward at coming forward? When it comes to education it always seems to be the same 10 to 20% who attend and want to learn. Every greenkeeper has a duty to him or herself to keep up to date with the ever changing trend of our industry. We may have been to college recently or in the distant past, but no one will ever know it all and as professional people we owe it to our clubs to keep in constant touch with what’s going on.

BIGGA run management courses both at Aldwark and out in the regions along with a National Conference, workshops and BTME seminar programmes, plus on your doorstep the sections and regions run their own educational events just for our benefit, all of which take a lot of time and effort to organise. Why is it such a small percentage attend?

Education is the key to success. All we need to do is look around us and see how many excellent young greenkeepers have taken this route to bigger, better and higher profile jobs, but they have had to work at it. It’s worth remembering that success only comes before work in one place and the vacancies will soon be filled. Also moving away, and Karen are doing a good job. Now Emma, who is the assistant to the Membership Services Officer and Amanda from advertising, Tracey Maddison who I am sure will deserve your support, they certainly have mine, so if you think you can beat me, have a go.

The staff at HQ have just gone through a period of change. Last month we reported the sad loss of Janet, our Membership Services Officer and Amanda from advertising. Janet’s post has been filled by Tracey Maddison who I am sure will do a good job. Now Emma, who is also moving away, and Karen are both leaving our employment, but I can assure you all that there is a good and sound morale within HQ and the vacancies will soon be filled.

On a happier note our new building is coming along very well and we can look to completion with a great deal of pride and excitement.