It is with a little trepidation that I write this, my first column, as Chairman of BIGGA. Although I have been involved with Greenkeeper Associations in one way or another for many years, to be invited to be Vice Chairman and ultimately Chairman of BIGGA came as a bit of a shock.

However, after much thought and discussion with my wife and my Green Convener I was delighted to accept and it was a very special moment for me on delivering the Chairman’s Blazer for the year 2000. I am very much aware of the great honour and responsibility bestowed on me and I will do my utmost to carry out my duties as your Chairman as efficiently and professionally as my predecessors.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to Gordon Child for inviting me to be his Vice Chairman and also to congratulate him on his most successful term as Chairman, especially in dealing with some difficult developments in that time. I also wish to thank Tulliallan Golf Club Council, who have given me 100% support to enable me to take on what I know is a very busy year as well as many of you as possible during the year.

The history of Greenkeeper’s Associations over the last century can be a bit vague. I have a photograph of a gathering of greenkeepers in Edinburgh in 1904/5 and we know there was a meeting held in Broxburn, West Lothian in 1908 to form a Scottish Greenkeepers Association. In 1912, the Golf Greenkeepers Association was formed in England. Unfortunately a lot of the early records in Scotland were destroyed in a fire so information is thin on the records in Scotland were destroyed in a fire so information is thin on the records in Scotland were destroyed in a fire so information is thin on the records. In 1935 GGA changed their title to SGGA. In 1972 SGGA became SIGGA with their 100 years and thank us for all the hard work and hopefully, forecast. I wish you all good weather for 2000.

Elliott Small
National Chairman