News from the Chief Executive

By the time you read this column news will have got around about the appointment of Clive Osgood as the Regional Administrator for the South East Region.

Clive was one of four candidates short-listed for interview in mid-September following a rather protracted recruitment process. Until earlier this year he was Course Manager at Walton Heath Golf Club in Surrey, a position he had held for many years.

He is also a past Chairman of BIGGA (2001) and is well known to many, both within the Region and elsewhere. I am sure his enthusiasm for BIGGA, his passion for greenkeeping and the respect that he commands will set him off to a good start in his newly chosen career.

He will be working from home and full contact details for Clive will be announced in next month's issue of Greenkeeper International once a business telephone line has been installed. Meanwhile should you need to contact him then this can be done through Headquarters.

The search for a Regional Administrator for South Wales and the South West Region continues at the time of writing although a few CVs have now been received and will be considered at the regional board meeting on September 20.

Hopefully this will result in an appointment in the not too distant future. In the interim period the affairs of both Regions have been administered through Headquarters with help from members in the respective Region. The fact that it has been 'business as usual' is a credit to those few unsung heroes who seem always ready to rally together. They know who they are!

The Association's financial year-end is September 30 and the management accounts to July 31 showed that we are ahead of budget, hopefully this trend will be carried through into August and September. In what has been a difficult year on many fronts I would like to thank everyone at Headquarters for their support and their determination to progress the Association.

During the month I was pleased to be able to send a cheque for £9,188.06 to St Michael's Hospice, Harrogate, in respect of the surplus from the golf day held in memory of Neil Thomas. It is proposed that this is an annual event in aid of this worthy cause.

I would like to remind Sections that it is also their year-end at the end of September and that, in accordance with the Constitution, Section accounts should be submitted to the Regional Administrator by October 31 having been approved by an AGM.

Many Sections are looking for help on their committee or help running specific events. If you feel you can spare a few hours, even on an ad hoc basis, then I would ask you to give it serious consideration. It does not have to be too onerous and there is always plenty of assistance on offer from the Regional Administrator and Headquarters.

To avoid any doubt I would like to clarify that the position of Regional Administrator is that of a permanent member of the Headquarters staff and as such their salary and all employment and administrative costs are paid for out of central headquarters.

In talking with members there seems to be some confusion over the role of the Futures Committee and its powers. This committee was set up with the specific aim of looking at the future of BIGGA through the eyes of a cross section of members, with a view to making suggestions on development and improvement of the Association to the Board of Management.

The committee has no power to force issues or make policy or management decisions and is ably chaired by Elliott Small who was the Association's Chairman in the year 2000. Details of the current committee can be found in the recently distributed member's handbook and this group forms another medium through which you can express your own ideas.

In hope in any event all members feel able to approach Headquarters staff at any time, the Board of Management or their own Regional Board members.

Next month I will be able to report on the progress of BTME and Clubhouse and the outcome of the September steering committee meeting that includes exhibitor representatives.

Having spoken to several industry representatives at SALTEX there is still concern in some quarters about the number and frequency of trade shows in the UK. Our show is vital to the future of your Association and the future of greenkeeping, please give it your maximum support.

John Pemberton