Chairman's Column

Looking to Youth

One of my first duties as Chairman was to represent our Association at the recent world summit in Atlanta with our Chief Executive, John Pemberton, and Deputy Chief Executive and Training Manager, Ken Richardson. The world summit has representatives from the following Associations: Asian Golf Course Owner, Canadian Superintendents, Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers, Superintendents Association of America, Superintendents of Ireland, Swedish Greenkeepers Association, Australian Superintendents, and German Golf Greenkeepers.

This annual event was held in Harrogate in 2005 and will be held in Sweden next year. The purpose of the summit is to share information and ideas between Associations globally. This has led to a collective agreement on global environmental guidelines and efforts. The working draft has identified that all golf courses worldwide must protect and enhance their environmental resources to protect the wonderful game of golf.

Course Managers globally have a major role to play as Course Managers are at the centre of all the necessary efforts to protect the environment: Water management, turf and pest management, energy and waste management, design and construction and wildlife and habitat management.

Also the summit agreed a worldwide draft job description for course managers that can be adapted to each country. If you would like more information please contact Ken Richardson at BIGGA HOUSE.

During my first two months of chairmanship many people have asked me what are my goals for the Association in 2006. First and foremost I intend to Chair our Association with dignity and pride, like all the Chairman have done before me. Also I intend to support our staff who, like many greenkeepers from time to time, come under unfair criticism. Where actions do need to be taken I can ensure you that the Chief Executive will take the necessary action. So come on lads and lassies lets get behind our team.

As many of you will be aware I have been involved in our Association from the start serving on Section Committee as Chairman and Secretary and on the region and national boards.

Chairman

Richard Whyman