COMING into a new and exciting post in a thriving industry, has already proven a revelation to me. In this, my first editorial for Greenkeeping Management I would like to set out my aims and objectives to you, the members.

First and foremost, Greenkeeping Management is your magazine – it’s a point I cannot emphasise strongly enough.

Without members’ kind help and support a fair and accurate reflection of views cannot be given. So put pen to paper or pick up the telephone and COMMUNICATE. I’ll always be keen to talk and take on board all the major issues affecting greenkeepers today. I know from my relatively short time in the post just how many factors influence members’ lives. There are pluses and minuses in all jobs and I intend to highlight both in the months ahead, which brings me to my second point.

I see the magazine as playing a vital campaigning role. There are many anomalies and much injustice in the way members are treated and regarded within the industry.

Attitude and conditions need to change and change fast. Some clubs must be dragged, kicking and screaming if necessary into the twenty-first century and made to adopt a more professional approach to their treatment of greenkeeping staff.

This has to be reflected across the board. In conditions of work, training, resources but perhaps above all in PAY.

I find it hard to believe how clubs can expect staff to survive on the miserable pittance many serve up. It is a tribute to those people who work so hard in our courses are not to be permanently destroyed by the insistence of members on using facilities to excess. Greenkeeping Management is determined to lead the battle on contentious issues. But extra ammunition is so vital. You the members can provide it – get in touch. Working together we can change things for the better. Happy mowing!

PS. I have had several complaints about members not receiving their copy of Greenkeeping Management. Obviously this is unacceptable and I am looking at our distribution service to see if the fault lies with us. However, I would ask anyone, not receiving their magazine to contact their local post office and complain. The more complaints received the less likely the post office is to ignore grievances.