If the success or failure of exhibitions and trade shows is based solely on attendance and their continuance based on their recognition as an essential market place, then ETME 2 was the former.

Official attendance was announced as 4,062 which proved to be a significant increase over the first show. Despite inclement weather with gales lashing the South and snow drifting into Northern areas, the trade were generally happy with the turnout.

Many companies expressed satisfaction with the level of enquiries and the quality of audience. Indeed more than several also participated in the social programme including the magically cold mystery tour which preceded the medieval banquet within the fortified walls of old York City.

The standard of exhibit presentation was noticeably professional and consistently good. And, now that the Association has taken over ownership of the exhibition from George Wright, there is increased confidence in its future. Preliminary indications are that interest from Europe and possibly the US, there will be a marked increase in demand for space next January. Indeed hall C has been earmarked.

The green/tee area sponsored by Inturf and ICI Advanced Turf Systems added colour and interest to Hall B.

Michael Bonallack, Secretary to the Royal and Ancient golf club in opening the exhibition confirmed further substantial support for the Association which we understand will be substantial. His speech paid generous tribute to the hard work of Neil Thomas, the Association's Executive Director, and the tremendous progress of the past 3 years. The exhibition also marked the occasion of the launch of the R & A and Nature Conservancy Council backed publication On Course Conservation provided by The Golf Course Wildlife Trust.

Many new products were on show and as many will confirm there were some very prominent and exciting buyers and visitors at the show including Mr "Metrocentre" John Hall. John, who has planning per-

Eric Hughes . . . on safari.

Michael Bonallack and BIGGA Chairman Paddy McCarron on Golf Course Wildlife Trust Stand.

Enquiries about the 1991 show should be addressed to Debbie Savage. Exhibition Manager, BIGGA HQ, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York Y06 2NF. Tel. 03473 58112.

UP PERISCOPE

PRIZE for joker of the show must surely go to Inturf's Derek Edwards.

Derek, who sponsored the putting green and tee areas in Hall B, spotted a golden opportunity for the installation of a retractable pin.

On the first day, John Shildrick of the National Turfgrass Council was observed scratching his head as the pin complete with flag disappeared down the cup. Next day Dr Peter Haynes was vic-

Some lesser mortals were complimenting Derek on marketing a new perisopic pneumatic pin while others were trying to purchase a potential terrific practical joke.

Derek, pictured above, explained to GM that the "secret" was simple. 'We put our little man in the basement, using the electrical conduit hole, to control all the fun', said Derek, barely unable to disguise yet another laugh.

Commenting on the show, Derek said, 'Inturf were very happy with the show and impressed with the presentation of the surrounding stands, including BIGGA, the International Golfers Club, Greenkeeping Management and The Golf Course Wildlife Trust.'