Perceptions of BIGGA membership

BY NEIL THOMAS

I recently attended a meeting in Bury St Edmunds where some 50 greenkeepers had gathered to consider the formation of a new Essex Section.

It was a meeting where the situation was complicated by the fact that many of those present who were interested in joining the proposed new section were currently members of the long established East Anglia Section. In a wide-ranging discussion it was clear that the arguments had been well thought out and that members attending had come prepared and done their homework. I was impressed with the concerns expressed by those present, whatever position they were taking in the debate, to ensure that the best interests of the Association and particularly the East Anglia Section were served. There was no friction but much understanding. The outcome was a decision to proceed with the formation of an Essex Section which will become operative following the East Anglia Section’s AGM in November.

Certain members currently serving on the East Anglia Committee will step down at the AGM with a view to taking up places on the new Essex Committee. They in turn will need to be replaced and a letter has been sent to all East Anglia members making them aware of the situation well in advance of the AGM. It is essential that two viable, forward looking sections emerge from the changes and I believe that there is enough commitment from members to ensure that this will happen. The East Anglia Section will become more compact and hopes to align itself with a local college for the future benefit of its members. The Essex Section has a considerable potential membership and again will seek a close relationship with a local college. Here then are examples of member enthusiasm, commitment and a will to take the Association forward at local levels.

Decisions to form new sections are not taken lightly, for the failure of a new section would not reflect well on the Association. Indeed since 1987, the Essex Section has a considerable potential membership and again will seek a close relationship with a local college. Here then are examples of member enthusiasm, commitment and a will to take the Association forward at local levels.

We SAY

Bill Hawbourn, Chairman and founder of Watermation, seen here shaking hands with Mr. Sander Van Gelder, owner of the prestigious Vale do Lobo Course in the Algarve, on the signing of the contract to provide automatic irrigation to the new Royal Course, which is presently under construction and expected to be finished this autumn. The Royal Course has been created on new land adjoining the existing nine holes of the Yellow Course which itself has undergone updating and reconstruction. Great care has been taken by the architect however to retain the famous “cliff top” hole which has been in play now for over 30 years. It was decided to replace the irrigation on these original nine holes and design a completely new 18 hole system for the greens, tees, and fairways. This comprehensive scheme will require over 800 sprinklers throughout the course.

The irrigation system will have all the latest technology from Watermation including the TW2 irrigation controller complete with remote control operating in conjunction with PC central control. The sprinklers are the Watermation GR2 and GR3 models.