

SINCE the last UPDATE there has been a great deal of activity within the Association and I think it fair to say that members are becoming much more aware of developments and progress. The five Regional Meetings have provided the impetus to move forward. Many of the suggestions and points of concern at these meetings had a common theme and the exchange of views not only between Section representatives and myself, but also amongst the Section representatives themselves was a positive and encouraging for the future. The matters arising at these meetings were considered in detail by the Regions Sub-Committee at its meeting on 10th November and a number of important decisions were made. I will be writing to the Section Secretaries with details of the Sub/Committee decisions and also decisions arising from the Board of Management meeting that day. Whilst it is anticipated that the majority of decisions will have a general approval within the Sections, inevitably some Sections will face re-adjustment from existing practices and procedures but the difficulties should not prove insurmountable.

The Association is aiming to establish five strong Regions and to this end there has been a re-adjustment of Sections within Regions to that originally anticipated. Mid Anglia and



Bucks/Berks/Oxon Sections will move for regional purposes to Midland and North Wales Region, whilst South Coast Section will move to South West and South Wales Region. This will create a much better balance of Sections to Regions, ie. Scottish - 5, Northern England - 5, Midland and North Wales - 5, South East - 5, South West and South Wales - 4. In time it is hoped that expansion will allow for creation of further Sections and the Board will seek to maintain the balance now established.

Regional administration is going to be most important and to this end Regional Administrators will be appointed in all Regions. To date four appointments have been made:-

<b>Scottish</b>	-	<b>Chris Kennedy</b>
<b>Northern</b>	-	<b>David Golding</b>
<b>South East</b>	-	<b>Norman Exley</b>
<b>South West and South Wales</b>	-	<b>Gordon Childs</b>

It is anticipated that an appointment for Midland and North Wales Region will be announced shortly. The delay has been caused by the movement of Sections outlined above and the need for consultations. In the meantime, Paddy McCarron will act in a co-ordinating role.

It has been agreed that Section Annual General Meetings will normally be held in November,

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## the Golf Course

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with Regional representatives nominated by Sections in January to form the Regional Board for the ensuing year. To get matters off the ground Sections should hold AGM's by mid-January where they have not already been held and nominate their two Regional representatives as the first full meetings of the Regional Boards will be held during the last two weeks of January and Subsequently in April, July and October.

Members need to note an important diary date - Wednesday 23rd March at 2.00 pm, the first **Annual General Meeting of the Association** will be held at the Royal York Hotel. This is situated immediately adjacent to the main Railway Station in York. Both road and rail networks to York are good and as a mid-point the choice of location seems fair to members in general. Following the AGM, Regions will be asked for their nominations for the Board of Management for the ensuing year and the first meeting of the new Board will take place towards the end of April.

To establish a co-ordinated approach to developments and procedures within the Association and to ensure the viability of the structure outlined above, I will hold regular meetings with the Regional Administrators. The first will be held in the near future and subsequent meetings will take place following the quarterly meetings of the Regional Boards. When necessary, I will attend meetings of Regional Boards to deal with specific issues or concerns.

#### **NATIONAL TOURNAMENT 1988**

I referred to the National Tournament in the last UPDATE and I can now advise members that the Board, having considered all relevant aspects, has decided that a National Tournament/International Conference will take place in Ayrshire, week commencing 25th September, 1988.

This will be based on the Ayr Belleisle Course and detailed planning is underway. The combined event is likely to be over a five day period. Members should make a note of the date and full details will be made available as soon as possible. Section Secretaries should let me know at an early date of members interested in attending.

#### **UNIFORM**

Details of the Association's approved uniform have now been finalised following Board of Management approval.

The official navy blue blazer will be available at a cost of £55.50 inclusive of VAT (to include a wire blazer badge embroidered directly onto the patch pocket). This will produce a much better appearance than an 'off the shelf' blazer with a badge sewn on. However, it is appreciated that members may wish to utilise their current blazers in the first instance and to this end a blazer badge will also be available at a cost of £6.60. The blazer will be available in sizes from 34 short to 52 long, in short, regular and long fittings. There will be a 10% increase in price for sizes 48 to 52. Slacks will be left to individual purchase, but the official colour will

be light grey.

Sweaters to include official motif are available either in lambswool at £16.95 plus VAT or in pure new wool at £13.95 plus VAT. All normal sizes can be catered for and there is a full colour range. Pure new wool slippers are available at £12.95 plus VAT (sizes 36" to 48") whilst sports shirts can be provided at £10.95 plus VAT - both with motif.

Finally the Association's official tie is available at a price of £3.26 plus VAT.

Normal delivery dates are 12-15 weeks from placing of order and members are asked to indicate their requirements as soon as possible. Orders, with size, quantity, fitting and colour as appropriate, should be placed *via your Section Secretary* and NOT direct to headquarters.

#### **OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP 1988**

Planning is well underway from the Association's point of view. As usual, there will be the Greenkeeper Marquee available. It has been agreed that 60 Greenkeepers will be provided to carry out bunker raking duties and that this will be an ongoing annual commitment. Accommodation arrangements have been made locally for those greenkeepers undertaking bunker raking duties who do not live in close proximity to the course. Greenkeepers interested in participating should apply to their Section Secretaries by 31st December. The Regional Administrators will subsequently co-ordinate applications and if these exceed the 60 required, there will be a regional allocation of places and a decision will be taken on the basis of selection within Regions. Members should note that the North West Section will be providing the organising committee for the Open Championship

#### **SCOTSTURF**

I enjoyed my visit to the Royal Highland Showground and met a number of members for the first time. I found both Greenkeepers and Trade Members optimistic for the future. The show itself was well-organised and benefits from the indoor facilities available. Thanks are due in particular to John Crawford for organising BIGGA's stand and to Elliott Small for his work on the day.

#### **MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE 1988**

The Board of Management has now given approval to the 1988 Membership Package and Categories of Membership. Application forms appear elsewhere in this issue for (a) New Greenkeeper members and (b) Trade and Associate Members. Current greenkeeper members should **NOT** apply on these forms as they will be invoiced separately at the beginning of January. Forms for new greenkeeper members should be forwarded to Headquarters without any payment. They will then be distributed to Sections for consideration and, upon acceptance, Section Secretaries will need to advise Headquarters Office whereupon the new member will be invoiced for his subscription.

#### **Categories**

The Board has given approval to the following categories for the year 1st Jan - 31st Dec 1988:-

**A.1. Full Greenkeeper Member £25. + VAT = £28.75**

**2. 18 years and under £12.50+VAT = £14.38**

**B.1. Associate Member £25. + VAT = £28.75**

**2. Associate Member including subscription to 'the Golf Course' for 1 year £43. + VAT = £49.45**

**C.1. Trade Member £30. + VAT = £34.50**

**2. Trade Member including subscription to 'the Golf Course' for 1 year £48. + VAT = £55.20**

There will be no local/regional membership categories. Those joining nationally in the Trade and Associate categories will be given first consideration in terms of participation in and attendance at BIGGA functions, e.g. conferences, seminars and tournaments, and will of course be able to use their membership on a national basis. For those Trade and Associate members who joined prior to 1st January, their current membership runs to 31st December, 1988.

#### **THE MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE**

What then will members be getting for their subscription? The Board believes that it is putting forward a strong package, containing benefits which greenkeepers have not previously enjoyed:-

(i) Legal Advice:-

This is a continuation of the Scheme implemented from 1st October this year. Using his Legal Advice Card telephone number, a member can obtain legal advice and discuss his problem with the Legal Protection Group's staff, who will advise him how best to proceed. A major advantage of the Scheme is that its benefits are automatically extended to each individual eligible member's immediate family - this being defined as the member's spouse and any children or relatives permanently residing with the member.

(ii) Employment Cover:-

As an extension to the Legal Advice Service, this most important benefit has been negotiated for members. This benefit can be split in two, i.e.:-

(i) Employment Defence Cover:-

This section covers the defence by a member of any claim or legal proceedings brought against the individual concerned arising out of, or in the course of, his employment. This category of cover is particularly significant in the light of current legislation where, although a firm may be cited in an action, an individual employee can also be held responsible, even though he was acting in good faith on behalf of his employers.

(ii) Employment Pursuit:-

This is the other side of the coin; the pursuit of a claim by an eligible member arising out of his employment. For example, a member might want to institute proceedings in a dispute arising out of unfair or wrongful dismissal. In such circumstances, the service provided would take the case through to Industrial Tribunal stage and beyond if necessary. In short, a greenkeeper will no longer be left to his own devices when in an employment dispute.

This cover is provided on the basis of a £5,000 'ceiling' per case and is subject to on a £20.00 excess per claim. On this basis, members will be securing an extremely valuable service -

without the cover costs in such circumstances would be exorbitant and beyond the means of most.

(iii) Personal Accident Cover:-

This cover, arranged through Fenchurch Northern Group will provide capital sums under the following heads:-

1. Death - £5,000

2. Loss of use of one or more limbs or eyes - £5,000

3. Permanent total disablement lasting 104 weeks at the end of which being beyond hope of improvement - £5,000.

However, a most attractive feature of the negotiated scheme will enable members suffering temporary total disablement in excess of seven days to receive weekly income of £25 for a maximum of 104 weeks.

Also, it will be possible for members to purchase additional units at their own cost within the scheme and pamphlet incorporating an application form will be made available upon payment of subscription.

In negotiation with Fenchurch Northern, the Association is attempting to provide for members access to a comprehensive range of benefits including pensions and private medical benefits. An article on pensions is included in this issue, whilst discussions are continuing on private medical benefits.

(iv) Benevolent Fund:-

A fund will be created which will allow for payments to members suffering particular hardships. Applications will be made to Section Secretaries and, if approved by the Section, will be forwarded to Headquarters for consideration by the General Purposes Subcommittee. Sums will be allocated on an individual basis depending on Circumstances.

(v) In addition to a Membership Card, each member will receive a car badge sticker with the official logo and BIGGA golf bag tag.

(vi) Section Secretaries will be provided with supplies of tee pax - each containing eight tees two ball markers and a pitch repairer, all with BIGGA identification. These will be handed to members participating in various Section tournaments throughout the year.

(vii) The subscription allows for a 15% return per member to his Section for purposes of Section funding and will also allow for payments to be made to both Section Secretaries and Regional Administrators for all the work they will be involved in throughout the year.

(viii) A point which is often forgotten by greenkeeper members is that payment of subscription entitles a member to ten copies a year of the Association's official publication 'the Golf Course'. The cost to a private subscriber is £18 a year.

One final point, it is essential that subscriptions are paid without delay as not only will the above benefits not apply until payment is received, but these benefits have been purchased PRIOR to receipt of subscriptions and in terms of the Association's cash flow it is essential that there is no delay in receipt of membership fees.

### SHOOT OUT BIRDIE FOR BRUCE

IN a thrilling finish to the Jacobsen National Greenkeepers Tournament, Gerald Bruce playing off a handicap of 4 birdied the first hole in a sudden death play off on the testing Hunstanton links to win himself a trip to the United States.

Three players tied on 36 pts after the regulation 18 hole final, in which area winners from all parts of the country and sections of BIGGA took part. Instead of the normal countback, the prizes were sorted out in a play off, with Alan Paterson (2nd) and Andrew Toomey (3rd).

The winner had an edge over the other contestants for until recently he was assistant to Hunstanton's Head Greenkeeper James Reed.

Needless to say the course was in fine condition with fast greens. Not surprisingly the majority of the equipment at Hunstanton is Jacobsen a coincidence not lost on the competitors.

All the contestants were well looked after by their hosts, with first class accommodation and an enjoyable meal in the clubhouse, after the tournament during which Chris Smith, Jacobsen's UK Manager presented the prizes.

#### Finalists:-

Raymond Day, Chris Kennedy, Arthur Williamson, Allister Connal, Elliot Small, Alan Paterson, Gerald Aycliffe, John Lawton, Paul Loffman, Peter Woodward, Jim Russell, Ian McMillan, Chris Jones, D. Searles, Steve Mason, G. Plain, H. Middlebrook, S. Wooley, R. Wood, R. Plain, S. Wood, Gerald Bruce, David Lucas, Mr. Richardson, Andrew Peal, Mike Wilson, John Hoplains, Peter Howard, R. Willars, M. Danvers, David Collins, C. Marvin, A. Toomey.



Chris Smith of Jacobsen congratulates Winner Gerald Bruce

### BIGGA JOINS NTC

September's NTC business meeting saw the unanimous acceptance of the British and International Golf Greenkeeper's Association's application to join the Council and seek representation on its main body.

Howard Swan, NTC Chairman, commented "I am delighted that the new greenkeeping association has decided to join all the industry's other bodies on the Council and to show its support for us in our growing role as the umbrella organisation. I understand that in the short time BIGGA has been formed it has attracted almost 2,000 members, without trade involvement, which is remarkable achievement worthy of much congratulation. With such strength behind it, and under Executive Director Neil Thomas, I look forward to BIGGA's contribution to the future working of the NTC, which will be of important significance".



Standing: Philip Wentworth (North Hants GC), Richard Barker (Longcliffe GC), Mike Sheehan (Capt) (Mere G&CC), Ivan Toon (Moor Hall GC) Sitting: Edwin West (Broadstone GC), Ray Howlett (Cheshunt GC), Melvin Guy (South Leeds GC), Neil Whittaker (Woburn GC).

IN this years **Kubota Golf Challenge** on October 12th and 13th at the Belfry, the greenkeepers swept all before them, for their third successive victory.

Young and fit, for the most part, they brushed aside the less athletic stewards by six matches to two in the semi-finals before overcoming the guile of secretaries in the final. The margin was 5 1/2 to 2 1/2 and the greenkeepers were always in control, losing only the last two matches. Well done our team!

### NORTH WEST SECTION SUCCESS

BIGGA invited the S.T.R.I. Roadshow to Reaseheath to a packed audience of 120 Greenkeepers in the College lecture theatre, S.T.R.I. staff gave a riveting series of lectures. The proceedings were chaired by Mr. Brian Moss the Chairman of the North West Section BIGGA, and the proceedings organised by John Lowry, the education chairman of the section and his committee. Invited guests included Mr. Peter Dutton of the English Golf Union, Mr. Roger Robinson, President of the Cheshire Golf Union, Peter Wilson, Chairman of the STRI and the Greenkeeper Training Committee and Dr. Frank Harkins, the Cheshire Golf Unions representative on the Reaseheath liaison committee. The event was sponsored for student involvement by the Cheshire Golf Union.

The programme for the day included, golf course drainage, construction of a golf green, turf diseases and maintenance problems associated with fairways, bunkers, trees greens and surrounds.

### FOR THE RECORD

Proper credit was not given in the Face to Face feature in October. Rodney Foster gave his talk to members of the BGGGA in November 1986 at a seminar at Moor Allerton Golf Club, organised by the Northern Section. Our apologies.