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Front Cover: October - hurricane force winds and floods bring devastation to many UK courses.

the Golf Course

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BY the time you read these notes, all paid-up members should be in possession of both membership card and legal advisory service card - any member who is not please contact me as soon as possible. The establishment of the membership list has been a major exercise, with many changes of address to be documented and cheques arriving without application forms and vice versa, apart from cheques for incorrect amounts! I will now be seeking the assistance of Section Secretaries to break down the membership list on a sectional basis. Membership applications have nearly reached the 2000 mark. Of this figure approximately 35% are new members not connected with the previous Associations, which means that approximately half the members of the previous Associations have yet to join BIGGA. Whilst the initial response is, therefore, most encouraging, it is clear that a major membership drive is necessary in line with the new subscription year commencing in January.

UPDATE

The General Purposes sub-committee has now considered entries for the logo competition, which were of a high standard. These were considered alongside commercial artist submissions to ensure that in deciding on a logo, the best possible choice was made for the new Association. The final choice was extremely difficult but, in deciding to choose a logo submitted by a commercial artist, the sub-committee agreed that an award should be made to the best entry from an Association Member. This award goes to Mr. Jim Russell, Assistant Course Manager, Hankley Common Golf Club. Well done Jim! - A blazer badge for the Association will be on its way to you in due course.

Now that we have an official logo, details are being finalised with regard to the Association's uniform. Members can, therefore, give early consideration to their requirements as it is hoped to make an official announcement on colours, costs etc. in the next edition of 'the Golf Course'.

Members may well be aware through their sections that Regional Meetings are being held

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during November. These are essential in establishing the lines of communication through the Board of Management/Headquarters to the Regions and hence to the Sections. The five regional meetings will consider both structural and funding matters at regional and sectional level, as well as geographical boundary issues. Secretaries and Administrators should note that the Regions sub-committee has decided that the structure will henceforth have only two titles i.e. Regions and Sections. Where necessary, therefore, amendments should be made to existing titles. I look forward to attending these meetings and getting to know section representatives. Following them, I'm sure members will begin to feel that progress is being made both at the local and regional level.

You will find the latest Newsletter enclosed with this edition of 'the Golf Course' as promised in my update for the September issue. I would wish to acknowledge criticism from some members with regard to the Association's intent in respect of the Newsletter. The aim will be to produce a Newsletter with every edition of 'the Golf Course'. Again, I would ask that sectional secretaries submit material to me (and not 'the Golf Course') regularly and in good time for each issue. If this happens there will be no problem in producing a regular Newsletter.

Included in this month's issue is a recommended minimum salary/wages structure in response to many requests from both greenkeepers and golf clubs. The scale is applicable from 1 January 1988 and it is intended to update it on an annual basis. It is difficult to produce a scale appropriate for implementation across the United Kingdom as a whole, but the Board of Management is confident that the recommended scale is a fair and reasonable basis for negotiation between greenkeeper and club. The structure will be circulated to golf clubs.

Finally, please note that the Association has a separate telephone line at the Sports Turf Research Institute and the number is Bradford (0274) 560556. Members contacting the Association's office should note that with effect from 2nd November Miss Caroline Holdsworth will be taking up duties on a permanent basis as my secretary/personal assistant and no doubt she will often represent the first point of contact for members in the future.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT 1988

BY means of preliminary announcement, members will wish to note that plans are underway to hold the National Tournament at the Ayr Belleisle course in Scotland probably during the second week of October 1988. Details have yet to be finalised, but the Board of Management is considering combining the Tournament with an International Conference and running the event over five days. Facilities are excellent and the course of international

standard. Consideration is being given to appointing a sub-committee to plan and arrange this major event with Ayrshire members playing a leading role and liaising with Board of Management and myself. Further details will be included in 'the Golf Course' as they become available, but it would be helpful if sectional secretaries could give me an early indication of members expressing an interest in attending.

INSTITUTE OF GROUNDSMANSHIP SHOWS - WINDSOR AND HAYDOCK PARK

I WAS in attendance for two days at both Windsor and Haydock Park and thoroughly enjoyed my first experience of these exhibitions. They can be viewed from different angles - Windsor is now a vast affair and more than one greenkeeper was seen to collapse in the BIGGA caravan as he made a tired exit! Certainly three full days are needed to do justice to the event. Haydock Park on the other hand is set to expand and, with the success of this year's event, will rapidly develop in terms of size and scope. Criticisms would be minor in that it is easy to lose oneself at Windsor and better signposting would be in order. At Haydock Park there was the pitiful sight of Bill Lawson, David Golding and myself begging for a roll at the SISIS stand at 3.45pm having failed to obtain lunch - they had run out of food! No doubt these matters can be put right next year!

As a meeting ground for BIGGA members, both occasions are ideal and I exchanged views with many members over the four days. Good ideas emerged and will receive further consideration as the Association moves forward. I met many representatives of the trade whose reception for the new Association is a warm one. It gave me the opportunity to outline what I see as a mutually beneficial working relationship between the Association and the trade, but a relationship which I see developing along different lines to those which have applied hitherto. Certainly there will be ongoing discussions with trade representatives in the months ahead.

The Association's thanks are due to Kevin Munt for organising BIGGA's caravan at Windsor in conjunction with Michael Coffey and to the various Board members who took turns of duty. At Haydock Park much hard work was put in by Bill Lawson, Brian Moss, David Golding, Howard McAddey, John Lowery and the committee of North West Section and our thanks go to them. A special word of thanks to Mark Lewis of Heswall for manning the tent on the second day. He claims that he volunteered for duty though others see an influence behind the scenes! Anyway, well done Mark! All in all, both shows were a success from BIGGA's point of view and certainly helped to spread the word!

On a personal note, I was very pleased to meet so many members. Names and faces are beginning to register.

NEIL THOMAS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR