



BIGGA
UPDATE

It is a great pleasure to begin this month's UPDATE by informing members that your Board of Management recently invited the Rt. Hon. Viscount Whitelaw CH. MC to accept the Presidency of the Association. He has responded by stating that he would be very honoured to accept the invitation. As a pre-eminent politician and with his deep involvement within the game of golf, being a former Captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews and a

leading amateur in his younger days, we are indeed privileged to have Viscount Whitelaw as our President.

**National
Tournament / International
Conference**

As an insert to this edition of the magazine, you will find full details for the week in Ayrshire, 26th - 30th September. Following my recent meeting with the Scottish Region sub-committee organising the event, the finalising of arrangements is now well in hand.

Members are advised to register with Chris Kennedy as soon as possible as naturally it will be a case of first come first served, particularly in respect of accommodation, tournament entries and starting times.

Uniform

I am pleased to announce that all items of uniform are now in production. Members are advised that current prices are

as follows and are all inclusive of VAT:-

Blazer/Wire Badge £69.00
 Sizes 46/48/50" £75.00
 Wire Badge £11.50
 Lambswool Sweater £19.49
 Sizes 48" upwards extra £2.00
 Pure New Wool Sweater £16.04
 Pure New Wool Slipover
 £14.89
 Sports Shirt £12.59
 Tie £3.75
 N.B. All orders are to be placed through your section Secretary.

Umbrellas

BIGGA umbrellas are now available. They are in red, white and blue and incorporate two prints of the Association logo. The umbrellas priced at £8.96 inclusive of VAT. Again all orders please to your Section Secretary.

Section Secretaries

Please note that Mr RJ Goodwin, Ashridge Golf Club, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 1LU is the new Mid-Anglia Secretary - telephone Little Gaddesden (044284) 2434. Also, members should note

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**Front Cover: Viscount Whitelaw, President
 British and International Golf Greenkeepers
 Association.**

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that Mr R Willars, Secretary, East Midlands, Section advises that his correct tel: number is (0455) 283053.

GCSAA Conference and Show 1989

The next GCSAA Conference and Show will be held in Anaheim, California 1st-8th February 1989. Each year a number of BIGGA members make the trip and it occurs to me that, with the establishing of the new Association, consideration should now be given to members attending as part of an official BIGGA party rather than through the present adhoc arrangements. To this end, it should be possible to negotiate a favourable package through a travel agent. before proceeding however, I would be grateful if interested members could advise me in the next week or two in order that I can have an idea of possible numbers.

Seminars

It is encouraging that the recent round of seminars have been so successful. Although I was not able to be present, I understand that the South West Region seminar on 9th March was well attended and proved an informative day. Full marks to the South West Region - they have already held two regional seminars and given an early impetus to the new Regional structure.

On 15th March, I chaired the first Scottish Region Seminar under BIGGA auspices at the Countryside Commission Headquarters in Battleby, Perthshire and again this was a well-attended day enjoyed by all. The facilities were superb. For myself, these events represent an ideal opportunity to meet members and I learn much from the subject areas covered.

Moving down from Scotland to Cheshire. I was one of the speakers at the by now well-established North West Section annual seminar at Mere

on 17th March. Those present enjoyed well presented papers from speakers covering a number of diversified subjects.

Legal advice service

These brief notes will, I hope, clarify a few matters for members. It should be noted that the Legal Advice Scheme is NOT confined to advice in connection with employment problems. It is available to cover any legal problem a member may experience in either his working or private life.

Again, it should be noted that 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.

It is already clear that a number of members have benefited from the services available, particularly in employment situations. One Scottish member, recently made redundant, could not obtain any reason for the redundancy from his Golf Club. He has been involved in Greenkeeping for 23 years and feared that without reasons being given for the redundancy, he would experience difficulty in obtaining new employment. The Legal Protection Group intervened on his behalf and the reasons for the redundancy have now been given in writing. The reasons were valid and in no way reflected any incompetence or fault on the part of the member. The case has a happy ending as consequently the member writes to say that he has obtained a good job at another Club with which he is very happy.

It will be helpful in monitoring this Service if other members using it could write to me with their own experiences.

Neil Thomas
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BIGGA **Annual General Meeting**

The AGM of the Association took place at York race-course on Wednesday 23rd March. The meeting was well attended and a considerable amount of Association business concluded, including amendments to the constitution.

The meeting was chaired by outgoing chairman Walter Woods and addressed by Neil Thomas Executive Director, Kevin Munt (Regions), Bill Lawson (Magazine) and Cecil George (Education).

A full report of the proceedings will appear in the next issue of *the Golf Course*.



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