

BY the time you read these notes, Sections will have nominated representatives to the regional boards and indeed the first official meetings of those boards will have taken place during January. I think it fair to say therefore that the Association's section/regional structure is now established. The final regional administrator will be Arnold Phipps-Jones. I held a meeting with the regional Administrators in Mid-December and there should have been a consistency of approach subsequently at the regional board meetings. I have a further meeting planned for the first week of February to report back on those meetings and this should prove an effective means of communication with myself at a regional level.

Obviously it would be impossible and not necessarily desirable for me to attend all regional board meetings, although I will of course attempt to be present on any particular occasion where my presence is considered necessary.

With the structure established I am looking for strong section and regional development during 1988. Decisions from the meetings of the Board of Management and magazine sub-committee on 19th January will be conveyed to regional administrators and section secretaries, thus keeping members briefed on developments within the Association.



UPDATE

Members need to note some particular points:-

VAT

This is NOT payable on 1988 subscriptions. The Association's exemption came through after publication of the November/December issue of 'the Golf Course' and therefore VAT inclusive rates were included in that issue. However, all application forms including those in this issue now exclude VAT.

UNIFORM

Orders are now coming in and members need to bear in mind that delivery dates are some 12 - 15 weeks from placing of order. Orders with size, quantity, fitting and colour as appropriate should be placed via your section secretary and it should be noted that payment is not required at this stage.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT 1988

This is confirmed for week commencing 25th September 1988 in Ayrshire and preliminary details appear on page 7 of this issue.

1988 MEMBERSHIP

Application forms appear elsewhere in this issue. Members should note that section secretaries have been provided with supplies of forms for both FULL and ASSOCIATE/TRADE membership and potential new members should be directed to the appropriate secretary for an

Continued on page 6

the Golf Course

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APPOINTMENTS once again the Golf Course brings you the greatest number of jobs going in the industry today 7,29,31,32,34,35,38

application form. Alternatively I can supply forms and can be contacted on 0274-560556.

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR/SECTION SECRETARIES

A list of names and addresses is included in this issue for general information. This will be regularly updated when changes in personnel occur. Individuals concerned should advise me of any incorrect details.

Finally some thoughts for 1988. Whilst there is much cause for optimism, there is a need for a concerted effort by all members to fully project the Association on a national basis as the professional body for greenkeepers. Not everything can be done from headquarters - there is a need for a real impact to be made at local level. Reflecting on the last six months, I would hope for a greater sense of urgency from greenkeepers in 1988 in responding to Association needs and requests - it is after all YOUR Association. Too often there is much chasing to be done to elicit responses on various matters. Again greenkeeper contributions to

the magazine have been rather disappointing. The magazine sub-committee will welcome all ideas and contributions - what about letters to the editor for example - either commenting on greenkeeping matters or seeking advice? This would make for good reading.

To end on a positive note, I have met many greenkeepers and been involved in numerous discussions. The enthusiasm for BIGGA and the future is heartening and there are many ideas and aspirations from members for the years ahead. I need to know the views of members and these can be forwarded to my office as well as conveyed to me at the various meetings around the country. We are in an evolving situation and each month of 1988 will bring new developments.

I can rely on members to provide the positive support and backing BIGGA will need to become a pre-eminent force within the world of golf.

Neil Thomas
Executive Director.

JOIN BIGGA IN '88

BIGGA is the professional body for greenkeepers in this country and also offers membership benefits to greenkeepers on an international basis. Already the Association has members in America, France, Sweden, Germany, Holland, Spain, Portugal and as far afield as Japan. BIGGA aims to promote and advance all aspects of greenkeeping, as well as assisting and encouraging the proficiency of members.

For 1988, a wide range of member benefits have been made available, particularly in terms of legal and insurance cover, designed to protect the greenkeeper both in his employment and in his life in general. As well as full members, associate and trade members will be welcomed and they will be encouraged to play a constructive part in the Association's future.

As far as the growth of BIGGA is concerned, there will be strength in numbers and new

members will assist in establishing a sound base for the ongoing development of the Association. As a priority, BIGGA will be concentrating on the future education and training needs of greenkeepers. Plans are underway for national events in 1989.

Greenkeepers can now identify with their own National Association and Headquarters office. With its own uniform, logo, and personalised member benefits, there is already an increasing awareness of BIGGA within the golfing world where the views and aspirations of greenkeepers can now be projected.

Now is the time to join BIGGA and be a part of the exciting developments which lie ahead as the Association establishes an organised, professional approach to greenkeeping in all its many aspects.

Neil Thomas, Executive Director

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