



BIGGA UPDATE

AS I write these notes in mid-April following the Annual General Meeting, it seems an appropriate time to reflect on the initial stages of the Association's development and look forward to the major events which will soon be upon us. Over an eight month period we have implemented the new structure, and the lines and methods of communication are beginning to become familiar to members. Over the next year or two, we must now make this structure work for the maximum benefit of members and use it as the

solid base on which the future development and progress of the Association can be built.

The Annual General Meeting held at York racecourse on March 23rd, was a well attended meeting and details of my annual report appear elsewhere in this issue. Additionally there were excellent contributions from the Chairman, Walter Woods on the Associations development to date; from Kevin Munt on the work of the Regions sub committee; from Bill Lawson on the Magazine sub committee; and from Cecil George on education.

In presenting the Annual accounts and Financial Report I made two fundamental points with significant implications for members:-

i) There is a long, difficult road ahead in terms of achieving financial independence. It is imperative that there is a concerted effort by all Sections to attract new members and improve the funding position in this respect whilst alternative sources of funding must also be sort.

ii) The balance of subscription income retained for the general funding of the Association is clearly inadequate. This was inevitable for 1988 given the need for a strong membership package, but the position will have to be closely re-examined in formulating the 1989 membership package.

In essence the aim is to achieve financial independence with effect from January 1st 1990, but this will not prove attainable without a concerted effort from all members and an understanding from all involved or connected with the Association, of our need for a sound financial base, in order that we can progress much needed developments with regard to both the enhancement of greenkeeping as a profession and specifically the future education and training of greenkeepers.

The proposal to adopt a revised Constitution was the other main matter for debate. This was approved and the Association now has a much



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CONTENTS

ANNUAL REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Neil Thomas	6
GREENKEEPING TODAY by Jim Arthur	12
NOTEBOOK - all the industry's news	19
THE WIND FACTOR by John Campbell	32
AGREEMENT IS VITAL by Jim Arthur	34
APPOINTMENTS	37,39,42,43

FRONT COVER: St. Pierre, Chepstow scene of this month's Epson Matchplay Championship, the first UK European Tour event of the year and venue for the National Final of the ISEKI Greenkeepers Tournament in August.