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GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
BIGGA

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Jack McMillan

A new year ahead

The past year seems to have flown away, by the time you read this my year in office will be coming to an end and it will be time to hand over to the capable hands of Bill Lawson from Heswell Golf Club.

The Association continues to grow, new members join daily, and my personal hopes are that it is not too ambitious to aim at 4000 members by the end of this year.

Being your Chairman has been a privilege and an honour but I now feel it is time for some of the older statesmen to go and drift away quietly into the background, and leave the Association in the capable hands of the young people who are about today.

I would, however, like to take this opportunity to thank a number of people, who, on election to office beaver away on your behalf at the chores that make this Association function successfully. Educational seminars, trade shows, golf outings and social occasions do not organise themselves. It takes time and effort by many people, at section, regional and national level. I feel they all deserve a thank you for all they do. Many of them on election, sacrifice their annual holidays, and often travel long miles to attend meetings, their only motivation is the improvement of Greenkeepers and greenkeeping. I am sure you would like me to offer them your thanks.

The decision to appoint a professional person to take care of our affairs has proven to be a major success. At the time of writing, we now have a staff of three looking after your affairs, under the excellent direction of Neil Thomas, at National Headquarters. I am sure everyone who has been privileged to work with him knows that the future of our Association could not be in better hands. He is to be commended for all he has achieved in the short time he has been with us.

Also my sincere gratitude goes to our President, Viscount Whitelaw, who so kindly agreed to lend our association his name and support.

Everyone is aware that the way forward for us in the greenkeeping industry is through education. Your management board decided to appoint a development Officer fulltime to look after education and liaise with all the bodies concerned with greenkeeper education. I am delighted to say that the appointment was made from within our own ranks and David Golding now joins our staff in this role. I am sure everyone will wish David, Noreen and their family every good wish for a successful future. A success we will all share in.

My thanks also to the R & A, without whose support I very much doubt this would all have happened.