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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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A matter of importance

Pesticides and their related issues have now become part of the daily lives of all greenkeepers. Other professional users of these chemicals have taken the brunt of the criticism. Greenkeepers and golf courses have so far escaped attention from the environmental watchdogs.

To listen to critics of pesticides gives an indication of how misinformed some are when it comes to the theories about the need to use pesticides.

No-one has all the answers so it is important to listen. Our Educational Conference next month at Cambridge will provide an ideal opportunity for just this type of discussion. Remember those who favour the elimination of pesticides are convinced that they are just as correct as those who wish to continue with their use. With so much attention on the subject it is important that we all recognise that we have an obligation to use pesticides as directed by the manufacturer on the label of the product. There is also the obligation to our employers and those who use the golf course for their leisure and relaxation.

In the past products have been bought on their price advantage and now there should be just as much consideration given to safety. The operator of the equipment must be given every bit of help in his safety since they are the ones exposed to the greatest risk.