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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.



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The BIGGA/SUPATURF EDUCATION '89 Conference is the place to be in April 1989. Book now to secure your attendance.

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CLIPPINGS

By The Mower

Three new members join Association of British Golf Architects

The first examination for Provisional Membership of BAGCA resulted in an invitation to join the Association to three architects working in France, Holland and Yugoslavia. Candidates were required to undertake two projects, the design for an 18 hole in Germany, plus a small research project on the USGA green specification, followed by a discussion in London.

The BAGCA have been investigating for some time the method of qualifying entry to the Association and they now expect future membership will be by examination only.

Those granted Provisional membership are Jeremy J. A. Pern, Gerard Jol and Tjasa Gregoric.

A Lotta Knowledge Can Take You A Long Way

Minchinhampton's Course Manager, Laurence Pithie is heading for the title of Britain's National Greenkeeper Quiz King. In 1984 he won a trip to Las Vegas in a nationwide competition sponsored by Jacobsen Textron, two years later was nominated runner up as Groundsman of the Year, won the title outright in 1987 with a prize trip to Houston and would you believe it - he has now won another trip to the USA, this time to Los Angeles.

In a contest sponsored by Daunton Hunt Ltd in conjunction with BASF, Laurence just pipped Adrian Archer from Salisbury to win the 33 question quiz and the flight to California.

The quiz organised by Don Hunt, Managing Director of the Newton Abbott based company and Tracy Park's Course Manager Adrian Stiff was open to all the greenkeepers in the South West. The questions covering the whole field of course maintenance had to be answered without reference to manuals and within a time limit.

Laurence, made top place with a 92 per cent correct score.

Bets Settled

Last month's front cover which happened to be of a Scottish Golf Course caused considerable discussion in club houses throughout the country.

We hear of several bets struck over the location, because no where in the magazine was the picture identified, due, we must confess, to a last minute decision to replace the planned frontispiece.

It was the 16th hole at the Kings Course, Gleneagles, taken by Publisher Stanley Ellison from the new elevated tee. Apologies to Jimmy Kidd, Gleneagles Course Manager. He at least did not require the caption.

Scoop for the Sheik

Followers of the PGA European Tour will have noticed two new venues to start the 1989 season, the opening tournament taking place in Teneriffe and then the Tour moves to the banks of the Red Sea on 1st march for the Dubai Open at the Emirates Golf Club.

This magnificent course owned by Sheik Mohammed Bin Rashid, cost well over £10 million to turn the desert sands into a green oasis.

It has been achieved by constructing two huge lakes filled with desalinated water from the Arabian Gulf and using the water to pour around 1.25 million gallons a day through 740 Toro sprinklers on to greens, tees and fairways.

Work on the course only started in 1986 and now, three years later it is regarded as equal in stature to the best of the desert courses in Arizona.

Tournament Director, Terry Duffy, home for a few days at Christmas told THE GOLF COURSE that ITV are to film a series of six half-hour teaching sessions at the Emirates Club with Tony Jacklin, to be screened later this year.

Among the personalities taking lessons are opera star Kiri Te Kanawa, new 007 actor Timothy Dalton and "Del Boy" David Jason, from Only Fools and Horses.

European Continent to wait for Ryder Cup

The decision to play the 1993 Ryder Cup match in Britain has blocked a continental takeover bid to move the contest to Brussels.

Europe's unification in 1992 as well as offering tremendous opportunities for business

also exposes the vulnerability of a number of sacrosanct British institutions, the home matches of the Ryder Cup being one.

Now the Ryder Cup is played between a European Team versus the USA it must be on the cards we cannot keep it here indefinitely.

Safety First - Before Teeing!

We are all in favour of safety on the golf course but the latest visit by a local authority Health and Safety Inspector has produced a barmy directive to my own club.

We have two up hill par threes of 164 and 140 yards, backing on to a village road, shielded by at least another 30 yards of rough and trees at the back of the shorter hole.

The Inspector insisted two notices with red letters be screwed to the tee boxes saying - **Golfers must not hit their balls on to the road.** He intimated that if the notices were not put up the holes could be closed down.

It is accepted it is possible to over club or thin a shot out of a greenside bunker, but we have't met a golfer yet who aims to put the ball on the road.

Hat trick for British Seed Houses

Three of the prestigious new golf courses either built or under contract have been seeded by British Seed Houses.

Greens and tees at St. Mellion were sown with Penncross Creeping Bent, Penncross has been used for greens and tees at the Northampton course of Collingtree Park and the fairways at Wentworth's new course were seeded in mid August using a mixture with a high proportion of Frida Chewings Fescue.

Chi Chi Rodriguez to receive Old Tom Morris Award

Puerto Rico golf seniors superstar, Chi Chi Rodriguez has been nominated to receive the Old Tom Morris Award at this year's GCSAA Banquet in Anaheim.

He is the seventh recipient of the honour given to those who the GCSAA believe have contributed greatly to the game of golf.

Chi Chi has almost the following of the first award winner, the legendary Arnold Palmer, but has also dedicated much of his life to work with underprivileged children at the Youth Foundation he runs in Florida, where getting one of his "kids" a degree is worth more than a tour victory.

Tunbridge Wells Golf Club Centenary

One of Kent's most picturesque golf clubs celebrates its Centenary Year in 1989. Designed and built by Mr W Bruce Dick, who was then the proprietor of the Spa Hotel, the Club has had a distinguished 100 years of golfing history.

The Club will be marking the event with a celebratory fortnight in June 1989, during which sponsored competitions and functions, including a Gala Dinner for members both past and present will take place.

Ganning's Icelandic Trip

The Belfry's Course Manager, Derek Ganning, was whisked north to the land of the midnight sun last August, on a ten day tour of Iceland's golf courses by invitation of the Iceland Golf Federation.

Derek reports that these proud people are "golf mad from 6 to seventy" and want to play the game throughout the daylight hours, which during the summer is not far short of twenty-four.

Golf courses are maintained by members on a part-time basis and few have any paid staff. Some of the equipment is rather less than suitable, but Derek has a great admiration for their achievement despite their lack of professional knowledge.

Bob wants time off from Midlands affairs

That stalwart member of the Mid Anglia Section, Bob Goodwin, Head Greenkeeper at Ashbridge has decided to take a less active part in the Association's affairs.

He was Secretary of the Midlands Section for ten years and was then instrumental in setting up the Mid Anglia Section in 1979, where he has held the office of Chairman, Secretary and Assistant Secretary at various times.

He has been succeeded as Mid Anglia Secretary by Paul Fitzjohn.

Paul is due for a busy year as he starts a new job as Course Manager at the Mill Hill Club at Barnet in January.