

GOLF GREENKEEPING

and Course Maintenance

The Official Magazine of the
British Golf Greenkeepers'
Association

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English and Welsh Golf Unions

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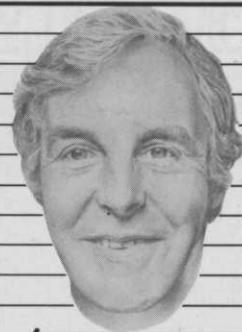
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Greenside Comment...



John Lelean

A MOMENTOUS YEAR

As we approach the beginning of another year, 1987 will be remembered for two significant milestones to mark the past and future of British Greenkeepers. As is reported in this issue the first Chairman of the newly formed Association has been unanimously voted into office by the nominated Board of Management, and what a fine choice they made in selecting Walter Woods, the Links Superintendent at St. Andrews.

Walter is the present Chairman of SIGGA and deeply involved in the education of young greenkeepers. As a next door neighbour to the R & A Headquarters, who have been instrumental in bringing the three Associations of Greenkeepers together, he will be able to keep in close personal contact during what is certain to be a challenging year for him and the new Association. Our congratulations Walter and may all the members be with you.

The other significant event is the celebration of the 75th year of the formation of the present British Golf Greenkeepers Association. It has been known by several other names over the years including the straightforward Golf Greenkeepers Association.

Although we now have what is referred to as a 'new' Association, in fact it is nothing of the sort, it is the reuniting of the family of greenkeepers and what better event to toast the health of the British and International Association of Greenkeepers than at their 75th birthday.

PHOENIX CONVENTION

Although it is realised the cost is prohibitive to many greenkeepers, we have gone ahead this month with the sponsoring of a trip to Phoenix, in Arizona in January, during the week of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Our trip offering seven nights hotel accommodation in a brand new complex tucked into the side of a mountain, only a couple of miles from the centre of Phoenix is fantastic value for money at £579.00. Courtesy buses call at 'Westcourt in the Buttes' to pick up guests and take them into the city centre.

The annual conference and trade exhibition, last year supported by over ten and a half thousand visitors, is a major organisational achievement in the world of golf. There has been much criticism in recent years of the 'American influence' in golf and golf course management, some perhaps justified in the context of the 'British game', but no one could criticise them for their organisational and business approach to their Association's activities. To experience that alone is well worth the visit to Phoenix.

We hope some of our larger golf club companies will consider such a visit as management training, which it undoubtedly is, and finance the trip as part of their Course Managers personal development.

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Golf Course Drainage

Fred Hawtree reviews the history of the Golf Greenkeepers' Associations