

# GOLF GREENKEEPING

and Course Maintenance

The Official Magazine of the  
British Golf Greenkeepers'  
Association

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The Association is affiliated to the  
English and Welsh Golf Unions

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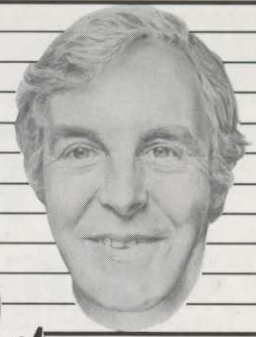
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## Greenside Comment...



*John Lelean*

## Keeping the members INFORMED

There is criticism this month from the Mid-Anglia Section directed quite justifiably at this magazine, complaining that insufficient information was published throughout the negotiating stages prior to the voting on the amalgamation of the three greenkeeper associations.

There is a mistaken belief in many membership organisations that Committee discussions are private and confidential and the less those who elected their officers into office know - the better. In Industry this policy has a name. It's called 'Mushroom Management'. Keep the workers in the dark, on a liberal bed of damp compost.

Last March we reported meetings were taking place at York and named the representatives from the B.G.G.A., S.I.G.G.A. and E.I.G.G.A. The report was speculative because as we said at the time no statements had been issued.

In April the first official announcement was made in the form of a progress report prepared by the Scottish Greenkeepers, a copy of which was sent to this magazine and published in full. There was no communication sent to **Golf Greenkeeping** by the other Associations, nor was there at anytime an official communication from the Steering Committee, Chaired by Mr. Peter Wilson of the E.G.U. acting on behalf of the R. & A.

Although progress reports were no doubt made to the Association's Executive Committees and were in turn communicated to Section Committees, the rank and file membership were uninformed until the new constitution was published and circulated in September. That month we urged ALL Greenkeepers to vote, but it would seem many did not either read the article, or bother to respond to the call.

Open and frank communication by way of regular statements must be the policy of the new joint committee. No one expects a smooth and unruffled passage whilst the three groups come to terms with one another. Although it is said 'No news is good news', in fact the opposite is the case. Someone will quote an informed source and before it has been repeated half a dozen times, what might be a snippet of truth has become so distorted as to be meaningless.

Our October editorial suggested the discussions should not be rushed nor the fledgling pushed from the nest before it could fly.

Can we also respectfully ask those who are to pilot the greenkeeper's future to a sound and secure anchorage not to forget there are some 5,000 members and potential members out on the golf course who would like to know how they are getting on.

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