

## OVER THE FIRST HURDLE — *Continued*

Throughout all the protracted negotiations there has been a strong resistance to what has been seen as outside interference by individuals, who no doubt with the best intentions, wanted to exert some influence on the proceedings. Perhaps their motives could have been interpreted as commercial or self aggrandisement rather than altruistic, but on all counts they were rejected. The Greenkeepers have said from the outset they wanted to conduct their own affairs.

This is a perfectly noble sentiment, but it must not be so completely rigid they will not listen to and take advice on matters of organisation where others may have a better understanding.

The greatest danger now facing this fledgling, hatched by parents from an arranged marriage would be to push it from the nest before it had the strength to take flight.

The R & A suggested the new Association should be fully functional by the beginning of 1987. To insist on such a meagre timescale will be to condemn the entire project to failure, setting back everything so far achieved for a period so long, most of the present membership will never reap the ultimate benefits.

At the various sectional meetings and when Greenkeepers have joined together the topic of conversation has centered on the draft Constitution. It is a sensible and well thought out document, but it still needs honing and in places amending for total acceptance. That must be the first task of the twelve representatives.

The other matters can only be agreed after full, frank and exhaustive discussions and that includes a study of the workings and organisation of similar Associations. There is no point in trying to re-invent the wheel when examples of a streamlined version are already available.

It is in this area that the new Committee must be prepared to listen to advice from without and not reject out of hand, such offerings as interference.

Similarly the person who will ultimately head the new Association need not necessarily be a Greenkeeper by profession. He or she must have the interests of the Association at heart and understand golf, greenkeeping and the needs of the members, but one does not have to be a greenkeeper to meet these objectives. An ability to organise, communicate, influence and project the image of the Greenkeeping profession are the essential attributes.

These are exciting times, the amalgamation has been welcomed from all sections of the golfing world. A united group dedicated to the improvement and growth of golf courses, and themselves, deserves full recognition. We wish them well.

## Contents

GREENSIDE COMMENT . . . . .	
Over the First Hurdle	2,3
GUY CATCHPOLE	
Ransomes Sales and Marketing Director retires	5
APPOINTMENTS	6
SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT	6
MINUTES OF THE 69th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	7
BALANCE SHEET	
Head Office/Sections	8
WINDSOR SHOW REVIEW	10,11
NEWS ROUND-UP	14,15
SECTIONAL NEWS	17,18,19
THE BATTLE AGAINST THE EVERGREEN	
Some thoughts on golf course planting	20,21
THE WAY FORWARDS IS BACKWARDS	
Henry Cotton advocating a new plan for the development of junior golf	22
TRADE DIRECTORY	23

## Next Month

Amalgamation Progress Discussions  
Golf Course Drainage  
Jacobsen Report Tournament

# GOLF GREENKEEPING

and Course Maintenance

*The Official Magazine of the  
British Golf Greenkeepers'  
Association*

Founded 1912

*The Association is affiliated to the  
English and Welsh Golf Unions*

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Printed by: W. Kristall Ltd., Leeds.

Golf Greenkeeping and Course  
Maintenance is published by:  
Wharfedale Publications  
Limited,  
P.O. Box 12,  
Wetherby,  
West Yorkshire LS22 4SR.  
Telephone: (0937) 63181.

Published ten times per year.  
Copies for non-members are  
available on subscription for  
£10.00 a year postage paid  
(From January 1987 £12.00 a  
year). Overseas surface and air  
mail rates on application to the  
publishers.

**Published by:**  
**Wharfedale Publications Limited**  
**P.O. Box 12, Wetherby,**  
**West Yorkshire LS22 4SR**  
**Telephone: (0937) 63181**