

status and salaries are a long way off.

Greenkeeping *is* a profession, make no mistake about it—a career that is with you 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It is not that many years ago that professional golfers were looked down upon and it is only since the formation of the PGA that progress and status have zoomed. Strength is what we need. Every greenkeeper in this country should join EIGGA *now*. We already have more greenkeeper members than any other association in Britain, but we need more. If every head greenkeeper joined, we would have 2,000 members!

Progress must be maintained. Our most important aim is to employ a full-time administrator to visit clubs and check on such things as conditions of employment. This can only be achieved with money. All over the country there is a small hard core of dedicated people working to benefit your future. Give them the backing they deserve. Support your branch and if you don't have one, form one today!

I was interested to read a recent article questioning the role of agronomists in British greenkeeping. The author said they threatened the jobs of many greenkeepers and that if greenkeepers were more articulate, agronomists would be out of a job.

I do not agree with this view. On a well-run course, the course manager and the agronomist can work in harmony. It is extremely helpful to have a second opinion from a trained eye. As for being more articulate, we're back to education again, aren't we?

In a recent copy of the USGA *Green Section Record*, there was a letter from a top superintendent thanking agronomists for their contribution to raising the status of superintendents in America. The secretary, course manager and agronomist are all part of a team—they are not in competition.

I trust that as many members as possible will attend EIGGA's annual conference at Warwick University on March 22, 23 and 24. A full programme is planned by greenkeepers for greenkeepers.

I look forward to seeing EIGGA move ahead in 1985. Remember, your future is in your hands. Join now!

Peter Wisbey.



Central

Sixteen members of the section paid a visit to Henry Sheach's of Kirkcaldy recently. After being welcomed by Alistair Sheach, we toured the workshops. After lunch, we were given a practical demonstration on how to choose, use and maintain a chain saw. This part of the afternoon talk was given by Mike Irons of Omark Industries. To finish, Grant Chalmers of Sachs Dolmar gave the history of his company and run-down of products.

There was an excellent turn-out of 45 at Muckhart Golf Club to hear a lecture by Walter Woods and Jimmy Kidd. Both were given a hearty vote of thanks. Walter spoke on the work required to bring the courses at St Andrews back into shape after the Open Championship. Jim then took as his theme classical British golf courses and the points that link them, such as how architects used the natural topography of the land and flora and fauna to create courses that blend into the surrounding landscape.

E.Small, Secretary and Treasurer.

East

The east section held its annual dinner-dance at Turnhouse Golf Club. Over 70 members and guests were present. Thanks go to Turnhouse for the hospitality and to club-master John Leeburn for the first-class meal. Turnhouse has been provisionally booked for 1985 and tickets are expected to go quickly, so start saving!

The section held its AGM by kind permission of Kingsknowe Golf Club. The important changes are that J.Paton has become chairman and J.Easton vice-chairman. Ronnie Bunting has stepped down as chairman after two years.

Our thanks go to Ronnie for his excellent service on the committee and to all the other committee members who give up their spare time to ensure that the section runs smoothly.

The majority of members fail to see just what goes on behind the scenes

and how much time and effort has to be put in by committee members. The easiest thing to do in this day and age is to criticise.

Congratulations go to Ronnie Blair, ex-foreman at Murrayfield, on his appointment as head greenkeeper at Thornton Golf Club in Fife. The section wishes him well in his post and he assures me that he will stay a member of the east section. Ronnie served his time under Jim Neilson and is the son of the east section secretary.

Congratulations also go to Stuart Greenwood and his wife Agnes on the birth of a daughter just before the New Year! I understand mother and child are well.

Negotiations are under way to hold the spring outing in the Borders. Our friends from Peebles, George Stavert and Jimmy McCulloch, who very seldom miss an outing no matter where it is, have given the invitation. Although we have still to negotiate this with the local authorities, there are high hopes.

I am sure George will do everything in his power to arrange this.

Subscriptions are now overdue, so if anyone hasn't paid yet, do so now before your name is taken off the mailing list for the magazine, etc. Subs this year are £14.

The section is on the look-out for some kind member of the trade to offer a trophy to be played for at the autumn tournament. At present, the section has only four trophies and they are played for in the spring.

If anyone knows a company that would like to donate a trophy, please get in touch with me.

I would also be glad to hear from any member who has relevant news for the magazine, as we are always short of material. It doesn't matter how brief the story is.

William Blair, Section Secretary.

