



Conference Report

The third annual conference of the English And International Golf Greenkeepers' Association took place at the University of Warwick in March. Although the attendance figures were lower than expected, the conference was considered very successful, both in terms of content and the quality of papers.

The conference programme was opened by Dickie Jeeps and the days programme continued with talks by a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and golf-course constructor Brian Pierson.

The following day was devoted almost entirely to papers given by EIGGA members. This was felt by many to be an innovative step on the part of the association and the exercise proved very worthwhile, prompting the comment that it was good to see golf greenkeepers representing themselves in such a professional manner.

On the third and final day, the morning session began with a paper by a representative from the Institute Of Groundsmanship, followed by Tony Gray of the PGA European Tour.

The final event of the morning was an open forum. In the afternoon, the association held its third AGM. Chairman Peter Wisbey opened the meeting and welcomed all present. The minutes of the 1984 AGM were read and approved as a true record of that meeting and the general administrator Danielle Jones reported that EIGGA membership, including those who had not yet renewed

subscriptions, stood at 847, with 57 of those being new members this year.

EIGGA branches are: Surrey, Sussex, Kent, London, East Anglia, the East of England, South Wales, the North-West and Berks, Bucks and Oxon and the association has ten company members—seven of which are national companies, three regional companies.

Danielle Jones said that all EIGGA members should have received a copy of the 1984 accounts in the March issue of *Greenkeeper*. The accounts for the previous year, as at December 31 1984, were:

Income—£13,103.94
Expenditure—£10,827.67
Stock of clothing—£1,544.13
Balance of income over
Expenditure—£732.14

A proposal that the 1984 accounts be adopted was made by T. Adamson. D. Harradine seconded the proposal.

The chairman reported that EIGGA's primary concern in 1984 had been to get greenkeeper training going in the right direction. He felt that the association was well on the way to achieving its aims, as it was now represented on the Greenkeeper Training Committee, together with the other greenkeeping associations, the national Golf Unions, the Secretaries' Association, the Sports Turf Research Institute and Jim Arthur.

Chairman Peter Wisbey added that to be represented on the GTC was a great step forward for EIGGA and that the association should do all in its power, together with the other organisations concerned, to establish the best facilities for greenkeeper training. It was imperative for all involved to unite in order to achieve this aim and it was very important to have the golf unions and the R & A on the side of the greenkeepers, as they stand more chance of influencing golf clubs to educate their greenstaff, he said.

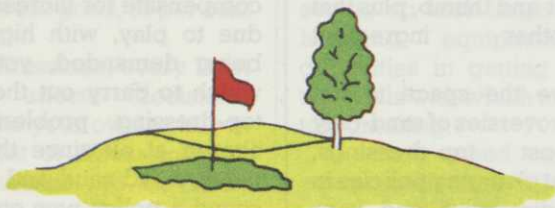
The chairman remarked that he was sorry to see so many empty seats at the conference, but felt that the conference had been extremely successful. He asked those present to raise support for the 1986 conference.

The chairman reported that, at the 1984 AGM, the board of management had been asked to consider raising the full subscription for 1986 to £50. This matter had been discussed thoroughly at board level and the conclusion had been that such a rise would be inappropriate at this time.

Steve Noye, branch administrator

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EIGGA CONFERENCE REPORT—CONTINUED...



An attentive audience in the lecture theatre.

for East Anglia, had received a clear indication from his branch members that they would not be prepared to pay the increased sum. The board of management also felt it could not justify charging this amount.

The figure of £50 had been submitted with a view to increasing the association's holdings, thus enabling it to employ a full-time administrator. It had become clear that, if the subscription was raised to this level, EIGGA would lose a high proportion of its membership.

David Jones felt that the original idea of a full-time administrator seemed to be of a person who, as well as dealing with the day-to-day administration of the association, would travel around the country visiting golf clubs and promoting EIGGA. He made the point that this would mean providing a car to the person concerned and a salary of approximately £10,000 plus expenses. He questioned the wisdom of using the members' subscriptions to pay a person to travel up and down motorways and stay in hotels as he felt this was not value for money.

The chairman then reported that the figures proposed by the board of management for subscriptions in 1986 were: the full subscription to be raised to £20, the apprentice subscription to remain at £12, the trade subscription to be raised to £25 and national and regional company membership subscriptions to be £125 and £75 respectively. He added that the idea of employing a full-time administrator

had been postponed, as the real cost of employing someone could be in excess of £40,000.

A.Low proposed that figures suggested by the board be adopted. T.Low seconded the proposal and the motion was carried on a show of hands. The chairman informed the meeting that EIGGA's first president Jack McMillan was retiring from the post after two years in office and that a new trustee was to be elected to replace David Jones, who was also retiring from this post.

Sussex had proposed that Dennis Ayling should be EIGGA's new president. This suggestion was endorsed by the chairman. The North-West branch had proposed David Jones as vice-president and the board of management had proposed Kevin Munt as trustee. No other proposals had been received. All three proposals were approved and the motion carried on a show of hands.

The chairman said that Jack McMillan had done an excellent job as president and was pleased to inform the meeting that the board had invited Jack to become an honorary member of EIGGA.

Peter Wisbey indicated that there was a need for a clarification to the wording of the EIGGA constitution, concerning the gold diploma. At present, the item reads: 'Any head greenkeeper with City & Guilds Management or Turf Culture certificate or any other appropriate certificate as determined by the management board, and over five

years practical experience as a head greenkeeper; or any head greenkeeper with fifteen years practical experience...' It had come to the board's notice that the wording had been interpreted to mean 'Any head greenkeeper who had fifteen years as a greenkeeper.' It was intended to apply to any head greenkeeper who had fifteen years as a *head greenkeeper*, but with no certificate. The board, therefore, submitted that the item should now read: '...Or any head greenkeeper with fifteen years practical experience *as such*,' the two last words to be added to the constitution.

D.Archer asked approximately how many diplomas had been issued to date. The figures are: five bronze, 18 silver and 17 gold, making a total of 40 since the inception of the association.

Speaking as EIGGA's new president, Dennis Ayling said it gave him great pleasure to thank Jack McMillan for being a splendid ambassador of the association. Dennis felt honoured to be asked to carry on where Jack had left off. He also thanked the administrator for her efforts. The president felt that the conference had been a huge success, especially the papers given by EIGGA members.

At a meeting of the board of management, following the AGM, Bill Lawson was elected to take over from Peter Wisbey as chairman of EIGGA. Bill is chairman of the North-West branch and a highly respected member of the board of management.

I can assure all members that, in Bill Lawson, the association has a fine successor to the retiring chairman Peter Wisbey who, throughout his term of office, has worked tirelessly on behalf of EIGGA and to whom a debt of gratitude is owed.

Finally, I am pleased to report that the dates for the 1986 conference have been set at April 4-6 1986, with the venue once again, the University of Warwick.

Danielle Jones,
General Administrator.

EIGGA At Open

**Courtesy of the R&A,
EIGGA will have a tent—
sponsored by Greenkeeper—
in the Open Championship
tented village at Royal
St George's. Further details
in next month's magazine.**

London

By now, the season will be getting into full swing and the greenkeepers' golf league, organised by Michael Peters, will be well under way, so make sure you phone your results through as soon as possible. The final will be played on the afternoon of our autumn meeting, which is set for Muswell Hill GC on Thursday October 3.

We have been welcomed back to Northwood again and will have an evening's golf on Monday August 19.

The annual EIGGA conference was an outstanding success, but it was disappointing that no other members of the London branch managed to attend. Hopefully, this situation will be rectified next year.

Reinforcements did arrive, however, on Sunday morning. Alan Moffat of Parkers organised a mini-

bus a couple of days before the event and a dozen members arrived to see me during a nerve-racking experience when I chaired the conference's final session. It was also an honour. As Steve Noye and Bill Lawson will testify from the previous day, it was almost as frightening as presenting a paper, but something we would not have wanted to miss.

Any branch members who would be prepared to stand up and give their views or theories on any aspect of greenkeeping would be welcomed. What about junior and apprentice members? Could you fill a short spot of, say, 15 minutes on how you see the profession? You have until April next year when we again return to Warwick.

The AGM on Sunday afternoon gave rise to some interesting discussion but, as usual, people who are vociferous at branch AGM's throughout the country were not in attendance. As has been said many times before, members should be saying: 'What can I do for EIGGA?' Not: 'What can EIGGA do for me?'

Constructive criticism and suggestions are always welcome. If necessary, put them down on paper and send them to me and they can be

discussed at branch committee meetings. As your representative on the EIGGA board of management, I will be pleased to take them to board meetings, too.

David Low.

East Anglia

With just a couple of exceptions, there hasn't been much going on in this neck of the woods. I did attend an excellent demonstration by Anglian Land Drainage at Woodbridge GC. Ben Bunting, the manager of ALD, took a few of us down for the day to see the Verti-Drain doing a marvellous job.

The second event was at an hotel in Norwich where a seminar was arranged by Collier Turf Care Distributors. It was a very interesting day, which was well attended by sports and amenity people. Firms represented included May & Baker, SISIS, Anglian Land Drainage, Mommersteeg, Rolawn and several others. All in all, a good day.

M.Lathorpe.

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