



Chairman's Message

As the end of 1985 approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to look back over the last eight months. I was elected EIGGA chairman by the board of management after the association's AGM at Warwick University during the national conference.

As chairman, you soon begin to realise how much effort and time is put in behind the scenes by the board of management and, in particular, the general administrator Danielle Jones.

Warwick was a joy and a disappointment to me. The joy was that we had people in our ranks who could stand up and deliver a paper good enough to hold the attention of the entire audience, as well as coping with lively question and answer sessions.

The disappointment was the poor attendance. Cost and time should not stop a keen EIGGA member from attending, so, please, let us see more of you at Warwick in 1986.

The marquee at the Open Championship was a great success. Board of management members worked very hard on your behalf and the visitors' book looked like a who's who of golf.

Greenkeeper training is moving along at great speed and I'm pleased to be joined by Peter Wisbey as EIGGA representatives on the Greenkeeper Training Committee. The phase three block-release has started in some colleges and will begin at most others in 1986.

EIGGA was well represented at St Andrews for the SIGGA conference and fifth Ransomes International Golf Tournament in October. David Jones gave an excellent paper on heathland management and there were other interesting sessions from all over the world, with a notable contribution from Nick Park.

In the Ransomes tournament, England was represented by a



EIGGA chairman Bill Lawson with the former R & A secretary Keith Mackenzie.

joint EIGGA/BGGA team of Kevin Munt and Terry Adamson from EIGGA combined with Jim Richardson and Gordon Payne. England finished sixth behind the winners Canada and runners-up Scotland. The Old Course proved very testing, but a great experience for all who played and watched.

Finally, we are holding talks with representatives from the R&A, EGU, SIGGA and the BGGA about a possible greenkeeping federation, which would operate from a central of-

fice. This idea was first discussed at St Andrews, where it received support from R&A secretary Michael Bonallack.

The discussions have only just started, but some progress has already been made and future developments will be published in *Greenkeeper*.

Meetings have also been held with the PGA about a possible joint organisation, but this development has been shelved for the time being.

Bill Lawson.

North West

The branch held its autumn seminar at the Reasheath College of Agriculture, Nantwich. The speaker for the morning session was Dennis Mottram, who is now senior lecturer at Reasheath. Dennis went into the technicalities of sportsground drainage in his usual articulate and professional manner.

To follow, Jack McMillan, who had travelled up from Sunningdale, chose the Verti-Drain as his subject for the afternoon lecture. Jack described the situation at Sunningdale, where he has found its implementation very successful. It was invigorating to hear an independent assessment of such a machine from an experienced and knowledgeable professional.

Jack was accompanied by his wife and we thank them both for making the trip north. We also thank Dennis Mottram and everyone at Reasheath for giving us all a rewarding day.

It was encouraging to see so many of the younger members sporting EIGGA blazers and ties and also to see some new faces from the Bolton and Manchester area. Members will have received a newsletter giving details of further lectures - please make every effort to attend.

The autumn golf tournament was held at the Abergele and Pensarn Golf Club in North Wales. Thanks go to the club captain for making us feel welcome. Thanks also go to John Richmond and his staff for their efforts on the day.

The tournament winner was Seve Lunt with a net 67 and the guest's prize went to Steve Stonehouse with a net 68.

Our thanks go to all the trade representatives who donated prizes - in particular, Ellesmere A.G. and Richard Jones for sponsoring the event and their continued support.

Bob Evans of Ruthin-Pwllglas

GC has recently gone into hospital for an operation. Best wishes, Bob, for a complete recovery.

In future, would members send any monies concerned with the North West branch to the treasurer Guy Cannings at 12 Victoria Road, West Kirby, Wirral, Merseyside.

The committee would like to thank our hard working administrator Terry Adamson for the effort he has put into the job. Terry is probably the best thing to come out of Wales since Ian Rush.

Well, gentlemen, we are at the end of another eventful year, as far as the profession is concerned. Please give us your support in '86 and, hopefully, we can strive on to improve the status of golf course management employees.

The chairman has asked me to pass on his and the committee's best wishes to members and their families for a happy and enjoyable Xmas and a successful and productive New Year.

Raymond Hunt

Surrey

After the frightful summer weather, it seems incredible to report that the Surrey members enjoyed another marvellous day when contesting the MacGillivray Shield at Richmond Golf Club.

The winners were: 1st - C. McMillan, 44 points; 2nd - A. Davie, 39 points; 3rd - J. Cuff, 38 points and 4th - P. Pearse 37 points.

Surrey members express their great appreciation to Richmond

GC and, in particular, to the secretary Commander Peter Woolings for extending the courtesy of the course. Also, our sincere thanks go to Alex Armitage and his assistants who have worked so hard to make Richmond the magnificent course it now is.

The branch's final meeting this year is a turkey trot on Monday December 9 at Worplesden Golf Club.

M. Hale.

East Anglia

The annual greenkeepers versus captains match at Purdis Heath resulted in a runaway victory for the greenies by seven matches to six. The day also proved a victory for greenkeeping with the results of Dave's hard slog there for all to see.

The top greenkeeper, on a countback, was P. Howard (Aldeburgh) with 37 points. He received the Ransomes watch. Second place went to Richard Mitchell (Eaton). Third place was taken by G. Barton (Haverhill) on 36 points, while Brian Lemmon (Barnham Broom), with 34 points, was fourth.

Top captain was D. Freeman on 41 points, followed by David Chapman (Eaton) with 38 points.

The prizes were presented by *Greenkeeper* publisher Michael Coffey.

Our thanks go to the club captain T. Morfitt and members for the courtesy of the course and subsidising a terrific meal with wine; to the trade representatives, especially Ransomes for the shield and watch and last, but

not least, to Dave and the lads for a fine course.

Our last tournament of the season was at the Maylands Golf and Country Club, which proved to be very memorable - not only was I going 'home', but everyone seemed to marvel at a clubhouse I had taken for granted for so long. The course was in superb condition, thanks to Phil Staines and his team. There was no evidence of the continual battering the course takes from the large number of visitors it attracts and the meal was second to none.

The victors of the day were: 1st - Martin Jones, 39 points and the King's Cup; 2nd - Mark Forrester, 37 points and the Victa Cup and 3rd - Phil Staines, 34 points.

The first guest with 40 points was G. Jackson, while the second guest was Mark Spooner (Eaton) on 38 points.

Our thanks go to Maylands for a great day - back to the grind for another six months!

M. Lathorpe.

Berks, Bucks And Oxon

The branch held its Jacobsen competition at Burnham Beeches Golf Club recently and it was a most successful event. Thanks go to the club for the hospitality and to Mark from Risbora Turf Supplies and Jacobsen for their sponsorship.

It seemed that whenever branch members gathered for a day's golf, the sun shone - not bad when you consider last season! This was certainly the case when the branch staged an invitation meeting at Sonning GC

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APPLICATION FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF E.I.G.G.A.

To be returned to the General Administrator, E.I.G.G.A., 2, Golf Cottage, Bucklesham Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.

I wish to enrol as a Full Member @ £20 p.a.
 Apprenticed Member @ £12 p.a. Delete as applicable
 Trade Member @ £25 p.a.

Name of Applicant
 Home Address
 Tel. No. Club or Company
 Address
 Preferred Mailing Address: Club Home
 Title
 Registered Greenkeeper or otherwise
 Certificates Signature
 Further number of Membership Forms required

Summit talks

THE establishment of one autonomous body has been the aim of meetings held recently between SIGGA, EIGGA, the BGGGA and other interested organisations in golf. Here, we detail the latest situation as it is known.

Greenkeeper understands that considerable progress has been achieved at the talks.

Originally, the BGGGA was approached by the Professional Golfers' Association, which produced a detailed proposal on how greenkeeping should be structured in the future - as a division of the PGA.

Later, the PGA, after discussions at the Open Championship, put the same proposition to SIGGA and EIGGA. Meetings took place between each of the associations and the PGA at its national headquarters at The Belfry.

The associations seem to have reservations about the advisability of such a takeover and there appears to be insufficient support within SIGGA and the BGGGA, while the EIGGA board of management has already advised the PGA that it is holding talks elsewhere.

During the SIGGA educational conference at the Younger Hall, St Andrews recently, Michael Bonallack, secretary of the Royal & Ancient Golf Club, introducing the afternoon session, strongly recommended that greenkeepers retain their independence and strive for an improvement in status through a unified approach to the profession's future. He felt sure that the R & A would look favourably upon any request for assistance in pursuing this aim.

Since the SIGGA conference, two meetings have taken place, with representatives of the three associations taking part under the chairmanship of the English Golf Union and with a member of the R & A in attendance.

Although nothing has been finalised as yet and another meeting is arranged for early December, *Greenkeeper*

believes that a general administrative centre with a full-time executive officer will be based at Bingley to coordinate events and conferences and to deal with the associations, which will operate on a regional or branch level.

The administrative organisation will be known as the Golf Greenkeepers' Federation with the aim of supporting in a practical form the Greenkeeper Training Committee by getting clubs to train their staff and have an all-qualified greenkeeping profession.

All apprentices will have to qualify and the eventual aim would be to have a system of continuous education, so that even course managers will be required to maintain their qualifications and knowledge by attending seminars. This system should have the support of the golf unions, which will assist with its implementation.

Should the federation come into being - and all the signs are positive - it will give the PGA European Tour, among others, the ideal vehicle for its intended support of 'greenkeeper training and course preparation research' and a worthwhile home for the money the tour received from ICI's Professional Products Division (see page 24 of last month's *Greenkeeper*). Likewise, the federation could act as a focal point for all trade involvement in greenkeeper training.

It is essential that the executive officer, when appointed, should not be a former greenkeeper, but someone with administrative skills and without bias. The committee should be small and of similar composition to the Greenkeeper Training Committee.

While there are, no doubt, many hurdles to clear and personal differences to overcome, it is hoped that all greenkeepers will shortly be brought together under one independent umbrella federation.

EIGGA NEWS & VIEWS CONTINUED...

and some 30 members and guests attended.

The course received a good deal of praise - Alan and staff are to be commended. We were well looked after in the clubhouse and, once again, members of the trade gave us good support. I make special mention of Maxwell Hart, Parkers, TMS and May & Baker.

There is a lot of work involved in putting on such a day, so thanks go to Ed, Brian and Sevi for all their hard work. (Brian wishes to thank M. Warner and M. Strange for handling the raffle).

Finally, a turkey trot is scheduled by Badgemore Park on December 11, starting at 11am.

Billy McMillan.

Eastern

This, the branch's first report, is to let members know that greenkeepers do exist in the east!

Although not a heavily supported branch, the membership is drawn from a large area - from Kettering, Worksop and Lincoln to Skegness and Cambridge, to name but a few. We meet mainly around Grantham, as this is central, and are a friendly group always willing to meet new members. Anyone interested in joining should ring Colin Swingler on Grantham (0476) 68656.

Our autumn golf meeting for the Rigby Taylor Trophy was held at Stoke Rochford Golf Club by courtesy of the captain Peter Bloodworth. The course, in a superb setting, was in excellent condition, thanks to Gilbert Ogden and his staff. It proved a hard test on a windy day.

The trophy and prizes were presented by Steve Dickinson of Rigby Taylor. The cup was won by Steve McCrossan of Burghley Park with Roy Harrison of the home club losing out on the last nine holes. The non-greenkeeper prize was won by Brian Booth.

We are hoping to arrange a further golf day sometime in March, when members will be invited to bring along a committee member to play.