

H.Q. NEWS

Dear E.I.G.G.A. member,
Well, once again we approach the end of a year, and it's time for me to give you an up-date on what's been happening in your Association throughout the past few months. 1985 has been a very busy year for E.I.G.G.A., and we are really starting to make some impact within the industry. A great deal of behind-the-scenes work has been done by various members of the Board of Management, who have travelled all over the country to attend meetings called by certain respective bodies in the golf world; the results of those meetings will become apparent in due course, and I am sure that our Chairman will cover the subject in his report, but I feel that 1985 will mark a turning point in E.I.G.G.A.'s history, and 1986 will bear witness to the efforts made on behalf of the membership. Particular mention must be made to Bill Lawson, who, since becoming National Chairman in March this year, has done a tremendous amount of work to benefit the Association, and much of what E.I.G.G.A. is set to achieve in the future will be due to Bill's commitment and determination. He also found time to act as E.I.G.G.A.'s Captain to the English team which played in the Ransomes International Tournament, at St. Andrews, in October. Our team made a gallant effort, but, as you know, the Canadians took the honours. E.I.G.G.A. was well represented on the English team by Kevin Munt, who is a member of the Board of Management, and Terry Adamson who is the administrator for the North-west branch of the Association. Kevin has been on the E.I.G.G.A. Board since the very first A.G.M., first as Chairman, and now as a Trustee; and Terry has done some sterling work in the North-west, and has been a great benefit to his branch, and to the Association in general. E.I.G.G.A. was also honoured to be invited to send a speaker to the S.I.G.G.A. Conference, which was held in conjunction with the tournament, and our Vice-President, David Jones attended in this capacity at S.I.G.G.A.'s request; thus, a team of four first-class ambassadors was sent to represent E.I.G.G.A. at this prestigious event.

Although our golfers were not successful at St. Andrews, it was a different story at The Belfry in October, when the Greenkeepers were the victorious team in the Kubota Challenge.

The team was made up of players from E.I.G.G.A., S.I.G.G.A. and the B.G.G.A., and they competed with the Golf Writers, Secretaries, and Stewards. E.I.G.G.A. was fortunate to have been represented by two excellent golfers, Brian Turner of Worplesdon Golf Club,

and Joao Teixeira of Hillingdon Golf Club, and our congratulations go to them, and their fellow team members.

As most of you know, E.I.G.G.A.'s 1985 Conference, whilst not being as well attended as had been hoped, was, nevertheless very successful in terms of content, and the quality of speakers. Details of the 1986 Conference are published in this magazine and it promises to be an even better event.

The conference will be held over three full days, on the weekend of 4th/5th/6th April 1986, at the University of Warwick, which, as those of you who attended this year's conference know, is an ideal venue with excellent facilities.

Registration will be from 9.00 a.m. on Friday 4th April, and the programme, featuring a wide range of speakers, will be publicised in "Greenkeeper" magazine. The time of the Annual General Meeting has been changed, so that it will now take place after the last lecture on the Saturday (5th April) afternoon, and before the formal banquet; this arrangement leaves the afternoon of Sunday 6th free for more lectures, and allows maximum use of the time available. The cost of attendance to the 1986 E.I.G.G.A. Educational Conference will be £112.00 to E.I.G.G.A. members, and £125.00 to non-members. This sum covers all meals and accommodation which are of a very good standard, and includes all lectures and the formal dinner on the Saturday evening. We have been very fortunate in obtaining the services of Sir Rex Hunt as our after-dinner speaker. As you know, Sir Rex was the Civil Commissioner on the Falkland Islands, and is in fact a member of the Association. Although I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting Sir Rex, I have corresponded with him on several occasions, and judging by the humorous tone of his letters, I would say that we are in for a most entertaining evening!

I would urge those of you who haven't been to an E.I.G.G.A. conference before, to try and make this one if you can; and, for any Golf Club Secretaries, or Greens Chairman who might read this, you too are most welcome to attend, and I am sure that you will appreciate the benefit of your Club sending it's Greenkeeper/s to what is a major conference on Green-keeping. I can assure the few cynics out there that this is not merely a social event, but a comprehensive educational forum which gives everyone an opportunity to hear the experts speak on a variety of subjects. For anyone wishing to reserve a place, please complete the booking form, and send your remittance, or a deposit of £20.00 to National Headquarters.

Daily attendance is also available at a rate of £25.00 per person per day. This sum covers morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea, and all lectures.

Will all members please note that the invoices for their 1986 E.I.G.G.A. membership subscriptions is enclosed in this issue of "Greenkeeper". Full membership which applies to any greenkeeper other than an apprentice is £20.00, whilst the apprentice subscription remains at £12.00. Trade membership is £25.00 (individual) and Company membership is open to regional companies at £75.00 to cover membership for two representatives, and National companies at £125.00, to cover four representatives. If for some reason you do not receive your invoice, please forward the relevant sum to National H.Q., together with details of your name, membership number, preferred mailing address, and the name of your club; also, if applicable any change in your status during the past year; i.e. from 1st Assistant to Head Greenkeeper etc. At this point, may I ask everyone, please, to send their 1986 subs at the earliest opportunity in the new year, as I cannot accept any renewals after 31st March.

As before, if a golf club joins it's entire green-staff en bloc it can claim a 10% reduction, and if your club is paying your subscription, could you please give your invoice to your club's secretary for this purpose.

Finally, to all our members, thank you for supporting the Association during the past year; I know that progress in certain areas is a little slow, but, like British Rail, "We're getting there!" If you have any queries, or comments, please let me know; I occasionally hear of someone voicing their discontent over some matter which could so easily be rectified by a letter or a 'phone call. Further to this, for those of you who are awaiting Unit 6 of the E.I.G.G.A. Management Course, I have been assured by the Bournemouth & Poole Management Centre that the Unit will be sent out shortly.

I hope that you have a very Happy Christmas, and a healthy and prosperous 1986, and I look forward to seeing some of you at Warwick in April.

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