

## EIGGA Conference - Warwick University, April 4-6

The annual EIGGA conference is almost upon us and, again, it is not being as well supported as it should be. An excellent programme has been put together for you, the membership, and the conference promises to be a lively and informative event with plenty to interest everyone.

Registration for delegates will be on the first day, Friday April 4, from 9am-11am. The conference itself will be opened by EIGGA's president, Dennis Ayling, at 11am. At present, there is only one amendment to the conference programme - the lecture session from 4.45pm to 5.30pm on Friday April 4, will now be taken by C. Mardon, course manager at West Malling Golf Club, Kent. His talk will be entitled *Back To Hand Mowing*.

If you have not yet reserved your place, please do not delay further. The success, or failure, of this conference depends upon your support and, while the conference is more than ably promoted by a first-class gathering of speakers, it will be a poor reflection on this association if the lecture theatre is only half full.

EIGGA asks that all golf club secretaries and committee members ensure that their club's greenkeeper/s and/or yourselves attend this important educational event in the greenkeeping calendar. To do so, can only be of benefit to your golf club. The number of places reserved to date will ensure that the conference does not make a loss but, unless more places are taken up, the future of the annual conference will be in jeopardy.

It is noticeable that the same people who attended the 1985 conference are reserving places this year, which must be a good recommendation in itself, but I am concerned that the greenkeeping world is suffering from either the apathy of golf clubs, which are not sufficiently concerned with the condition of their courses to fund the education of those persons they employ to maintain them, or the apathy of greenkeepers themselves. I hope to be proven wrong on both counts.

### Good programme

I can promise those who do attend that they will not be disappointed. As well as a very good programme, the conference provides a marvellous opportunity for greenkeepers to socialise and exchange views. The venue - once again, the University of Warwick - boasts excellent facilities and the meals and accommodation are of a high quality.

On the first evening, there will be a wine reception preceding dinner and, later that evening, Rigby Taylor will sponsor and host a lighthearted team quiz.

Saturday is a full day, with lectures from a wide variety of speakers, including representatives from the Greenkeeper Training Committee and the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.

The EIGGA AGM will be held later on the Saturday from 6.00-7.30pm and, as the meeting will be dealing with some very

important matters regarding EIGGA's future, I trust that it will be well attended.

The AGM will be followed by the formal dinner and EIGGA is honoured to have as its guest speaker Sir Rex Hunt, formerly civil commissioner of the Falkland Islands. Dress for the dinner will be an EIGGA blazer and tie or suit.

Sunday brings another full day of lectures, including a session given by the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America, and the conference closes at 5.00pm, allowing most delegates to get home at a reasonable time.

The application form below is for your use and if you require further information or a copy of the conference programme, please write to me, Danielle Jones, General Administrator, EIGGA National Headquarters, 11 Cae Mawr Grove, Caldicot, Newport, Gwent NP6 4EW. Tel: 0291 424235.

*● Three free places to the EIGGA conference were on offer in a competition open to all apprentices. The essay subject was Greenkeeping - The Future. The best entry was submitted by N. Beckford and so high was the overall standard that four other apprentices were awarded free conference places by the EIGGA board of management. Greenkeeper is sure that they will all find a great deal to interest them in the three days at Warwick University.*

I wish to reserve a place at the EIGGA Annual Conference and enclose a deposit of £20 made payable to the English and International Golf Greenkeepers' Association.  
Post to Danielle Jones, General Administrator, EIGGA National HQ, 11 Cae Mawr Grove, Caldicot, Newport, Gwent NP6 4EW.

Name ..... Club.....

Address.....

Residential   
Daily Attendance

Members £112  
Wives £90  
Non-Members £125

Daily Attendance £25  
GTC Registered Apprentices £90  
Log Book No.....



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## Surrey

Members should have received entry forms for the annual dinner and dance to be held at the Drift Golf and Country Club on April 19 - tickets are £12 per head.

Anyone who has not had a form and would like to attend should send their remittance, together with a stamped SAE, to A. Bradshaw, 61 Windsor Avenue, New Malden before April 2.

The spring tournament will be played at Hankley Common GC on May 13. Entry costs £12 and forms will be forwarded in due course.

It is with regret that we have said 'goodbye' to branch general administrator Mike Hayle, who has been appointed club secretary at Wimbledon Park GC. On behalf of the branch, I wish Mike the very best of luck in his new post.

*Paul Pearse.*

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## North-West

The Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs held a meeting at Chester GC recently to tell north-west clubs about greenkeeper training.

The meeting was well-attended and those present included G. Ashton, CUGC president, who opened the proceedings, Roger Robinson for the R & A, Peter Wilson for the EGU, Dr Frank Hawkins, CUGC liaison officer, and Dr Dennis Mottram, senior lecturer at Reaseheath College. The branch thanks the club and its secretary Vic Wood for their help.

Dennis Mottram has graduated two more very successful students - Alan Frost (Astbury) and Alan Huxley, head greenkeeper at Astbury GC. Well done, lads!

A presentation was made at a committee meeting to Raymond Hunt, who is leaving the area to

join Bruce Jamieson as assistant head greenkeeper at Royal Porthcawl.

SISIS' sales director Arthur Harrison is now recovering from illness and I'm sure that the best wishes of all EIGGA members go to him.

This year's EIGGA conference runs from April 4-6 at Warwick University and I hope to see the north-west there in force!

*Bill Lawson.*

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## From A Greenkeeper's Wife

When I married, greenkeeping meant little to me. Now I know about all the hard work that goes into the job, especially the paperwork that has to be done 'after hours', which employers sometimes don't realise.

We often wondered what it would be like when John retired and we could pass a golf course in the car without him saying: "Just stopping to look at the greens - won't be long." All would be well if the greenkeeper wasn't around; if he was, there was little else to do but settle down with a good book!

Now, after minor operations, John has been forced to give up his job and he doesn't know when he'll be able to return to greenkeeping. We now know how much we were both involved.

Often he would come home at night and say: "Sorry, I forgot to ask you this morning. The ladies are having a match tomorrow, could you bake a cake?" While

father and son settled down by the fire, I would be in the kitchen.

On another occasion, one of the men was off work, so I was brought in to rake the bunkers and change the flags! So, it was up at six and off to work and just as we were ready to leave for home, "Will you have time to type this report? It's needed for a meeting tonight."

At one of my husband's clubs, I was picking up stones in the morning and pulling pints at night!

We spend our holidays on the north Norfolk coast and we must have visited every course in the area. Now he has our son on his side and I think that golf might be the game for me when he is able to play again.

Back at home, we have a small lawn that has to be cut the right way. "Brush it first, then cut it," I'm instructed. I even have to spike the lawn with a garden fork, but I agree it does look good.

If any wives are fed up with being grass widows, especially at night when their husbands have to check the watering system or tackle a job that can't be done while the members are playing, I would say: go with him! He'll enjoy the company and, remember, a job can be done quicker with an extra pair of hands.

I take this opportunity to thank all the members of EIGGA's East Anglia branch for their good wishes and get-well cards. It's nice to know John is still remembered and he hopes to see you all again in 1986.

*Mrs John Young*

**Support your association  
at EIGGA's annual  
conference -  
Warwick University,  
April 4-6**