



## SIGGA AGM

The 39th AGM of SIGGA was held at the Golden Lion Hotel, Stirling. President Jimmy Neilson welcomed everyone and asked for a minute's silence in memory of Russell Brown (Turnberry), Jim Duncan (Barassie) and Bob Scott (Murcar).

The president then gave his report and outlined the high points of a successful year. These included the opening of SIGGA's new headquarters at Haggs Castle.

The national golf tournament at Cawder had been a great success, despite atrocious weather. But the highlight of the year, of course, had been the international conference and tournament at St Andrews in October. SIGGA, he said, could be proud of the superb organisation of this event, which had been enjoyed by representatives from 13 countries.

Jimmy added that SIGGA was proud of its team in the tournament. Raymond Day, Jim Granger, Duncan Gray, Graham Webster and non-playing captain George Hampton had made a great effort to win the event in its first year in Scotland and only the second-round brilliance of the Canadians had stopped them.

To SIGGA members who had not made the effort to attend, he could only say, "you don't know what you missed."

The management and supervisory courses at Elmwood College had again been well-supported. The Elmwood conference in March was also a great success with over 200 present.

The year had also seen the innovation of a quarterly newsletter for SIGGA members only. The first issue was already with members and Jimmy Kidd is responsible for the editorial. Elliott Small has taken over sole responsibility for any SIGGA editorial in *Greenkeeper*.

Jimmy Neilson thanked the members for their support in his

two years of office and gave a special vote of thanks to his executive committee for its enthusiasm and hard work.

Reports from the sections were given by the section secretaries, followed by the education report from Walter Woods. In this, he gave a resume of how education had improved in the last ten years, from the one-year course primarily, as Walter put it, "orientated towards pruning roses," through to the present day modular system, which gave all greenkeepers a chance to improve their knowledge.

It had now come to the stage where greenkeepers were represented on college committees and they now write better reports and communicate more easily with club committees, he said. Greenkeepers have reached the stage where they are taking to the platforms at conferences instead of agronomists and trade personnel, Walter added.

The financial report revealed a healthy balance sheet, which was fully approved. Jimmy Neilson then proposed that Walter Woods be elected president and this was unanimously approved. Walter, in accepting, spoke of the pride it gave him to have achieved this position and he hoped that he would have the support of the members in carrying on the good work of SIGGA. He then proposed that Jimmy Kidd should be vice-president and, again, this

met with unanimous approval.

Agreement was reached on resolutions dealing with wage scales, subscriptions, the AGM date, section subscriptions to the central fund and that the national tournament be held in a different section each year.

Discussion then took place on a number of different subjects, especially the proposed Federation of British Greenkeepers.

*Elliott Small.*

## Executive Decisions...

The executive agreed recently that all requests for SIGGA to provide speakers for conferences, etc, must be directed to the general secretary.

A trophy will be purchased to be played for by the veterans at the national tournament and each section will contribute to its cost.

Harry Diamond of the Ayrshire section and Cecil George (Lenzie) will be responsible for bunker rakers at the Open Championship.

The national tournament has been confirmed for Downfield GC on Thursday June 19.

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## Victory For The Greenkeepers Versus The Secretaries

The annual match between SIGGA and the Association of Club Secretaries (Scotland) for the Gillies and Henderson Trophy was played at Elie Golf House.

A wonderful spring day and a magnificent golf course provided the ideal setting for SIGGA to avenge last year's surprise, but deserved, win by the secretaries. SIGGA did just that, winning by seven games to nil, with one game halved. President Jimmy Neilson accepted the trophy with delight and he thanked all those who organised and took part in the day.

Jimmy made special mention of Sandy Cowan and his clubhouse staff for the high standard of catering and he also congratulated Brian Lawrie, the head greenkeeper at Elie, and his staff for presenting the golf course in an immaculate condition.

While looking forward to next year's encounter, I thank George Forgie, the Elie secretary, for the help he gave me and to the captain and council of Elie Golf House, I express SIGGA's thanks for affording us the courtesy of the golf course.

*Joe McKean, General Secretary.*

## Supervisory And Management Course Success



SIGGA president Jimmy Neilson (front, far right) of Murrayfield GC with head greenkeepers on the supervisory course at Elmwood.

Elmwood College welcomed head greenkeepers and first assistants to a supervisory and management course recently. Twenty-two students attended and they came from many areas of the UK - some from the north of England, others from London and the Home Counties and one student travelled over from Ireland.

It was a happy course and, judging by the feedback, it seems that the organisers have got the content just about right!

SIGGA will continue to support this annual event and all other training courses at Elmwood, as well as other colleges in Scotland offering greenkeeper training courses.

## Ayrshire

A further meeting of the programme review team of Radix, the management agents for the YTS in Ayrshire, was held recently. Further progress was achieved with Ayr Technical College regarding greenkeeping students attending in 1987. A meeting has been arranged at the college to assess the facilities.

At the committee meeting, chairman H. Diamond gave a detailed report on the proposals and arrangements for bunker raking duties at the Open. The programme for the Inverclyde seminar was discussed and forms have been drawn up.

The section is providing a trophy for its fourball competition, held for the first time last year. The winners were M. Power and W. Anderson of Troon Darley. New rules have been introduced for this year's competition.

There is a possibility of ten greenkeepers from Ireland joining the section and they will be attending the spring outing at Thornhill.



Students came from far and near to attend the distance learning course.

## West

The West section's annual greenkeeper/convenor pairs trophy, sponsored by SISIS, was played over a windswept West Kilbride. Keith Vertigan and Ian McKay from SISIS arranged a demonstration of machinery for the membership and competitors before play began.

Our thanks go to them as they managed to put on a creditable

## Also At Elmwood...

The Scotec part-three supervisory course was adapted by A. Smith, the course tutor, so it could be taught largely on a distance learning basis (one week in college instead of the normal five).

The wide interest in the course is best shown by the list of those who attended: Gary Armstrong (Co Durham), Robert Brewer (Glasgow), Thomas Byrne (Glasgow), Ronnie Christie (Crail), Graham Clarke (Leeds), Stewart Cruickshank (Larbert), Alan Ferguson (Bathgate), Charles Fotheringham (Falkirk), Christopher Gray (Isle of Wight), Iain Gunn (Kingussie), Robert Hardie (Aberdeen), Alastair Holmes (Berwick-upon-Tweed), Neil Metcalf (Aberdeen), Paul Morrison (Irvine), Chris Nicolle (Guernsey), Alastair Taylor (East Kilbride), Andrew Terry (Stratford-upon-Avon), Graeme MacNiven (Effingham) and Stuart Townsend (Linlithgow).

Dates and details of the 1987 course have, as yet, not been distributed, but there are already eight on the waiting list.

show despite the weather, which confined most of the audience to the clubhouse!

Only ten holes were contested and the final order was: A. Glachan and D. Middleton (Vale of Leven), 43 points; F. Scullion and W. Bryson (Dumbarton), 44; A. Connell and J. Moore (Cawder) and D. Hindmarch and G. Webster (Milngavie), tied on 45.