



Dear EIGGA Members...

By now, you will all be aware that EIGGA's membership has voted to amalgamate with SIGGA and the BGGGA to form one united association. I was pleased to see that a good proportion of our members took the trouble to vote on the proposals, although it was not a 90 per cent return as reported in some quarters. I only wish it had been.

Nevertheless, of those who did cast their votes, 86 per cent were in favour, so there seems to be little doubt as to the general wish for unity among greenkeepers.

Over the past few months, I have listened to all the arguments for and against the proposals and I can appreciate the feeling on both sides. I believe the right decision has been made and now it is up to all concerned to make sure this new venture works and works well.

It really is an exciting landmark in greenkeeping and, with one association representing all greenkeepers, there is enormous potential for improvement and progress.

Of course, we can't expect instant results in all areas and we will need to rely on the excellent team representing EIGGA on the new association's board of management. They are Bill Lawson, former EIGGA chairman and a dedicated worker, who has done so much for our association; Kevin Munt, EIGGA's first chairman and now a trustee of the association; Dennis Ayling, president of EIGGA for the past two years, and Raymond Hunt, a member of EIGGA's board of management and South Wales branch administrator.

All have given a great deal of themselves to EIGGA and I can assure you that the interests of our members are safe in their hands.

The first meeting of the new association's board of management is to be held sometime this month (November) and many im-

portant issues will need to be decided. I hope that the board, in its wisdom, will reconsider the new association's title. I feel the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA) lacks dignity and is as cumbersome as the names of the original associations. This is only a small point, I know, but a view shared by quite a few.

1986 has been a very positive year for EIGGA. The national conference exceeded all expectations in terms of attendance and proved even more successful than 1985. Our thanks go to Warwick University, who looked after us so well throughout the event. Plans are already in hand for the 1987 conference, which will, of course, be held under the banner of the new association. Sadly, we are unable to book Warwick University again, but an alternative venue has been secured and delegates will not be disappointed.

The conference will be held on the weekend of April 10-12 at the Redwood Lodge Hotel and Coun-

try Club, Bristol, Avon. Redwood Lodge is a superb venue. Once again, we will be limited to the numbers of delegates. This year's conference was over-subscribed and those who left their applications until the last minute, had to be turned away. So, please book in good time.

The programme and booking form will be available in the new year, but anyone wishing to reserve a place can do so by contacting me for details at the address below.

This autumn has seen three rather significant events. For the second year running, the greenkeepers carried off the Kubota trophy and we are very proud that EIGGA's two representatives, Brian Turner and Duncan Kelso, were part of the winning team. Congratulations to them.

The Kent branch held a one-day seminar at Broome Park in October and I understand that this attracted a large attendance. The Kent branch administrator and committee must be commended

Greenkeepers Retain Kubota Title

A team of golf greenkeepers won the fourth Kubota Golf Challenge at The Belfry by defeating the golf writers 6-2 in the final, having beaten the golf club secretaries, also 6-2, in the semis.

The writers won their first-ever challenge match, despatching the stewards 5-3 in the semi-finals. The stewards took third place over the secretaries with a 5½-2½ victory.



A superb PR job on behalf of all greenkeepers was executed by B. Turner, T. Murray, G. Bruce, K. Archibald, P. Shaw, D. Kelso, A. Peel and R. Barker.

for organising such a well-supported day.

The third event was a two-day seminar held by the South Wales branch at the Abbey Hotel, Great Malvern, Worcestershire. I was fortunate enough to attend the seminar, which proved a great success. All credit to branch administrator Raymond Hunt who did a superb job of organising the seminar. The first of many I hope.

Ray has been the South Wales branch administrator for only nine months and, in that time, he has worked hard to put the branch 'on the map'. He's done a first-class job.

I wonder how often we stop to think what EIGGA's branch administrators do for the association and its members? They are unpaid volunteers, holding down responsible full-time jobs, and they all give us a great deal of time to work for EIGGA on behalf of their branches.

Some have loyal committees to assist their efforts and share the workload. Others are left to cope with the full responsibilities of the position and it's often a tedious and demanding job. Please support your branch administrator and make sure your committee does so.

There is a great deal of hard work ahead if the new association is to succeed and it must not be left to just a few dedicated people to ensure that the members' best interests are looked after. The association is not an entity created by committee decisions. It is there to serve you, the membership and if you are willing to give a little in the way of effort, you will gain a great deal in the long term.

In all probability, I will not be actively involved in the new association, but I will continue to care about the future of the association and I very much hope it achieves its aims.

I consider myself fortunate to have worked for the last four years in a job I have enjoyed. It has been exasperating at times, but I wouldn't have missed any of it. I've made a lot of friends through EIGGA and I shall miss seeing familiar faces at the annual conference, the Windsor show, etc.

I trust that the trade will continue to support greenkeepers and I hope that the advent of a new association will herald a greater understanding between

all greenkeepers and others involved in the golf industry.

Finally, a big 'thank you' to the board of management, members past and present and to the chairmen, presidents and trustees, whose support has been invaluable. December 31 1986 will, it seems, see the end of EIGGA and the beginning of a new era in greenkeeping. The future will be very bright if the spirit that motivated EIGGA is carried into the new association. Let's make sure it is.

My best wishes to you all for a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Danielle Jones, General Administrator, EIGGA National Headquarters Caldicot, Gwent.

London

The annual dinner-dance will be held in March. Details of the venue will follow and it is hoped that all members will make this event the most successful we have had.

A seminar aimed at apprentice greenkeepers has been arranged for February 4 at Aldenham Golf Club. All the lecturers will be greenkeepers and details will be circulated to clubs in the area soon. If it goes well, the next one will be for more experienced staff.

The summer league was won by Michael Peters and Chris Slater. Runners-up were Neil Bennet and David Stenton. Thanks go to all those that made it so enjoyable.

The autumn competition at Muswell Hill Golf Club was a great success and our thanks go to Derek Mason for arranging it and to all the club staff.

Branch administrator David Low marries at the end of November and the best wishes of all members go to him and Dawn for health and happiness in the future.

Congratulations to Alan Lewis on his appointment as head greenkeeper at Hampstead Golf Club. May his greens always be fusarium free!

The committee takes this opportunity to wish all members a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Michael Peters, 10 Hills Lane, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 2QL.

Sussex

The autumn meeting at Worthing Golf Club enjoyed a sunny clear day. Hugh and his staff had the 36-hole downland course in good fettle. Thank you, lads. Thanks also to the secretary, catering staff and everyone at Worthing for making the day so memorable.

The results were: Medal (net scores). 1st A. Butrymowicz 70. 2nd D. Driver 74. 3rd S. Adby 77. 4th D. Coonbear 78. Stableford. 1st A. Hale 37pts. 2nd M. Butrymowicz 35pts. 3rd B. Owen 32pts. 4th G. Whitby 29pts.

Golfer of The Year was A. Butrymowicz who gained 24pts throughout the season. Best three medal rounds for the Sussex Plate were achieved by R. Jones with 96, 86, 102.

See you at the winter lectures (details from Ron on Horsham 60525) at the Ugly Duckling, Haywards Heath.

A. Butrymowicz.

South Wales

The branch held its autumn seminar at The Abbey Hotel, Great Malvern over the first weekend in November. Twelve speakers, six of whom were greenkeepers, presented papers.

Two notable contributions came from Paul Pearse, first assistant at Effingham GC in Surrey, and Nigel Beckford, winner of the 1986 EIGGA apprentice essay award. As expected, the two youngsters did themselves, and the profession, proud.

Thanks go to all speakers for preparing such excellent papers. In particular, I would like to thank Jim Arthur and Nick Park, who have contributed so much to greenkeeper education.

As EIGGA nears the end of its short, but highly productive, life, the branch would like to thank all those who have served as officers on its branch committees and board of management over the last four years.

The association owes a great deal of its success to Danielle Jones, whose skill and enthusiasm has been invaluable as an administrator.

Raymond Hunt, Branch Administrator.

Kent

The branch held its seminar at Broome Park Golf and Country Club. It turned out to be an outstanding success with all seats sold and even a waiting list!

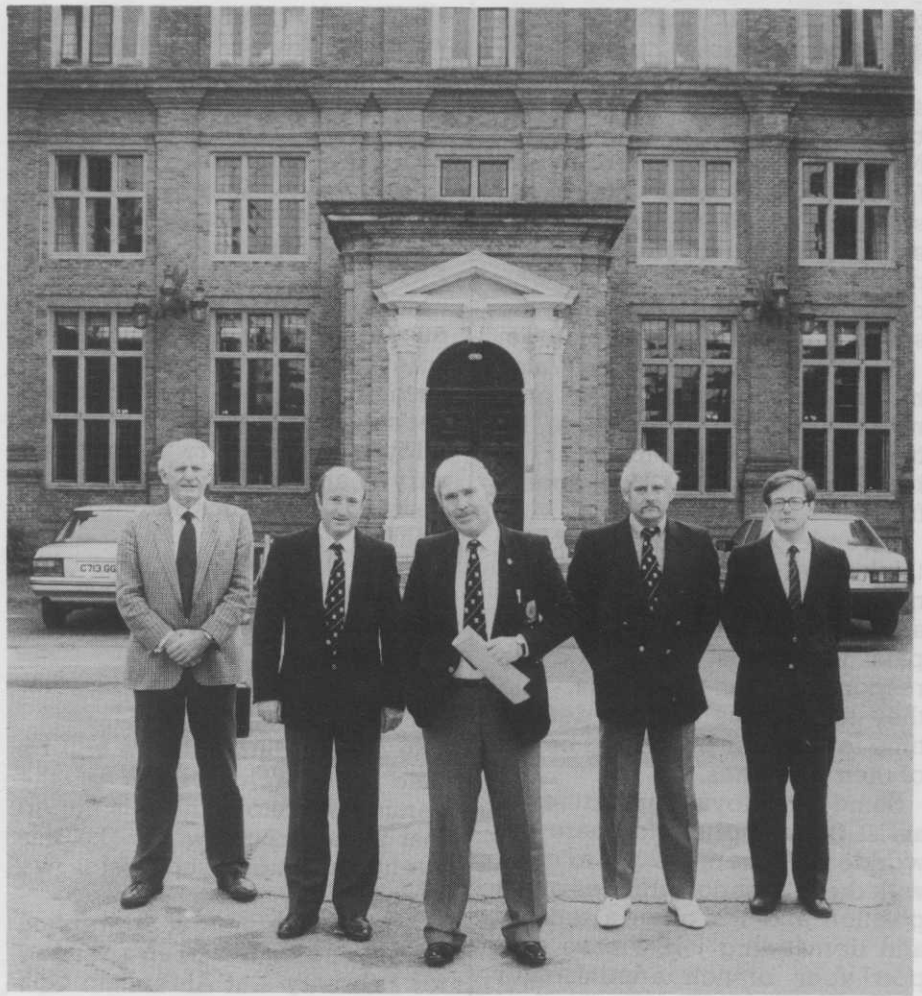
The speakers were Jack McMillan, whose main theme was aeration; Chris Mardon, who put a case for going back to handmowing; Martin Hawtree, who gave an illustrated talk on course architecture; Wing Cmdr W. McCrea on what he expects from his head greenkeeper and Nick Park, who gave a new view of greenkeeping and a look at some rather nasty molars, too!

Thanks go to all speakers for their time and giving us a day to remember. Thanks also, to Broome Park for the use of the marvellous facilities and laying on a first-class lunch.

We hope to make these one-day seminars a regular event. So, as they say, watch this space.

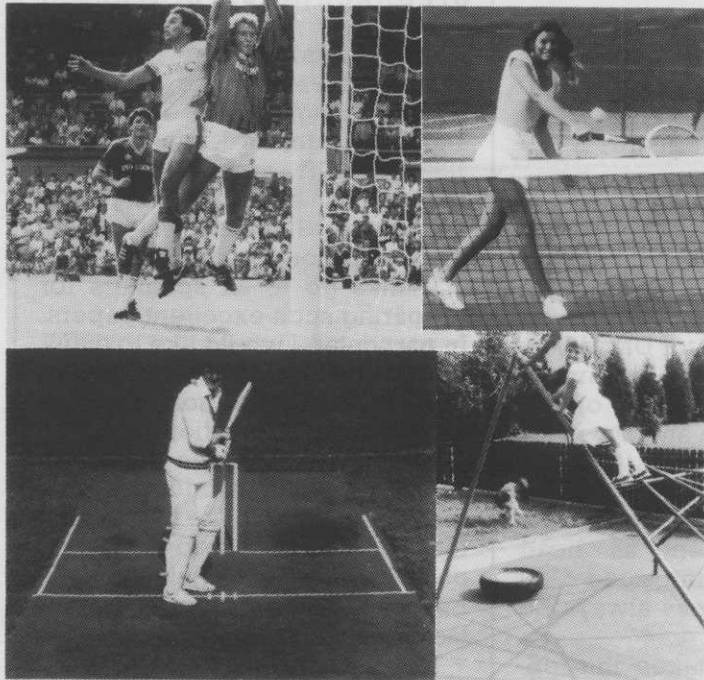
J. Atkins.

Wing Commander Bill McCrea, Nick Park, Jack McMillan, Chris Mardon and Martin Hawtree.



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