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# Where Do We Go From Here...

Now that the votes are in and counted, overwhelming approval for a new unified greenkeepers association has been given by the members of SIGGA, EIGGA and the BGGGA, what will happen next?

Four members from each of the current associations will meet and plan the future. There are a number of items they will have to consider. First the new Associations name and image, surely the title should be the Golf Greenkeepers Association, as in the Golf Club Stewards Association, the Professional Golfers Association etc. The logo could be the same as the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America  modern, stylish and bringing greenkeepers on both sides of the Atlantic closer together.

The business plan for the new Association will be strongly biased in favour of education and communication, with the continuation of lectures, seminars and an annual conference with the Associations AGM taking place at the same time.

Perhaps the most difficult item on the new committee's agenda will be to define the role of the Association's Administrator. Will the post need to be full time initially? Apart from running the day to day finances, attend Board of Management meetings and generally promoting the greenkeepers role in the golf club, what will the job description encompass. He or she will have to organise the annual conference and AGM, assist members with wage and job negotiations, act as a clearing house for contributions to the Association magazine, attract new members and be ready with a good answer for the inevitable question of "What's in it for me?"

A great impression has been created over recent years by the "uniform", especially at such international gatherings as the Ransomes Tournament when the blazers and ties from both north and south of the border stole the show in the face of some smart opposition. Perhaps consideration could be given to a subsidy to aid the change from one uniform to another.

Will the new Association offer insurance cover to its members? Will it be possible for a wage scale or at least minimums for each category to be agreed with the golf unions? Could a standard form of employment be drawn up? The items for discussion will be many and it will take time and patience.

It has not been easy to come this far, there are many in the background who have played important, if unrecorded roles, in bringing all concerned together. The new Committee's task is a daunting one and theirs is an opportunity that will only come once. Everyone will wish them well in their deliberations not forgetting that twelve greenkeepers will attend in their own time and for no financial reward — dedication indeed.