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BIGGA UPDATE...

At the meeting of the board of management held in York on January 13, it was agreed that a short report should be circulated to members with an accompanying letter from the chairman.

● Appointment of General Administrator

As it was not finally known until late last year that a single association of greenkeepers would be formed, it was not possible to take any action until December to engage a general administrator. At the December board of management meeting, consultants were engaged to obtain a short-list of applicants and, at the meeting held in January, a job specification and advertisement were approved. The ad has subsequently appeared in the January/February issue of *Amateur Golf* and appears on page 31 of this *Greenkeeper*. It has also been run in other selected publications.

● Office Location

The BIGGA office is to be located at the Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley and the general administrator's first responsibility will be to set up that office and appoint a secretary. Until this time, the Sports Turf Research Institute is assisting the association. However, until the association has its own employees, members are requested *not* to communicate with the STRI, but with regional board of management representatives.

● Association Sections

The new association's constitution provides that association regions be divided into areas. It is likely that they will be similar to the old sections. Board of management representatives have been asked to report upon this issue at a meeting to be held on March 2. It is being recommended that all section funds shall, subject to the approval of those sections, be handed over to the constituted new area.

● Annual Subscriptions

As stated in the letter from the chairman, subscriptions will not be demanded until the association has set up its own office.

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● National Annual Golf Competition and Greenkeepers' Conference

A golf competition will be organised as previously - further details at a later date. The conference, to be held at Redwood Lodge in April, was to have been the annual conference of EIGGA. This has been postponed. A one-day seminar will take place at the Mere Golf and Country Club on Thursday March 12, organised by the north-west branch of the BIGGA.

● Association Magazine

The consultants advising the association on the appointment of a general administrator are also preparing a tender document for submission to those interested in publishing the association's magazine and tenders will be invited.

● In Conclusion

It would appear that the total membership will be over 2,000. The precise number will not be known until all former trade members have been identified and deleted from the list of the greenkeeper membership.

● Chairman's Message

"I feel honoured to be elected chairman of our newly formed association," Walter Woods said.

"It has been two long years of steering committee meetings. Sacrifices had to be made, but these were unselfishly overcome, with our thoughts set firmly on the future. The new management committee brings together a group of enthusiastic members with one common ambition - to improve the status of the golf course greenkeeper.

"Our first objective is to coordinate the association's framework, embracing education, finance, communications and any future developments. No major decisions will be made without formal proposal to the membership.

"Over the next few years, we will succeed, but it will take effort and dedication similar to that provided by our ancestors. It took wisdom and foresight to show us why we were wrong to be divided. Together, we can move forward to a more rewarding future.

"Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the management committee for electing me chairman and also the Royal and Ancient Golf Club and the English Golf Union for their valuable assistance."