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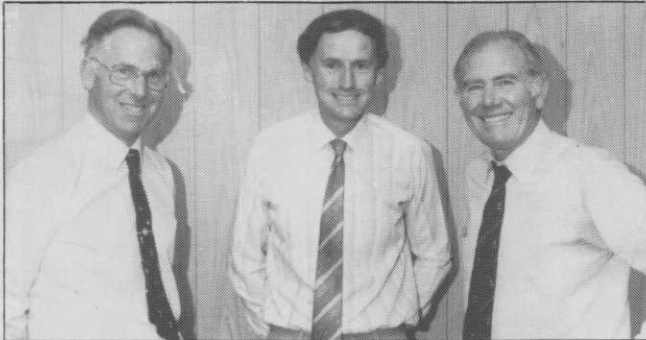
JULY 1987

Front cover: There was universal acclaim for the condition of Jack McMillan's Sunningdale golf course during the Walker Cup and further cause for celebration in the McMillan family camp - see page 11.

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Association appoints executive director



NEIL THOMAS (above) is the new executive director of BIGGA and, from August, he will be based at the Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, West Yorkshire.

His family - wife Elaine, Scott, four, and Grant, two - was recently augmented by another young member and is looking forward to establishing a new home in Yorkshire.

Neil was born in Penarth, South Wales. He attended the local grammar school and, subsequently, the University of Wales at Cardiff, where he obtained a history degree. He later entered local government and soon became a principal officer in the social services department of the newly formed West Glamorgan County Council.

His management progress did not stop there - as a chief administrative officer, he managed personnel, financial and general support services within a large social services department. His experience embraces committee work, working parties and industrial relations.

Neil's first sporting loves were rugby, tennis and cricket, turning out for Penarth in the Welsh Clubs' Cricket Conference. He became hooked on golf following a visit to that memorable 1975 Open at Carnoustie, when Tom Watson held off the luckless Jack Newton in a play-off.

"I've been a fan of Tom Watson since and, in recent years, have enjoyed the meteoric rise of fellow Welshman Ian Woosnam. Carnoustie gave me the inspiration to take up golf and I joined Fairwood Park Golf Club in Swansea. I then spent a couple of years at nearby Clyne GC before returning to Fairwood Park."

Neil describes his current game as "average, but

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