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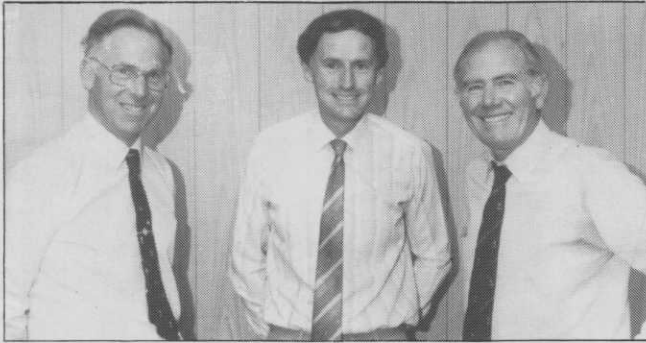
JULY 1987

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.

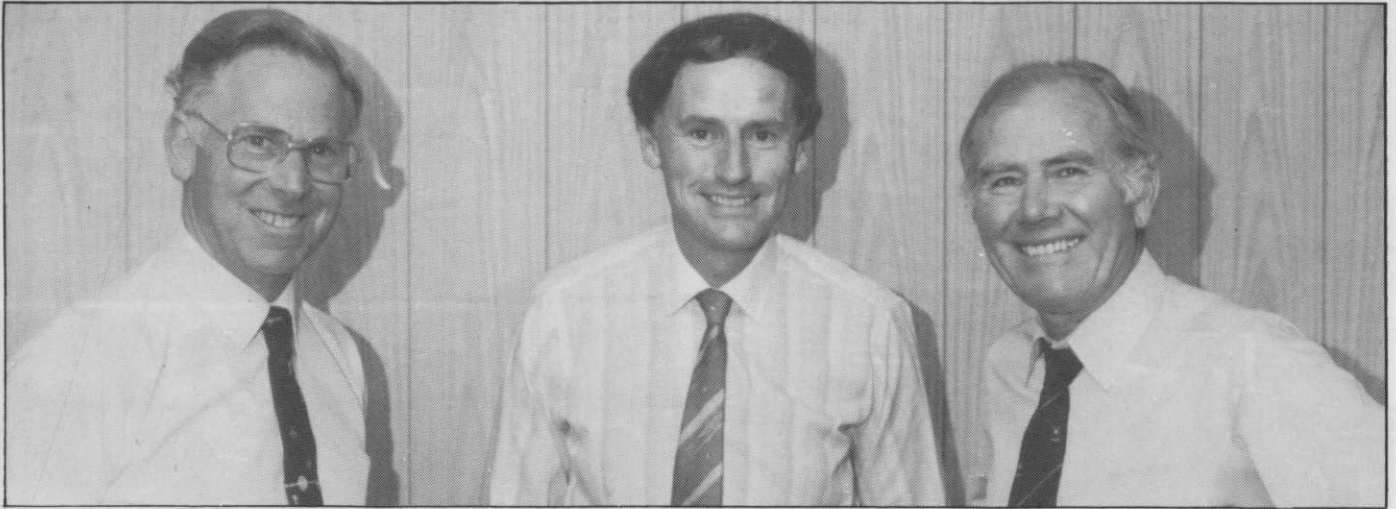
His management progress did not stop there - as a chief administrative officer, he managed personnel, financial and general support services within a large social services department. His experience embraces committee work, working parties and industrial relations.

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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Neil Thomas is flanked by Peter Wilson (left) and Walter Woods.

in dire need of more practice!"

"I am very excited by the job that awaits me and look forward, through the board of management, to organising the association's affairs. It's my aim to establish BIGGA as a major force in the game and, to this end, I am ready to listen and learn. I feel it is of paramount importance that the membership makes its views known - the association is there for the members' benefit.

"At present, course managers and greenkeepers generally have a low profile. A unified association will be able to project a far more positive image of the profession, nationally as well as internationally.

"Our public and press relations will be tightened up and I aim to get around the regions to meet the

members as soon as possible, although I would ask for patience in the early stages! There is much to be done and a secretariat to be established at Bingley.

"I was very impressed by the way board of management members, all working course managers, sacrificed their time to establish BIGGA and the contribution by the two R&A trustees, Peter Wilson and Roger Robinson, was invaluable.

"There's no reason why the association cannot become pre-eminent within golf. The board and I will set about achieving this and it is my fervent hope that we will receive the backing and active participation of every member, enabling BIGGA to become established and then move forward."

BRITISH and INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Greenkeeping member

Name in full Club

Position

Trade or Associate member

Name in full Company

Position

Preferred mailing address

I attach my cheque for £15 (plus VAT) = £17.25 Signed.....

Return to: The Executive Director, BIGGA, Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, W. Yorkshire.