

This issue

MAY 1987

Front cover: The Jubilee Course at St Andrews is to be rebuilt, as part of the Links Managements redevelopment plans. Pictured are Brian Pierson the golf course contractor, Donald Steel the architect and partners Sandy Sinclair and Johnny Salvesen.

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BIGGA, PATIENCE IS ITS OWN REWARD

The greenkeeping profession is about to come of age. 1987 will go down as an historic year for all, from apprentices to golf course managers.

A few months ago, the old Associations, for the second time this century, voted to amalgamate into one proud body, bound by the objectives of promoting *all* aspects of greenkeeping and collaborating with any body or association with which there may be a common interest.

To this end the collaboration with the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews to achieve the formation of one united Greenkeepers Association for the whole of the United Kingdom has been most amicable.

It is at this moment in time however, that the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Board of Management requests extreme patience and support from all existing officials and members. To arrive in haste at decisions affecting the future of BIGGA would be foolish. Chairman, Walter Woods and his Board of Management are very aware of the responsibilities placed upon them and wish to inform you of the progress in all matters of obvious interest to the readers of *Greenkeeper* and members of the greenkeeping profession in the UK.

The search for a General Administrator to handle the affairs of BIGGA is almost over. More than 100 applicants were received for the position, these were vetted by appointed consultants Messrs Crew Butler Ltd., from a job description drawn up by the Board. Those short listed were finally interviewed by a sub committee and the announcement of an appointment is imminent.

The new Administrators main responsibilities will be, to run the Associations day to day affairs, develop education and training, arrange conferences, trade shows and tournaments, to liase with all other professional bodies, and above all to assist members.

The Board feel that this is an exciting appointment for the whole of the greenkeeping industry and trust that the Administrator will receive assistance and support from all concerned.

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HOLIDAY COMPETITION RESULTS

In the March issue we ran a holiday competition in conjunction with C.M.W. Equipment Company, the golf course accessory & furniture manufacturers. Congratulations to our following readers who have won prizes:

£500 HOLIDAY VOUCHER

K. J. Barber, Head Greenkeeper,
Crowborough Beacon Golf Club

PORTABLE COLOUR TELEVISION

Jeffrey Drake, 1st Assistant,
Salisbury & South Wilts Golf Club

MICRO-WAVE OVEN

Peter Robinson, Head Greenkeeper,
Knebworth Golf Club

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Every good Association requires a first class public relations and information vehicle sent regularly to all members.

A prospectus formulated by our consultants and the board was issued to a number of golf related publications, for the production of the Associations magazine.

BIGGA decided it wants a single magazine for the greenkeeping industry, to represent its views and to project its message and image.

A sub committee of the Board met with, and listened to, some very professional and well presented cases. In the final analysis, the decision to award a four year contract for the production of the magazine went to Fore Golf Publications Ltd., publishers of *Greenkeeper*. The magazine will be published ten times per year and will be sent to all greenkeeper members.

An editorial panel will discuss the content of the magazine, the panel will comprise the General Administrator, three greenkeepers nominated by the Board Cecil George, Jimmy Kidd and Bill Lawson together with the magazines editor Robin Stewart and Managing Director Michael Coffey.

The Association defined their requirements of a magazine as being practical and "user friendly", appealing to greenkeepers and club members alike. It should provide practical, technical and topical editorial together with enquiry and reply sections open to all those involved in golf. It is the intention that all regional news should appear in the form of a supplementary newsletter instead of being included in the main magazine, the newsletter will be received by members only.

Would all regional secretaries please note that from now on all news should be sent to: The Editor, *Greenkeeper*, 121-123 High Street, Dovercourt, Harwich, Essex CO12 3AP. To arrive no later than the first of the month prior to publication.

A request for payment of an Annual Subscription for BIGGA will soon be mailed to those registered as members of one of the three previous Associations, when the General Administrator has taken up his appointment.

Some formalities have still to be finalised to enable the Association to function properly, including an analysis of the membership lists of the old associations members as at December 1986.

The Board of Management fully appreciate the concern the members feel over these matters but would again ask for patience, not panic measures, in the interim period.

Regional committees meantime must organise financial support for the future to permit them to be self sufficient. 15% of all subscriptions collected by the General Administrator will be returned to the area nominated. Already many regions have organised successful events that have raised funds at a local level. Every support for these events will be given by the Board and General Administrator.

To conclude, the regions have never been more important, officials by example, must provide stability at this time to set BIGGA on the right path. We owe it to the Association, its Board, their consultants appointed to assist and the faith the Royal & Ancient has in greenkeepers to handle our own affairs with pride, dignity and professionalism.

Editorial Sub Committee

British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association.

To assist the Board of Management and in advance of the appointment of the General Administrator any person wishing to become a member of BIGGA, who was not a member of one of the three previous associations in 1986, should complete the enclosed application form and send it to:

**The General Administrator,
BIGGA,
Sports Turf Research Institute,
Bingley,
W. Yorks.**

An invoice for a subscription will be sent in due course.

Board of Management

British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association.

Bunker Raking At The Open

The Scottish region of BIGGA are looking for volunteers to rake bunkers at the Open at Muirfield from 16-19 July. Any member can apply for as many days, mornings or afternoons as he wants. The requirement is for 50 greenkeepers per day the morning 'shift' is from 7.15a.m. till 12.30 and p.m. is from 12.30 onwards. One greenkeeper will accompany each match from the 1st to 18th. Substantial luncheon vouchers will be provided as well as an admission ticket — so get your application in early to: J. D. McKean, Scottish Region Bigga, 82 Drumbreck Road, Glasgow G41 9DW. You will be notified by post in good time, so that you can make the necessary travel arrangements.



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