

Education and Development Fund pays for career and training videos

It is now just over a year since the Education and Development Fund was established and in that time it has received substantial backing from both the industry and BIGGA's members. Such has been the support that the Association will this year be producing its long awaited career video as well as the first of what is hoped will be a series of training videos. This first training video will feature pesticide spraying and the application of fertilisers.

Both these projects have only been made possible through the support of BIGGA's members and those companies within the fine turf industry who recognise the value of BIGGA's educational programmes and the need to ensure first class training for those entering the greenkeeping profession if the desired standards of golf course management and maintenance are to be achieved,



maintained and improved upon in the future.

Financial contributions will channel the resources of the game and the industry into one central fund from which specific spending programmes can be determined. BIGGA is greatly appreciative of the support it receives from its Golden and Silver Key members and hopes that many more companies and individuals will take out these categories of membership.

BIGGA's board of management has signified its intention to implement at an early date a scholarship awards scheme to enable selected students to be

assisted with their college education. The greater the support for the fund, the greater the number of students who can be helped to pursue a career within the greenkeeping profession. As an individual member please support a fund from which one day you may well be a beneficiary. As a region or section of BIGGA can you make a contribution to this worthwhile fund? As a company working within the fine turf industry please consider whether the fund does indeed represent the ideal opportunity to offer a financial commitment which will advance both the status of the greenkeeping profession and standards of golf course maintenance.

Since the last listing of members in the February issue of Greenkeeper International, the following members have committed themselves to the fund for 1993:

Golden Key Circle: Howard

Evans (associate), Richard Green.

Silver Key Circle: Barry Heaney, Huw Parry, Douglas Smith, George Malcolm, Roger Willars, Tim Banks (company), Barry Cooper (associate), John Millen, Bruce Cruikshank, Joseph Woolley, Ivor Scoones, Peter Brooks, Graham Winckless (associate), Kerran Daly, J Slessor (company) William Montague, John Wilson (associate) Adrian Archer, David Harrison (associate), Wayne Heathcote.

In addition both Central section in Scotland and Cleveland section have made donations for 1993 and it is hoped that this year will see BIGGA regions and sections generally giving a major boost to the fund.

Education continues to hold the key to professionalism and the further advance of golf course management.

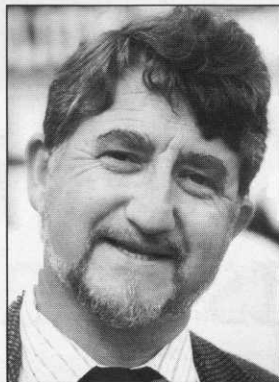
NEIL THOMAS

Spraying seminar makes sense of new Health and Safety legislation

In the magnificent setting of the new oak barn at Wildwood GC, Hardi and Scats sponsored a one-day seminar on 'Spraying in the Nineties'.

Jon Allbutt gave an up to date picture of the legislative framework for those buying and using sprayers, making the point that new legislation does not necessarily mean we are doing anything wrong that needed correcting by introducing new regulations; and to emphasise the point Jon reminded more than a 100 greenkeepers and local authority managers of how it was 30 years ago. Drawing on personal experiences, he recounted how mowrah meal and the old powdered mercury fungicides were used before the word coverall was invented!

The Pesticides Safety Precautions Scheme and later the Health and Safety at Work Act made a change for the better. In 1986 the Control of Pesticides Regulations introduced statutory controls for the storage and use of all pesticides. Jon reminded the audience of the second organisation that approved non-agricultural pesticides: the Health and Safety Executive. Old containers of wood preservative without HSE



Jon Allbutt: Spraying seminar

numbers would need to be disposed of and this fact had not received the same publicity as the more readily recognisable weedkillers and fungicides.

The HSE, we learned, will also be introducing new specifications for sprayers in 1993 which will affect the equipment on golf courses. Existing sprayers may be able to be updated if they not too old, though Jon warned against updated tired machines that have weathered pipework and tanks – far better to buy a new unit that complies with the new specification.

Knapsack sprayers also must have a new BSI Standard 7411 –

1991. Sprayers must now meet strict new standards for leaks, durability, impact to hard surfaces, size of filling hole and a total weight not exceeding 20 kilos. We were warned that not all sprayers on sale (even to this day) meet the new standards, so when ordering make sure that it meets the aforementioned BSI 7411.

After lunch Jon spoke about how to arrive at the best specification for a new sprayer: the need to decide the size of tank and the machine that will carry the sprayer, is it compatible, the width of boom with regard to the terrain; should it have electric or manual controls? Jon's advice was to buy the biggest tank that could

be afforded and if necessary have a trailed unit with a walker boom for use on greens and tees.

The final session took part on the course, looking at some of the Hardi range. The new Cushman demountable sprayer was driven by some of the greenkeepers as Jon demonstrated pressure testing, calibration and spraying techniques. There was considerable interest in the new walker boom and this was demonstrated on one of Billy McMillan's new greens.

A very successful day was brought to a close by Colin Gregory and Robert Love who gave a vote of thanks to Graham Aslett and Billy McMillan for the use of the club.

Date set for Hayter Challenge final

Arrangements for the grand final of the Hayter Challenge Tournament have now been finalised. Commented executive director, Neil Thomas, "I am delighted to announce that the Hayter Challenge Tournament final will be held at the prestigious Sand Moor Golf Club, Alwoodley, Leeds on Wednesday, 15 September with

practice facilities available the previous day.

"Accommodation for the participating teams will be provided on the University of Leeds campus at Bodington Hall just four miles from the golf course. The stage is set for an exciting finale to this eagerly anticipated golf tournament."