



Almost a year has passed since our last National Education Conference, held in March at Cirencester College. Time enough to forget perhaps, yet whenever greenkeepers congregated throughout the year, conversation centred around the highly effective 'mix and match' presentations, greenkeepers and agronomists sharing the limelight at Cirencester in equal numbers, one learning from the other. The fifth conference, to be staged at Keele University, Staffordshire on 26-28 March, will again field a galaxy of international turfgrass specialists alongside our own increasingly professional home grown talent. It remains the one conference that greenkeepers should not miss, for though the essence of any education conference is learning, the BIGGA National Education Conference is as much one of learning through conversation, discussion, friendly argument and social intercourse. Why shouldn't education be fun - be there!

Speaker Profiles

Part One



Noel Jackson, a native of Yorkshire, attended Northallerton Grammar School and the University of Durham, Kings College, Newcastle

upon Tyne, where he gained an honours degree in Agricultural Botany and later a Ph.D. in Agronomy. From 1958 to 1965 Dr. Jackson was employed as a biologist at the STRI, where he established his interest in turf management, particularly in turfgrass diseases. In 1965 Dr. Jackson joined the faculty at The University of Rhode Island as assistant professor in Plant Pathology and is he is now a professor at that institution. The position involves teaching, research and extension duties in the area of turf, trees and woody ornamental diseases. Over the past 27 years, Dr. Jackson has worked closely with professional growers (sod farmers, golf superintendents, nurserymen and landscapers) and with homeowners to ascertain and research their plant disease problems and recommend appropriate control programmes, whilst teaching two undergraduate courses at the university, lecturing nationally and being published widely on the subject.

Dr. Jackson, co-author of the definitive work 'Fungal Diseases of Amenity Turf Grasses', (Pub. E&FN Spon, 11 New Fetter Lane, EC4P 4EE), will present two papers - 'Cool season turf diseases in the USA and the UK', and 'Patch diseases in cool season turf grasses'.



Ian Tomlinson, course manager at Lausanne Golf Club in Switzerland and vice-president of the Swiss Greenkeepers Association, wrote telling

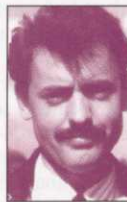
us about his presentation, 'The problems associated with maintaining a golf course at 2800 feet

altitude in Switzerland', suggesting that it will be no ordinary paper reading exercise, rather an ad-libbing explanation (illustrated with slides) of the greenkeeping problems encountered in Switzerland with ice and snow and the damage that can be caused to trees by heavy snow falls. He promises that his presentation will not portray mere doom and gloom, though he'll follow this with explanations of other problems encountered at Lausanne, these being badly constructed greens and other intrinsic design faults: collapsed drainage, flooding, and rooting difficulties. He'll lift the tempo to a final high by describing the installation of a new drainage system and show the course at its prime, one which has hosted the European Amateur Championships, the World Amateur Championships and the European Seniors Championships whilst now being a regular venue on the PGA European Tour. Ian, whose career began as an apprentice at Scarcroft in 1976, has tended the course at Lausanne since 1984, prior to which he was at Moor Allerton in Leeds.



Gary Grigg, CGCS, will discuss 'Current and future issues in golf course management', a subject close to his heart. Gary became superintendent at Naples National Golf Club, Naples, Florida, earlier last year, following extensive experience in the construction, grow-in and maintenance of several fine clubs throughout the country. He holds a Bachelors degree in entomology from Utah State University and a Masters degree in agronomy from Michigan State University. Gary has attended many GCSAA seminars and has been a member of many committees including the certification, scholarship and research, nominating, fund-rais-

ing, seminar planning and building committees. He is a member of the Everglades GCSA, Heart of America GCSA and the Florida GCSA. Gary belongs to several allied associations including the Florida Turfgrass Association, the Texas Turfgrass Association and the Southwest Turfgrass Association, over which he presided as president in 1981. He is also a member of the Florida Conservation Association. Gary has been a member of GCSAA for 22 years, is currently on the Board of Directors and serves on the finance, future education and conference planning committees.



Anthony Davies, pencil slim and athletic, is often seen pounding the pavement in his quest for fitness as a long distance runner, though he is perhaps better known to BIGGA members as the 1990 'ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year' than as a competitor in the London Marathon. The ICI accolade was by no means Anthony's first claim to fame, however, for college peers voted him 'Top Student' during his final Phase IV year of City & Guilds Greenkeeping Management and he has always been an education buff, holding a diploma in Turf Culture and the National Examination Board's certificate in Supervisory Management. For some 15 years Anthony has worked in the profession he loves, beginning his career in 1978 at the Southport & Ainsdale Golf Club and now at Prestbury Golf Club in Cheshire, where for the past four years he has been the club's course manager. Anthony is regarded as something of a progressive, and his presentation at Keele will centre around the way he engineered the change from old to new at Prestbury, under the beguiling title of 'Right or wrong - I did it my way'.

NATIONAL
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CONFERENCE
26-28 March