



## Rave reviews for career video

■ A new video aimed at encouraging youngsters into greenkeeping was launched to rave reviews at the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition. Master Greenkeeper Anthony Davies, head greenkeeper at Prestbury Golf Club near Macclesfield, said: "It was absolutely first class. Very professional."

Fellow Master David Whitaker, course manager at Wisley Golf Club in Surrey, said: "It's great. It's exactly what the industry needs."

The 15-minute video, entitled Keeper of the Green, is

narrated by Peter Alliss, was filmed at Reaseheath College in Cheshire and features action footage of Nick Faldo and Ian Woosnam.



It starts with Old Tom Morris explaining how things have changed since his day. Students and working greenkeepers explain what it's like today and how professional it has become. Terry Buchen, a top US golf course superintendent and Master Greenkeeper, said: "I thought the Old Tom Morris part was great and I thought it was a neat way to promote youngsters to get into greenkeeping. We need something like this in the US." Duncan McGilvray, course manager at Letchworth Golf Course, said: "I thought it was excellent and I'm quite hard to please. The students came over well."

The video, which cost £27,500 to produce, is available on free loan for careers nights and college/school talks, can be obtained by writing to the Greenkeepers Education Unit, Aldwark Manor, Alne, York YO6 2NF. Tel: 0347 838640/0347 838581.

Five year plan could mean Harrogate option for future of the National Education Conference

# Change of AGM venue brings record turnout

It wasn't just the BTME at Harrogate attracting record crowds, there was a record turnout for BIGGA's AGM as well.

Nearly 230 members attended the meeting at the Old Swan Hotel – a huge increase from the 42 at the '93 meeting at the Royal York Hotel. The reason for this greater participation was because, as most members wanted, the AGM was held during the BTME instead of in the spring.

BIGGA's Board of Management is also considering moving the National Education Conference to Harrogate and holding it prior to the exhibition. "The cessation of sponsorship after the 1992 conference coupled with a downturn in the number of delegates attending has led to a substantial deficit situation," BIGGA's executive director, Neil Thomas, told the gathering.

However, one of the objects of the Association, as set out within the Constitution, is to arrange an international Annual Conference. "This is an important event therefore and should continue," Mr Thomas added.

So, after this year's conference at the University of Warwick, April 8-10, alternative options will be assessed. If the conference is moved to Harrogate, it is likely to replace the popular workshop programme. But, in any case, the intention is to develop these as part of the local training initiative.

These are matters being looked at by the Board of Management as

part of a five-year plan which will take the Association up to the year 2000. "The Association is now seven years old and, particularly during the last year, it has become apparent that we need to examine our structure and our future policies and programmes," explained Mr Thomas. "Our rapid growth has contributed to the necessity for review."

He encouraged all BIGGA members to contribute to this review by contacting their section secretaries. "BIGGA remains very much a members' organisation and it is you who must ultimately determine the future direction of the Association," he told delegates.

## 'The 1993 BTME did much to enhance our standing both within the game and the industry'

The aim is to bring the five-year plan to the 1995 AGM for ratification.

One of the key areas for debate is the funding of BIGGA's education and training programme. At the moment the programme, which has brought us the 'Setting the Standard in Spray Application' and career videos and will shortly bring us a booklet on weeds, pests

and diseases, is funded largely by companies within the industry. But new sources need to be found if the fund is to grow, especially since the now separate Greenkeepers Training Committee has made it clear that it will no longer provide direct funding for BIGGA's educational programmes.

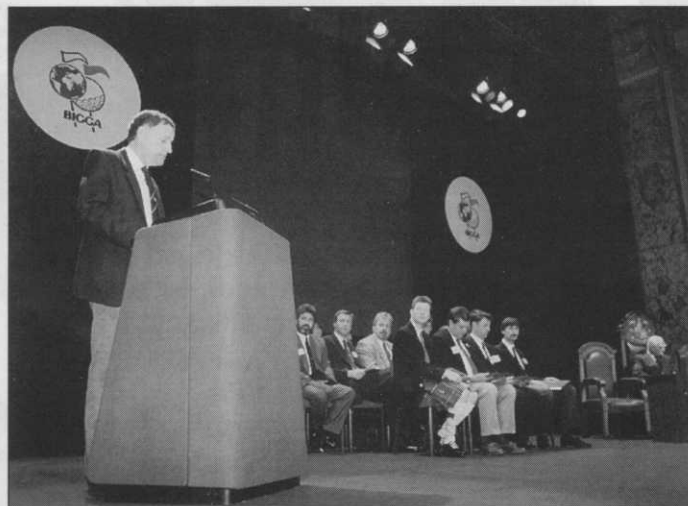
The review will also look at the role of trustees. This was decided at the Board of Management's December meeting. Prior to this meeting the South West and South Wales Region had put forward a motion, to be discussed at the AGM, to replace one of the existing trustees with lawyer Douglas Dagleish, the new president of the Scottish Golf Union.

A week before the AGM, one of the existing trustees, Peter Wilson, wrote to BIGGA chairman John Crawford advising the board of his decision to stand down. "Irrespective of this, the Board felt the appropriate course was to review the situation rather than make an appointment which would be for a four-year period," said Mr Thomas afterwards.

The South West and South Wales Region felt the appropriate action would be to adopt the proposed candidate to replace Mr Wilson. In the end this motion was defeated 2:1 pending the outcome of the review.

As well as looking forward, the AGM also looked back at the successes of 1993. Highlights of the year were:

- the BTME opened by Prince Andrew "which did much to enhance our standing both within the game and the industry," according to the executive director;
- Westurf, the first show organised by a BIGGA region;
- the start of the Hayter Challenge Tournament;
- the Open at Sandwich;
- the National Tournament at Dunbar; and
- the success of greenkeepers at the Kubota Challenge at the Belfry. "Our team presented themselves professionally both on and off the course which is important for the image of the Association when other golfing bodies are participating," said Mr Thomas in his annual report.



Neil Thomas, speaking at the opening of the BTME. Later, at the AGM, he told members of the Harrogate option for the National Education Conference