

## Association membership at new high

BIGGA membership is at an all-time high.

Already the number of members so far in 1994 has surpassed 1993's total – which itself was a record. There are now 5,183 members of the Association, compared to 5,162 at the end of last year.

"This is fantastic news and helps give BIGGA an even more powerful voice to act on behalf of greenkeepers everywhere," said the Association's sales and marketing manager Bill Lynch.

"And what's more, this figure doesn't include those members from last year who still haven't paid their subscriptions.

"If you know a greenkeeper who is not a member or has forgotten to renew, tell him what he's missing. Some 5,183 paid-up members can't be wrong!"

● For information on how to join BIGGA, complete the post-paid reply card facing Page 2 in this issue.

# NEWS



John Deere's manufacturing plants at Mannheim and Bruchsal in Germany have achieved certification to ISO 9001, which is the international standard equivalent to BS5750 (part 1).

## John Shildrick dies of cancer



John Shildrick, one of the world's foremost authorities on sport and amenity turf cultivars and turf science generally, has died after a six-month battle against cancer. He was 65.

John was known to many greenkeepers through his 20 years as assistant director of the Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley, West Yorkshire, and latterly as both chief executive of the National Turfgrass Council and secretary of the British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association.

Born in 1928, he graduated in agriculture at Cambridge University in 1952 and joined the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, also in Cambridge. As

head of the herbage seed section, he researched into new cultivars.

In 1968 he joined the STRI as assistant director, introducing and coordinating large-scale trials of sports turf cultivars. Many people believe the methods he developed dictated the path of subsequent research throughout the UK and in many overseas countries.

In 1980 he additionally became part-time secretary of the newly-formed NTC, consolidating information on amenity grass and non-grass surfaces, and was appointed secretary of the BTLIA in 1986. John continued both jobs from his home after retiring from the STRI in 1988, becoming NTC chief executive that year.

Very much a private man, John devoted his life to the turfgrass industry, frequently working seven days a week, and he con-

tributed articles and research papers to virtually all major turfgrass publications and conferences in the UK and overseas.

Many tributes from friends and former colleagues have poured in. STRI director Dr Peter Hayes said: "At all times John was absolutely thorough, accurate and conscientious. His knowledge was tremendous."

Current NTC chairman Jon Bauer commented: "One of John's major gifts was the ability to explain difficult scientific concepts to the lay person, verbally and in print – he was the plain man's interpreter."

Mike Chance, the NTC's first chairman, said: "John was a great friend and a true professional. Working for the NTC gave him a tremendous grasp of the industry, complementing his research knowledge with a deep awareness of the commercial side of the profession. He was quite unique."

BTLIA chairman Paul de Rham said: "John's dedication, knowledge and professionalism helped us all immensely."

John leaves a sister, Ann, and a close friend Barbara whom he met while working in Cambridge and who, with her husband, was particularly supportive during his illness.

## FLYING DIVOTS

■ Mill Hill's newly-appointed assistant head greenkeeper, Terry Colvill, has qualified for the TV gameshow *Gladiators*. The 21-year-old strongman has passed the show's tough fitness and personality tests and is waiting to hear if he'll be selected for a forthcoming battle on the box.

Terry, who has also worked at Highgate and North Middlesex courses, has been weight-training since he was a boy and still goes to the gym four nights a week. He is about 5ft 9in tall and weighs 15.5 stone. He also enjoys motorbikes, waterskiing and golf. He has a 19 handicap. "He hits the ball a long way, but he's all over the place," says his boss, Tony Dunstan.

■ Mike Seaton, formerly sales office manager for Rigby Taylor Ltd at their Guildford sales and distribution centre, has left the company to expand his pesticide application company – Weed Free (Bracknell). Tel: 0344 481011.



■ The new Sweetwoods Park Golf Club on the borders of Sussex and Kent at Cowden, near Edenbridge, officially opened for play on April 25. Head greenkeeper at the 18-hole, 6408-yard course is William Wilson. One of the key holes is the 544-yard 14th which tees off in Kent, plays onto a fairway in Sussex, crossing Kent water twice.

■ Ian Wilson, 31, is the new head greenkeeper at Hamilton Golf Club, Hamilton. He will head up a team of five, including a trainee. The former Blairbeth GC head greenkeeper replaces Peter Hall, who has gone to Whitecraigs Golf Club.

■ Stratford-on-Avon, which celebrates its centenary this year, has appointed Julian Doughty, 30, as head greenkeeper. He was previously head greenkeeper at Ealing, Middlesex.

■ Sixty acres of parkland next to Plumpton Hall, near Bury St Edmunds, is to be turned into an 18-hole golf course.

## Fancy a trip to America?

Are you good at what you do? Do you fancy a free trip to San Francisco? Well, why haven't you entered the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year award? The closing date for entries has been extended to May 27 – just for you! Contact your section secretary for details and an application form. If you don't win the top prize – a trip to next year's GCSAA exhibition in San Francisco – you could win a weekend for two in London (including a West End show) or a weekend for two at Aldwark Manor.