

Association's thank you to Elliott and Edna Small

Last month witnessed the end of an era. For the last seven and a half years greenkeepers in Scotland, old or young, have been able to lift a phone and know that on the other end of a line help would be at hand in the shape of Elliott and Edna Small.

As BIGGA's Scottish Regional Administrator since January 1, 1990, Elliott and Edna, who is as much a part of the Scottish greenkeeping scene as her husband, have seen at first hand the way the industry, and BIGGA itself, has developed.

That development has reached the stage where BIGGA is able to employ a part-time Regional Administrator and Elliott and

Edna are passing the Region's reins into the more than capable hands of former policeman and still talented golfer, Peter Boyd.

"I believe it is the right time for the change to happen and I think Peter will do well," said Elliott, in the spike bar of Ganton Golf Club during the last playing of the Hayter Challenge Final.

"I'll still be involved in the Association if they need me and they know that they only need to ask for anything and I'll do it. I'm not going to walk away and, for the first year at least, I'll be there to guide Peter," said Elliott.

As our picture shows, Elliott was presented with a set of golf clubs by the Scottish members



and Edna received a figurine at a surprise presentation in Stirling last month.

As Elliott discovers the joys of a bit of spare time for the first time in seven and a half years you can be sure that, with the aid of his new clubs, his handicap of 8 will start to tumble.

BIGGA cracks down on abuse of courtesy golf

BIGGA is taking steps to tighten procedures following evidence that, in certain cases, the "courtesy golf" extended by golf clubs to full BIGGA greenkeeper members is being abused.

A small minority of greenkeeper members (and in some cases non greenkeeper members) are not contacting the club in advance, are not producing membership cards or are using membership cards they are not entitled to and are making frequent visits to the same golf club. As a result, an increasing number of golf clubs are now refusing to continue to offer the privilege of courtesy golf.

BIGGA Sections looking for host clubs for their golf days have also been affected and are increasingly being turned down by golf clubs. This has become a major concern to BIGGA and the vast majority of members who do not abuse their courtesy golf. The Association is,

therefore, anxious to ensure that the selfish actions of a minority of people do not spoil this wonderful opportunity for the majority

BIGGA has introduced several changes of procedure to ensure that only working greenkeepers obtain full membership, including the need for greenkeeper members to have their renewal form validated by their club, and as a reminder to members, has also issued the following guidelines:

Only those with full greenkeeper membership should seek courtesy golf.

Courtesy golf is only given at the discretion of the individual golf club and is not an automatic benefit of membership.

Members wishing to seek courtesy golf at a club should contact the club at least 24 hours in advance of wishing to play.

On arrival at the club, members should report to the Secretary/Pro

Shop and follow normal procedures for playing golf.

Members should always produce a valid membership card as proof of status to the club.

Members should make a point of thanking the club for their courtesy on completion of their round of golf.

Members should not seek courtesy golf at any one golf club more than twice per year.

Golf clubs wishing to verify membership or requiring further details should contact BIGGA on 01347 838581.

All suspected abuses of the card should be reported in writing to BIGGA headquarters where such complaints will be investigated. Members found guilty of abuse of the card will be disciplined under Paragraph 15 of the Association's Constitution and Rules which gives Sections the power to suspend or expel the member if necessary.

Salary recommendations published next month

The findings of the Standing Committee on Greenkeepers' Salaries, comprising representatives of BIGGA, the Association of Golf Club Secretaries and the Association of Golf Course Owners, will be published next month.

The Committee was formed following a significant increase in the number of golf clubs which were contacting BIGGA and asking advice on greenkeeper

salaries and conditions of employment.

The 1998 Recommendations of the Committee will be mailed to every golf club in the UK and printed in the November issue of *Greenkeeper International*.

Golf clubs and greenkeepers requiring more detailed information can contact BIGGA for sample greenkeeper's contract of employment, job specifications for all levels of employment as

well as advice on greenkeeping qualifications.

"I am sure the recommendations of the Standing Committee will be a valuable tool for all golf clubs setting next year's pay awards for their greenkeeping staff," said Neil Thomas, Executive Director of BIGGA.

The Standing Committee will meet annually to review greenkeepers' salaries and conditions of employment.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ Martin Brothers (UK) Ltd has appointed Mike Crabtree as Regional Sales Manager covering the North of England and Scotland.

■ White Horse Contractors Ltd have appointed Robert Donald as Managing Director



following the retirement of Johan Koster after more than 30 years with the company.

Robert, an engineering graduate from Newcastle University, has worked within the sportsturf construction, drainage and irrigation sector for the past six years.

■ John Di Mascio, an agronomy lecturer from Hiram College in Ohio, has joined the staff at Myerscough College to lecture in agronomy, golf course design and golf history as well as being the Programme Manager for the college's Higher National Diploma course in Turf Science and Golf Course Management.



■ Derek McJannett, of Sherwood Forest GC and a member of last year's Hayter International Cup team, produced some scintillating form in the invitation Charnwood Rock event at Charnwood Forest GC.



Derek, with Garry Thurman Chairman of Green at Charnwood acting as caddie, broke the course record with a stunning six under par 63 in the opening round of the event. The round contained a remarkable eight birdies and two dropped shots. Derek, who plays off +1, unfortunately couldn't keep his form going and eventually finished fourth.

■ Those reading the piece on Valderrama in last month's magazine may have been surprised that the course had so little play. The reason for this was a pure typographical error. The course does not have 1200 rounds per annum but 12,000 - still not many by UK standards but more than was indicated.