

# of their craft



**Terry Buchen receives his Master Greenkeeper Certificate from Lord Griffiths at the BTME. Looking on, in the front row, are fellow recipients Anthony Davies, left and David Whitaker**

was very rewarding. The exam itself was difficult but fair. The preparation is where the benefit is."

**Bil Montague**, who has spent 20 years at Oakwood Club, Kirtland, Ohio, was the first American to hold both a CGCS and Master award. He got interested in the scheme when he visited the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition a few years ago. "I joined up and then became determined to be the first American to be certified. I had reached a point where I still needed an educational challenge. It just seemed like a good thing for me to do," says the bearded 46-year-old.

The two British greenkeepers

honoured with Terry Buchen at the '94 BTME are much younger than the Americans. They're both aged 32. **Anthony Davies** is head greenkeeper at Prestbury Golf Club near Macclesfield and **David Whitaker** is course manager at Wisley Golf Club in Surrey.

Anthony told Greenkeeper International: "After receiving the first ICI Greenkeeper of the Year Award in 1990, my greens chairman, Dr James Gardiner, asked me what else was there? I said, 'Well, there's this new Master Greenkeeper Certificate.' I was told to go for it, I wanted it and I got it. It's a great achievement and I'm very proud of it."

For David, who also has a consultancy business, the reason was very simple: "I wanted to have the highest qualification in greenkeeping." The benefits are: "The golf course are very pleased, it's raised my esteem in golf and I get better recognition from my employers."

The award is based on three things: experience, ability and education. To gain a Masters Greenkeepers Certificate you need all three – in abundance.

"It is a highly meritorious award," according to BIGGA's executive director Neil Thomas. "Now four years old, it must rank as one of the Association's greatest achievements to date..."

## ROLL OF HONOUR

There are now eight Master Greenkeepers:

- Laurence Pithie was the first
- Robert Maibusch, Hinsdale Golf Club, Illinois
- Gordon Irvine, Mill Ride Golf Club, Surrey
- Bil Montague, Oakwood Club, Ohio
- Kerran Daly, Salisbury and South Wilts Golf Club
- David Whitaker, Wisley Golf Club, Surrey
- Anthony Davies, Prestbury Golf Club near Macclesfield
- Terry Buchen, Double Eagle Golf Club, Ohio

TERRY BUCHEN lives in the only house at the Double Eagle course in Ohio. He says the Tom Weiskopf/Jay Morrish course is "a very, very, very private club."



There are only 50 men's lockers and 16 ladies lockers for the 35 local members and 67 national members. The 7100-yard par 72 course boasts four sets of yardage markers on each hole, permanent yardage markers buried below the turf on the tees and a total absence of portable tee markers. Members can tee off where they like seven days a week. "So we don't violate the rules of golf we have two permanent tee markers below the turf so we can mow over them. A lot of people tee off within two club lengths behind," says Terry. The course is a designer's dream: four of the holes have two fairways and all the par 3s and 5s play in different directions.

Terry comes from a family of golf course superintendents and has grown-in 11 courses. He is also a former assistant agronomist on the US PGA Tour. His job was to set up all 47 tournaments on the regular tour, which meant visiting each course four-eight weeks in advance.

"Sixty percent of my job was agronomy where I'd visit with the golf course superintendent and go around the course and the other 40 percent was administration."

But it took its toll on his health and he was forced to leave. "I got pneumonia and had to have half my left lung removed. I just wore myself out. I travelled 300,000 miles each year for two years, home 27 days the first year and 33 days the second year. Fortunately I was single in those days."

Anyone who has been to Wisley Golf Club knows that **DAVID WHITAKER** is a master of his craft. After a long apprenticeship at Baildon Golf Course in Bradford, he went to Rawdon Golf and Tennis Club as head greenkeeper. At 27 he was growing-in a Pete Dye designed American-style course in Switzerland. A great experience for his next project – Wisley.



● Where's Anthony's photo and details? We're doing a big thing on Anthony Davies and Prestbury in a few issues time, so we'll tell you how great he is then.

## THE CERTIFICATE

To become a Master Greenkeeper you need to 'pass' three stages. You 'pass' by collecting 'credits'.

■ Stage 1 is based on education and experience and you'll need 200 credits before you go on to the next stage. Examples of credits include: 15 credits for phase 1 City and Guilds Certificate of Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management; 54 for phase 2 (two years), 24 for phase 3 and 24 for phase 4, and there are bonus points if these are taken at an 'approved college'. Scotvec students get six credits per 40-hour module and three per 20-hour module (up to a maximum 102). You can also collect credits by attending BIGGA-organised seminars, courses and conferences. You also get four credits for every year in greenkeeping.

■ For stage 2 two course managers/head greenkeepers visit your course during the growing season, assess it and ask you questions.

■ Stage 3 consists of two three-hour papers: 1) A case study; 2) Five questions requiring essay-style answers..

The certification process begins with receipt of a completed application form and a cheque for £10 to cover admin costs. To go on to stages 2 and 3 you will have to pay a further £150.

Application forms are available from BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York YO6 2NF.

# LET US SPRAY

**CHRIS BISHOP**

looks at safer spraying on golfing areas

Over the last five years the type and range of conventional spraying equipment available to greenkeepers has transformed the operator's life. Long gone are the days when application of chemicals could be done by any old sprayer and operator. The Food and Environmental Protection Act (FEPA) has ensured that areas of concern have been highlighted to those people going through the relevant training courses to hopefully make our environment a safer place to work and live.

In this article I shall be briefly dealing with the safe storage of chemicals on golf courses but primarily on the revolution that has recently transformed the older "basic" type sprayers into the types of modern equipment on offer today - with no reference to Controlled Droplet Applicators (CDA equipment).

As a result of the recent legislation, many golf courses have needed to upgrade their storage facilities and possibly reduce their stocks of toxic materials. Along with this the required levels of stock control and application records are needed to ensure the operations comply with the "Good Code of Practice" and are readily available for inspection should they be required.

Permanent buildings are not necessarily required and provided the storage is well ventilated, safe and secure, fire and frost proof and able to contain chemical leakage - a purpose built portable cabinet or store may be an alternative. It is also worthwhile pointing out here that the siting of the store often needs careful consideration to ensure other inflammable materials such as fertilisers, fuels and oil are not located in adjacent areas.

Several manufacturers provide purpose built cabinets for safe lockable storage for up to 200 litres/kg of material which could well be all that is needed - why not let the suppliers keep the larger quantities on their shelves until they are needed? Purpose built cabinets are also available for larger quantities and can range in size from 440-1300 litres. These purpose built stores have the advantage of instant use and can be dropped off on site.

All chemical stores should have clear access not only for delivery vehicles and your sprayers but also for fire tenders should they ever need to be called. The location would also need to be closely sited to a water filling area which ideally needs to have a catchment tank to retain spillage should it occur.

Storage of empty containers must also be provided in a separate



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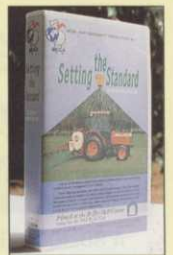
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An example of the popular 'de-mount' system here fitted to a three wheel truckster - showing hose filling securing alarm



BIGGA's first turf management training video 'Setting the Standard' has been acclaimed throughout the industry for its informative approach to tackling the ins and outs of spraying on the golf course. Copies are available from BIGGA HQ for £18.75 (members) or £23.75 (non-members) including postage. Call BIGGA for more details on 0347 838581.

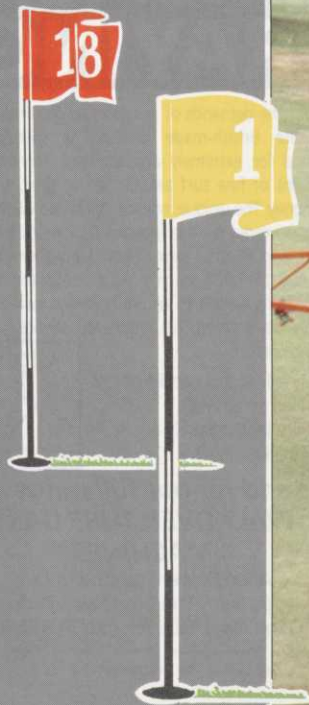
lockable area ideally adjacent to the chemical store to hold waste packaging prior to correct disposal.

The inside of a chemical store needs to be well lit to provide good visibility for reading labels, etc. Bear in mind here that if windows are used they should ideally be positioned on the north side to prevent sunlight fading the labels.

Should vandalism be a problem, it would necessitate the windows being barred or covered in mesh secured on the inside to prevent easy removal and also allowing opening of the window when required. Security lighting or alarms can also be linked up to nearby premises if required but, with any luck, the lack of advertising signs may simply deter the casual theft. The only recommended external signs now used are "No Smoking" and the triangular black and yellow

caution exclamation mark. Fire extinguishers of the correct type need to be readily accessible but current recommendations regarding this are that if a fire cannot be put out easily without risk to the person concerned, simply shut the doors and ring the fire brigade - how far is your telephone from the store and is it clearly marked and accessible?

Design of personal protective equipment (clothing) and the materials now available needs to be covered separately by another article but the correct storage and cleaning also needs to be considered. The PPE operators are required to use needs to be stored nearby the actual store but NOT inside it. This area must also be well ventilated and have adequate hanging space - a separate area from where the operator leaves his personal clothing. Within this same loca-



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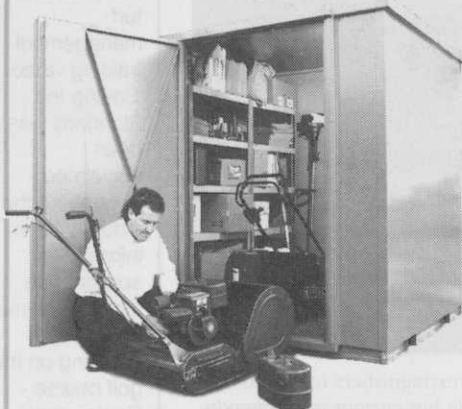
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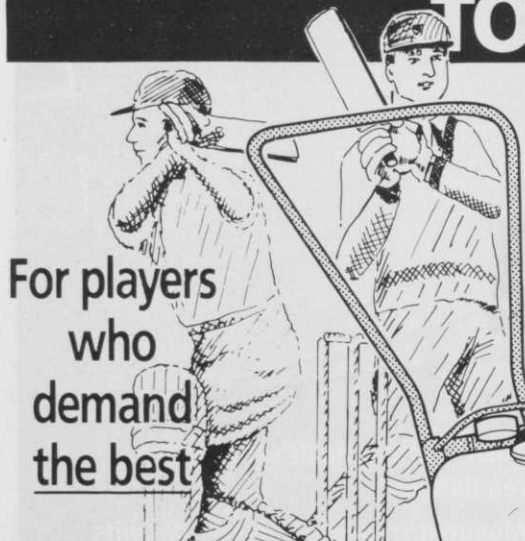
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# LET US SPRAY



The triplet snap-fit interchangeable nozzle body fitted with diaphragm valves

tion, washing and cleaning facilities must be provided with hot water and soap being the bare minimum. A first aid kit of the relevant size and type must also be provided and its location clearly marked from outside the building.

All of these measures help to provide the operator with a safe place of work but we need to examine how the engineers have produced safer equipment to provide more accurate and efficient chemical application.

If we start with the knapsack sprayer range, the designs of tanks have been changed considerably and because the tanks are now virtually all plastic and are formed by blow moulding, intricate shapes have been used to make them more comfortable to wear. Weight has also been considered and the big companies offer 15 or 20 litre options. To reduce operator contamination, the internals of most tanks will now house the hand operated pumps plus the adjustable reset pressure relief valves. However, these are often still difficult to adjust when the sprayer is full and they only control *maximum* pressures – not ensuring *even* pressure and therefore even application.

Overcoming this problem is the recently introduced "Spray Management Valve" which can be positioned between the nozzle and the on/off trigger control on the hand lance. This unit acts as a one way valve which will only open when the set pressure is achieved in the spray line. Once open, any excess pressure is managed down to the set pressure – the valve closing if pressure drops below it. Three colour coded units are available, designed to control pressure to one, two or three bar and the unit is also non-drip.

With the addition of a boom kit fitted with 4 nozzles, knapsacks can be used to apply material to wider areas. However, these larger areas may necessitate more water which, rather than carrying, may well be better covered using a barrow type sprayer – a diaphragm pump being powered by single or three phase electrical motor or a 3 hp petrol engine.

Once this size of boom is reached, greens could well be covered using a lightweight 4m boom on a pedestrian controlled 2-wheeled trolley with a trailing hose – several manufacturers currently offer examples of this size, powered by units at one side of the green to save compaction.

The next stage on would probably lead the way to ATV mounted equipment – either electrically driven roller vane pumps from the bike's 12 volt battery or possibly a trailed unit operated by its own 5 hp donkey engine, driving a diaphragm pump, mounted on a purpose built chassis with break-back booms of widths up to 4 m. These provide relatively cheap units which have accurate forward speed indicators and good manoeuvrability whilst giving minimal compaction – typical tank capacities up to 120 litres. These units will also make better use of an ATV which many golf courses operate for other purposes.

The next slightly larger range of units would now extend into the "de-mount" type units which many golf courses may currently be using. Designed to be quickly and easily attached/detached to the flat bed of 3 or 4

wheeled turf truckster power units, these have been substantially modernised in the last two years to bring them fully up to date with the current legislation. A typical unit uses the trucksters p.t.o. to drive either roller vane or, more commonly now, diaphragm pumps which supply hydraulic agitation to a 300 litre tank and 2 or 3 sectioned 6 or 8m boom fitted with break-back systems.

Many of our local golf clubs combine the use of a "de-mount" for greens and tees with the use of either compact tractor mounted or trailed units for use on fairways and all three of these types of unit could well have special option type builds – the more progressive manufacturers being only too willing to tailor-make units for specialist requirements. Examples of these "options" range from the size of tank, ie. from 100 litre – 3,500 litre (trailed of course!), to the type of nozzle selected ie. a single or triplet, snap fit nozzle body, fitted with diaphragm non-drip valves, easy filter rinse and colour coded tips!

Automatic systems are now available to ensure a constant application rate is maintained even when tractor speeds vary on gradients and of course ideal when on older power units with no speedometer or perhaps the hydrostatic drive compact tractor with no "cruise control" override device!

Constant pressure to any of the two or three supplied booms can be maintained with the addition of balance valves to ensure even application when only operating one or two boom sections at any one time and self cleaning main line filters are available to save on operator contamination.

Spray guns and hose reels can easily be added onto the boom outlet supplies for drenching or spot treatments. Colour dyes are sometimes added to the spray material being applied to ensure accurate bout matching but even here foam blobbing kits can be added to a sprayer as an alternative.

When examining the range of tractor

mounted sprayers available, the range of pump outputs needs examining but probably the most advantageous changes have taken place in the layout of controls and additional equipment – these being adjustable to ensure they are close to the operator for easy access or you have the additional option of having them remotely controlled allowing the rear window of cabs to be closed. Tank sizes are one of the most important considerations, as although many smaller compact tractors may well have limiting hydraulic lifting capacities, weight transferred to the rear wheels on large capacity tanks can be a problem with compaction, even with the more modern "flat topped" grassland tyres. It is also important here to mention that correct front end weighting needs checking if the tractor has four wheel drive.

Boom design has now been perfected to provide lightweight easy to handle sectional units all fitted with some kind of break-back device with the option of boom suspension systems on the larger units. Boom widths vary between 12 – 24m and hydraulic folding can also be fitted on many of the larger units – all will be fitted with easy boom height adjustment systems.

The largest trailed units fitted with floatation tyres are available but will not often be owned by many golf courses. However, there are some purpose built self propelled machines available if you have the money. These high output units will be fitted with all the latest flow meters and automatic monitoring systems which can actually now provide computer print outs showing application rates applied to certain areas – ideally suited to a spray contracting professional – perhaps we shall see more use of contractors being employed for large scale operations!

Obviously the range of options is very extensive. It is pleasing to see that the progressive manufacturers will tailor-make a spraying unit to your specific requirements. The trouble is that this will obviously all be available "at a price" but you must also be aware that "bolt on" additional equipment may be all that is required to bring your spraying units up to current legislation requirements. As a result the manufacturers offer the following components which are readily available and relatively easy to fit:

- Low level suction type filler units. (Many of these will be self cleaning and can also be used for empty container flushing.)
- Protective clothing lockers.
- Storage cages for chemical containers.
- Separate clean water rinsing kits.
- Triplet diaphragm type anti-drip nozzles.
- Calibration kits.

From a personal point of view, I welcome the advances that the manufacturers have provided us with. We all have a duty to ensure that our sprayers do get regular maintenance, updating and replacement – the same as any other piece of greenkeeping equipment – and although new machines can be extremely expensive, the trend to safer and more efficient sprayer operation can only aid our advancement towards a safer environment for us all to work in and enjoy.

● Chris Bishop is Machinery Section Team Leader at Oaklands College, Hertfordshire.



Above: Kim Macfie from Hayter's with BIGGA chairman John Crawford and the VIP guest;

Left, Lely (UK) Ltd's Graham Dale with Lord Griffiths on the Lely/Toro stand

Right: with ICI Professional Products' Roger Mossop

PICTURES BY TIM MOAT

The sixth BTME was opened by the Rt Hon the Lord Griffiths MC, captain of the R&A and president of the MCC, who called it "a fine investment for golf" and said the Royal and Ancient Golf Club was "proud to be associated with BIGGA's progress." He also recalled his early days in golf, 60 years ago in Wales, when the greenkeeper's main skill was "the ability to keep sheep off greens". BIGGA's president, Viscount Whitelaw, was unable to attend this year because he was speaking in the House of Lords against the Police Bill. For him and all the other members who were unable to attend, we present our Harrogate photo album and spotlight some of the new products that caught our eyes.



# BIGGA



Len Breakwell of ET Breakwell Ltd receives his plaque to recognise his contribution to the Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund's Golden Key circle



Gordon Irvine, ICI Premier Greenkeeper, receives his plaque



# THAN EVER!





## Leading the way in Europe

■ BIGGA's role as a key player on the international stage was highlighted at the second European Forum held at the Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate, during the BTME. More than 50 delegates attended the meeting and listened to speakers from Sweden, Holland and Norway. We may not share the same language but, it seems, we do share the same sort of problems. What also came out of the meeting was that BIGGA is the largest and best organised of the European associations and with 261 international members in 31 countries it has a very important role to play in future developments.

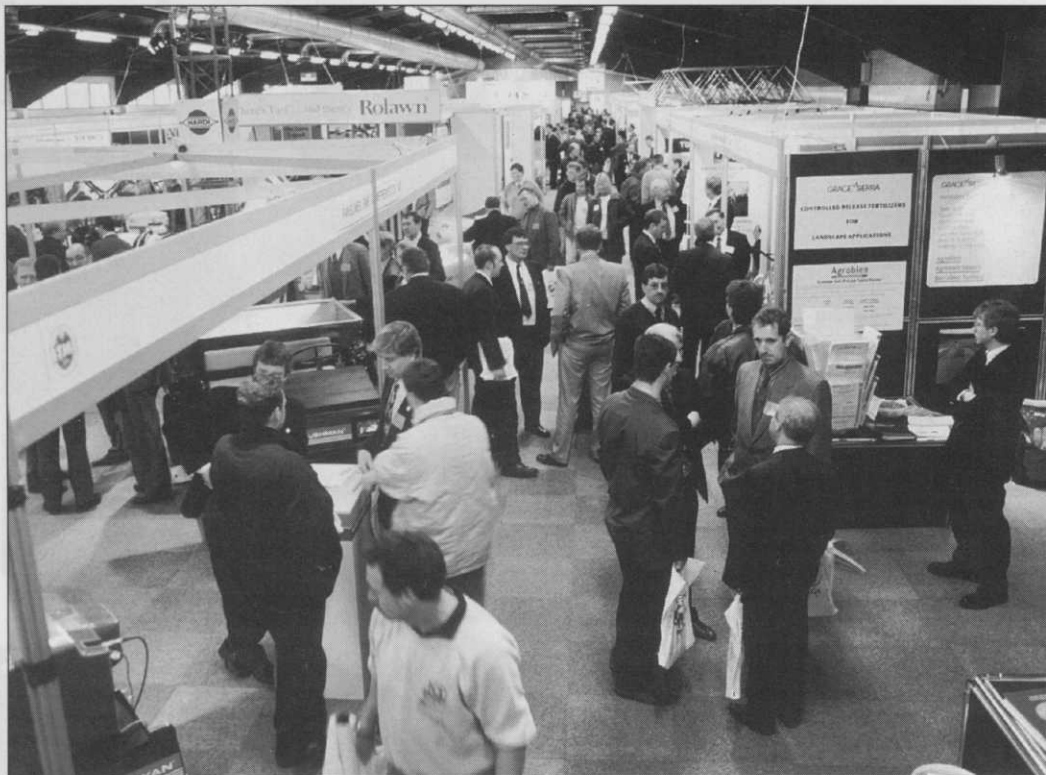
■ The Agricultural Engineers Association says many people in the turfcare industry would like to see just one exhibition. If the success at Harrogate is anything to go by, the BTME should be that exhibition. As BIGGA's executive director said at the AGM: "We are committed contractually to Harrogate until after the 1996 exhibition and we intend to go on presenting our case that if there is to be one major show then Harrogate may well prove to be the ideal venue."

■ Harrogate looked more like Harrods on sale day when the exhibition opened. Long queues formed at the pre-registration desk, prompting organisers to rethink the system for next year.

■ One driver was so eager to get in that he crashed his car outside the entrance on the first day.

■ On the other hand, one well known marketing manager walked in half an hour after the show had closed. *It's only a two and a half day exhibition, you know!*

Industry applauds BTME: 'I don't think I have seen the halls so full...' 'Another success...' 'Superb...'



# Attendance up at the only show that counts

If you're a greenkeeper, course manager or are, in some way, connected with golf, there was only one place to be last month – Harrogate and the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition.

We're not the only ones thinking that. More than 6,000 people visited the show – 1,200 up on last year. And exhibitors were besides themselves with joy at the contacts they had made and the business they had done.

● Ransomes' sales manager, Chris MacGowan, said: "It's the best show, it's the only one that counts nationally."

● Kim Macfie, Hayters sales and marketing director, who had the

largest stand there, told BIGGA: "It was another success... you must take considerable pride in the knowledge that it was so successful."

● Jonathan Franks, amenity grass seed manager, British Seed Houses, said: "I don't think I have ever seen the hall so full on the first and second days and we were very impressed that so many delegates came from so far afield."

● One of the busiest men there was BIGGA chairman John Crawford. Everywhere we went, he was there ahead of us shaking someone's hand or making a speech. Afterwards, when he'd

caught his breath, he said: "Everything went smoothly."

● David Smith of Atterton & Ellis Ltd simply put it this way: "It was superb."

● Richard Fry of Marketing Link Associates summed it up by saying: "You now have the best exhibition, the best magazine and the best training videos."

And it wasn't just the exhibitors who were pleased. Ian McMillan, course manager at Hankley Common Golf Club, Farnham, said: "The atmosphere was very good amongst the trade and members. The fact that the show has grown in stature through difficult times is a credit to the organisation."



Two of the winners of our £600 BTME competition are pictured with BIGGA chairman John Crawford. Colin Mackay (left), assistant greenkeeper at Cruden Bay GC near Aberdeen, won return rail travel, three nights' accommodation and entry to all the education seminar sessions. Nigel Buxton (right) assistant head greenkeeper at Cavendish Golf Club, Buxton, Derbyshire, won a single night's accommodation and entry to all the seminar sessions. Second prize winner Harvey Tribe, first assistant at Henley Golf Club, couldn't make it.



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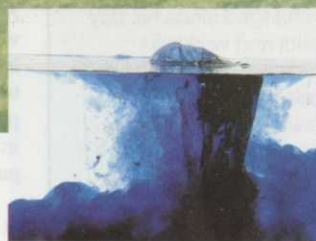
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## Rave reviews for career video

■ 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