

## Have you been identified as a candidate for membership?

**A**LTHOUGH reluctant to give space to this matter, 'Greenkeeping Management' considers it necessary to respond to members' requests for comment on the newly formed Institute of European Golf Course Managers (IEGCM). Perhaps the best response it to pose 20 questions which members should raise when approached to join by Mr Stanley Ellison - the Director General of the new organisation.

1. How will my £100 subscription be utilised and has the Inland Revenue approved it as tax deductible?
2. If elected a Fellow of the Institute what benefit will this be to me in my career and what official recognition will it receive by the educational bodies?
3. Is Mr Ellison self appointed as Director General or has he been elected by the Trustees and the Council?
4. Who are the Trustees and Council members?
5. As 'the Institute seeks to work and liaise with all the official golf bodies in a joint effort to improve standards throughout the golf course industry' - which of the major golfing bodies have agreed to recognise the new Institute given that BIGGA receives practical and ongoing support from

the R & A as well as the backing of all golfing bodies?

6. What is the administrative and committee structure of the new Institute?
7. Who are its employees?
8. What is its funding base?
9. Will members be provided with a copy of the Institute's By Laws and Council Regulations? Is there a Constitution and will members be provided with a copy?
10. When will the Annual Conference take place and what will be the costs involved?
11. What Educational Courses have been organised for 1990 and how will they be funded?
12. What procedures will be adopted to assist golf clubs to find managers or head greenkeepers and how will members' interests be protected?
13. What specific services will be available to members that are not already provided through membership of BIGGA?
14. Does Mr Ellison see any conflict of interests in his roles as Director General of the Institute, and Publisher, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of 'Turf Management'.
15. Will 'The Golf Course' in fact be published monthly?

16. What are the advantages to greenkeeping of a body purporting to serve the needs of Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers as opposed to the profession as a whole?
17. Why is there a need for a new body given the development and progress of BIGGA in the last two years?
18. Wouldn't it be more productive for publications such as 'The Golf Course' and 'Turf Management' to support BIGGA as the official unifying body for greenkeepers and the profession?
19. Why has Mr Ellison used 'Turf Management' magazine as a vehicle for adverse editorial in relation to BIGGA's activities?
20. Finally, would my interests be better served as a member of BIGGA?

We at **Greenkeeping Management** feel sure that BIGGA members will come to a unanimous conclusion:

**Belonging to BIGGA is the way forward - a professional and progressive association projecting greenkeepers and greenkeeping into the 90s.**

## Too big for day at Ingliston?

**H**AS Scotsturf grown too big? That is a question on the lips of both the trade and the many visitors to their exhibition. Bill Ellwood, the Head Groundsman at Murrayfield, and Chairman of the Exhibition Committee certainly has led the Institute of Groundsmen to a hugely successful one day exhibition.

The education seminar, with over 100 attendees, indicated the close and friendly ties between I.O.G. and BIGGA, whose members attended the exhibition in full this year, and who were all the more noticeable in their smart blazers.

Certain sectors of the trade, who reported more visitors than they could physically deal with, appear to be in favour of an extension to a two-day event. It is understood that the exhibition lease is due for renewal, and that talks are being held to consider the format of future events.

## Massive increase in BIGGA membership

**I**N six months, Greenkeeping Management has made a significant impact in the market. Average circulation for the period July to December inclusive (to be verified by the Audit Bureau of Circulations) for Greenkeeping Management will be around 10,100 copies. Subscription sales, which include members' copies, now exceeds 4,000 per month. Our nearest competitor "Turf Management", according to the current ABC statistics, has experienced a dramatic drop in circulation from 9,155 per month (June 1987) to 6,949 copies per month (June 1988) and 5,146 copies per month (June 1989).

No figures are published for "The Golf Course", which no longer enjoys the support of our Association.

Advance sales, according to Sales Manager Bill Lynch are: "Better than we budgeted for".

In fact, says Bill, "we are currently dealing with many enquiries concerning prime slots and special features". The 1990 editorial calendar is now available. Membership of the Association which increased by more than 1000 new registrations in the six months from May to November is set to accelerate even more with the announcement of the new package and Master Certificate Scheme.

At the beginning of 1989, Neil Thomas was based in a tiny office at Bingley with one secretary under his direction. There are now four Head Office staff in smart new offices at Aldwark Manor. BIGGA is moving into the 1990's professionally staffed and managed, united in purpose and determined to provide educated and experienced greenkeepers needed to expertly maintain our courses.

## ETME - HARROGATE

### SOCIAL PROGRAMME EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

Please note that all bookings must be received by

**8 JANUARY**

*Places are limited*

**You are advised to book now!!**