

# Sun shines on delegates at Egham



Lord Whitelaw addresses the conference.

Glorious sunshine greeted Saturday's programme – so much so in fact that the lecture theatre became rather warm because of the good weather and also because of the packed audience with some delegates having to sit on the staircases.

The highlight of Saturday, apart from the excellent presentations by the various speakers, was of course the arrival during the morning session of the BIGGA President The Rt. Hon Viscount Whitelaw, CH, MC, who, after

In this our second look at the BIGGA National Conference at Egham, Greenkeeping Management's Sales Director Bill Lynch concludes his view of the proceedings.



An engrossed Lord Whitelaw is pictured with BIGGA Chairman Ivor Scoones (left) and past Chairman Paddy McCarron.

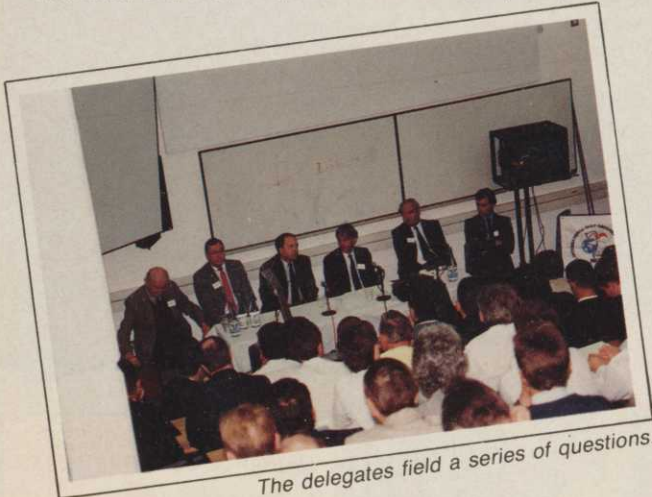


American speaker Jim Latham.

again greeted delegates on Sunday morning, the third and final day of the conference, and made the walk to the Lecture Theatre through the extensive college grounds very pleasant.

The five concluding lecture papers were delivered as articulately as all those previously, with some particularly interesting and unusual slides of the Emirates Golf Club shown by Barry Carter, the Greens Superintendent, during his presentation.

The packed audience once again listened intently to the various speakers and reward-



The delegates field a series of questions.

tations, made a short speech extolling the virtues of well educated greenkeepers managing their courses and applauding the progress BIGGA has made already but also needs to keep on making.

Following lunch the conference sponsors The International Golfers Club, represented by Robert Bonalack, Shaun Jones and Jack McMillan, made a presentation about the services they offer which can bring about reduced costs and greater profitability to clubs.

Once again at the end of the day's proceedings John Millen had to draw to a conclusion the lively question time which was in danger of running into dinner time!

Saturday evening produced another highlight of the three

day conference – the Picture Gallery in the Founders Building of the college – the fabulous setting for the International Golfers Club Reception and the Conference Banquet.

Delegates were able to partake of fine food and wine watched over by the works of some old masters including Turner and Constable. The setting really was most impressive and comparable in its own way to the ambience achieved in the Queens Hall at Cambridge a year earlier.

David Kendal, the after dinner speaker, with his extrovert Yorkshire manner and accent and his loud and lively quick fire delivery certainly kept the assembled company laughing with joke after joke! Will those there ever view their bank manager in the same way again?

After the IGC had been thanked for their gracious hospitality the formal banquet was brought to its conclusion and most delegates withdrew to the bar – where – you've guessed it – David Kendal just kept delivering his prolific output to a continually chuckling audience!

Of course your intrepid reporter in the interests of accurate reporting was compelled to continue working into the early hours as the bottles of Scotch Whisky provided by those popular Irish adopted Scottish course managers David Macindoe and Bill Semple were gradually consumed by a diminishing band of die hards. The last dram was downed around 5.30am and everyone was asleep in bed by 5.35am!!

Glorious sunshine once

ed them all with generous applause.

Following the final question session to the panel of speakers John Millen posed a question to the audience asking if the Association should pursue the policy of holding an annual National Education Conference – the answer was a unanimous and resounding "yes".

The formal proceedings were finally brought to a conclusion by Paddy McCarron, in his last official act as Chairman of BIGGA, when he conducted an eloquent summary of the Conference and thanked the various participants who had made it such a success, including of course John Millen for all his work as Conference Chairman, and the International Golfers Club for their support of the Conference.



A packed hall listens with wrapped attention.