

## Supers receive Britain's highest int'l turf award

Two golf course superintendents traveled to Harrogate in Yorkshire, England, in January to receive from Prince Andrew, Duke of York, the highest international award of Master Greenkeeper Certificate.

William Montague, 45, of Oakwood Club in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, and Robert Maibusch, 35, of Hinsdale Golf Club in Clarendon Hills, Ill. are the first U.S. superintendents to qualify for the certificate, awarded by the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, of which they are members. Only three other greenkeepers, all from Britain, have qualified.

The certificate is gained by courses, experience, a written examination and independent assessment of the golf course.

"My interest in the certificate started as a personal challenge," Maibusch explained. "The work leading up to the exam forced me to go back and review everything I'd ever learned and it was very rewarding."

"The exam itself was difficult but fair. But I never realized quite what an achievement it was until everyone else recognized it and the whole thing outgrew my original personal involvement. My golf course was thrilled, and meeting the prince was overwhelming."

Maibusch, 35, a turfgrass management graduate of Michigan State University, is on the National Committee of Certification Appeals for the GCSAA.

At Hinsdale, one of the oldest clubs in Illinois, he has 18 staff in season "the best I've ever worked with" and his members are "very appreciative of what we do" and are "wonderful people

to work for."

Montague has worked at the Oakwood Club for nearly 20 years and is a certified golf course superintendent. "Having been certified by the GCSAA, I felt the need for a career-oriented educational goal and this MGC program fulfilled perfectly," he explained.

"I had an unbelievable feeling of accomplishment to be told that I was only the second Master Greenkeeper and the first international member to achieve the status."

Maibusch, and Montague with their respective wives, Cheryl and Monica, met the prince informally at a BIGGA reception after the award ceremony. All were thrilled by his friendly interest and informality.

Prince Andrew, a keen golfer and the first member of the British Royal Family for 40 years to take an interest in the game, was in Harrogate to open the fifth annual BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and Seminar Program.

The prince told the green-keep-

ers: "It is only possible to play this royal and ancient game because of all the hard work, commitment, patience, care, and above all because of the pride, you take in your profession."

For more information on the MGC program, contact Neil Thomas or David Golding, at the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, Aldwark Manor, Alne, York, YO6 2NF, England—Tel: (03473) 581. Or call Maibusch at 708-986-1323, or Montague at 216-381-7675.



Robert Maibusch receives certificate from Prince Andrew.

*For those who worry about compaction so much, they lose sleep over it.*

## N.C. elects officers

At the annual meeting of the Turfgrass Council of North Carolina, new officers and directors were elected to lead the 1,600-member organization during 1993-94.

TCNC President Terry Baughman announced that Tom Bland of Bland Landscaping in Raleigh will become the organization's 17th president when the gavel is passed during official ceremonies on May 12. Other officers are Gene Daniel of River Hills Country Club, vice president; and Russ Barnette of DowElanco, secretary. Charles Tomlinson, of the N.C. Department of Transportation, will continue to serve as the council's treasurer.

Four incumbent directors were re-elected to the 12-member board: Mike Claffey of Cape Fear Country Club in Wilmington; Charles Tomlinson of NC-DOT in Raleigh; Ray Avery of Quail Hollow Country Club in Charlotte; Les Kuykendall of RSI Holdings, Inc. (Formerly Porter Brothers) in Shelby; and Bob Bell of Smith Turf and Irrigation in Charlotte.

Baughman, owner of a leading Raleigh, N.C. lawn-care company, will continue to serve on the TCNC board of directors as past president.