NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

How do the various climatic conditions affect grass growth on golf courses in the United States is the very topical subject presented by Stan Zontek, Director of the USGA Green Section Mid Atlantic Region. Stan is an experienced speaker who has visited us and spoken at previous BIGGA events.

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to the Royal Jersey Club, so his title 'Back Down to Earth' may be somewhat misleading. Euan graduated from Leeds University with an honours degree in Sport and Leisure Management but decided that greenkeeping was for him. His choice of career was obviously the correct one judging from his progress so far. Euan will talk about his experiences leading up to, during and after the Student of the Year Competition.

Sue Gudgeon

New to Harrogate as speakers are representatives from three of the four Home Golf Unions. First, Neil Hayward from the English Golf Union will discuss the Role of the Unions Today. Neil joined the EGU in 1991 and is employed as the Golf Development Course Secretary. His work includes administration on behalf of the Golf Course Committee and he has been responsible for organising a series of workshops for golf club officials.

The second speaker in this seminar is Joe Furlong, from the Golfing Union of Ireland. Joe retired in 1992, after spending 46 years with the Dublin Port Authority. His involvement with golf began in 1968 when he joined the Royal Tara Golf Club and he has been involved with the GUI since 1975. Joe is well qualified to talk on the Evolution of Greenkeeper Training in Ireland and will discuss how training has changed and will continue to change. The final golf union speaker is Bob McLaren from the Scottish Golf Union. Bob has played golf since he was ten years old, has been President of the Scottish Golf Union and is currently, Chairman of the Greenkeepers Training Committee. Bob has seen many changes in the game of golf and with a 'foot in both camps', he is ideally suited to look at the relationship between greenkeepers, golf clubs and SGU.

Last year's severe drought illustrated all too well, the need to monitor wisely the use of water for irrigation. Peter White, runs a water monitoring business in the UK, Portugal and Spain. He measures what is actually happening in the soil, so taking the guess work out of irrigation. Peter will illustrate what can happen, what can be done about it and how things might change in the future.

Lorraine Hatton

If you can't see the wood for the trees then Andrew Boyd from Bridlington Golf Club may be able to help. Andrew has been involved with greenkeeping since he was 16 and now manages Bridlington's oldest established golf course. Andrew's talk covers the progress of a tree planting programme at Bridlington, what grants were available, the added value that trees give to his course and he also looks to the future.

How do you put evidence together for presentation to an assessor? What is a portfolio? These are just two of the questions that will be answered during Brin Bendon's talk on Portfolio Development. Brin is well known to delegates at BIGGA Supervisory Management Courses, which he has presented for two years at Aldwark Manor.

Brin, a training consultant with Vector Training, is a very experienced trainer, both indoors and outdoors. An enthusiastic hill walker and climber, Brin runs management courses 'out in the hills' as well as in the classroom. Brin will be the tutor on several of the Regional Supervisory Management Courses commencing in February.

Jenny Rolf lectures in psychology at the College of St Mark and St John, which is affiliated to Exeter University. Jenny seems to manage her stress by gardening, interior decorating and walking the hills and coastline of Devon. In her talk, Jenny will attempt to define stress, show you how to recognise it, cope with it and manage your staff so as to reduce it.

Back across the pond for our next speaker, Gary T Grigg, President of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Gary who is the Superintendent at the Royal Poinciana Golf Club in Naples Florida has been a member of the GCSSA for 24 years and has served on its board for six years. Gary holds Masters Degrees in Entomology and Agronomy and a Bachelors degree in Agriculture. Gary's talk will show how the role of the superintendent has expanded through the years and how the GCSSA has developed to meet that change in role, which should be familiar territory to BIGGA members.

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Ron Coleman is the Managing Director of Lubrication Engineers in the United Kingdom. He has 30 years experience in the field of lubricants and is therefore well qualified to deliver a talk on how improved lubrication practices can assist in improving efficiency and reduce operating costs.

Stan Zontek's second speech of the week looks at New Trends in Turfgrass Management in the US. Stan, who is the Director of the Greens Section Mid Atlantic Region of the USGA. This time, Stan looks at long and short term trends in turfgrass management including Integrated Pest Management and Best Management Techniques, and the trend to make many US golf courses more 'natural' like many in Britain.

Improve your golf course but don't spend too much seems to be the theme of John Armitage's talk. John, who is a member of the R&A, chairman of green at Littlestone Golf Course and a director of Green Eagle Golf, who design and build golf courses, seems to have found six techniques which are easy to implement at little cost yet improve the course dramatically.

Our final seminar of 1996 reintroduces Dr Joe Vargas. Joe, who is also speaking at the National Education Conference, is Professor of Botany and Plant Pathology at Michigan State University and a well known and respected author. Joe's talk is about Integrated Pest Management and its role in turfgrass management, covering cultural, biological, genetic and chemical pest management as well control pesticides designed to reduce pesticide use.