EDITORIAL

The Sports Turf Research Institute situated in Bingley, Yorkshire, England is in its 61st year, and started as a Greenskeeping Advisory Board. It now advises about 1/2 of the 2,000 golf courses in the British Isles. Its most important work is in the area of sportsfield improvements. Using a research team and facilities S.T.R.I. will do anything from a feasibility study right through the tendering process, to providing on-site supervision of the construction. Then advise on management and maintenance of the finished product. The staff at S.T.R.I. also conduct courses for groundskeepers and greenskeepers, lecture at conference/workshops at home and abroad. Most play on soccer (football) fields is during the winter or rainy season S.T.R.I., through research, has designed the "Sand Pitch Profile" system. This system stays free draining and provides an excellent playing surface year round.

My wife and I had a guided tour of the 5 Hectare site and were impressed with both the modern building and the amount of research being conducted. We were shown a cultivar testing program where 150 different cultivars are under scrutiny. Next, a study of irrigation construction and nutrition of golf courses. Three irrigation treatments were used which included overwatering, underwatering and replacement of the water lost through evapotranspiration. The trial included different types of construction from normal topsoil greens, to a sand green and then one constructed to U.S.G.A. sand/soil specifications. We then looked at a study to determine the cost effectiveness of different types of drainage. After this we were shown the work being done on ball response, ball roll, compaction tests using a Stimpmeter and traction using a studded disc. These tests were conducted on both artificial and natural turf, and notable differences were shown.

Bruce Shank of sportsTURF magazine mentions a workshop for groundskeepers of baseball fields or stadia, are we ready for this here? Let us have your suggestions or letters, this is your forum for airing problems with sports turf. We will all learn from sharing viewpoints.

Profile:

INTRODUCING OUR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY!! R.W. [Bob] Sheard

Bob was raised on a mixed grain — livestock farm in Southeast Saskatchewan. He received his post secondary education at the Univ. of Sask., the Univ. of Toronto [O.A.C.] and Cornell University in Agronomy, Plant Physiology and Statistics.

Bob spent over 36 years at the O.A.C. where his primary interests were in forage production, particularly those aspects dealing with fertilizer use and was responsible for a significant upgrade in the recommendations for phosphorous and potassium for forages. He also did considerable work on nitrogen fertilization of forage grasses.

The latter study led to his interest in turf production where he pioneered the work on sulphur-coated urea in Canada. Recommendations for late fall nitrogen use also evolved from these studies.

In 1979 he constructed a set of sand-based micro greens at the Cambridge Research Station for research in water use and fertilizer practices for turf on pure sand. He was associated with the development of several playing fields which were built on this on this principle.

In 1981 he served as Local Arrangements Chairman for the 4th International Turfgrass Research Conference and was Editor of the conference proceedings. From 1968 to 1986 he taught soil science and plant nutrition to the annual Guelph Turf Managers Short Course. Other duties, however, necessitated that he relinquish his turf interests for a time.

Bob is married to the former Gladys White of Dundalk and they have two sons; Bill, a geologist, and John, a geographer.

News Release:

SPORTS TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NAMES DALE F. KELLER, JR. AS ITS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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