

Exciting new plans announced by the National Turfgrass Council

AT a cocktail reception held during the IOG Windsor show, at which almost 200 invited guests were in attendance, Howard Swan, Chairman of the National Turfgrass Council, made public a substantial three year strategic plan for the Council.

In his welcoming address he said he was the first to admit that in the past the Council had been seen to be nothing more than talking shop and this weakened its attempts to represent the industry effectively. However he said that this was a time for change in formulating its plan to become much more active in its representation as the umbrella body. He stressed the importance of the growing industry in which all at Windsor were involved and this was underlined by a highly supportive statement from the Minister of Sport Colin Moynihan. It was certain that a continued growth in the participation in outdoor and indoor sports would be seen and that facilities, either new or upgraded, both public and private, would be funded in time. The government initiative on the diversification of farmland into recreation and amenity use would mean more golf courses, and more sports pitches in the next ten years.

Swan looked back at the original formation of the NTC in 1980, and discussed briefly its aims and objectives, namely the dissemination of information, education and training, and on the subject of encouraging research, he said that he felt that the NTC had only been partially successful to date, but by the establishment of national conferences and regional workshops and the development of the B. Tech. Diploma in Turf Management, that a limited amount had been accomplished. However the NTC needed to do more so that it represented the industry much more effectively and efficiently.

The establishment of a permanent secretary in June of 1988 was the first important step and detailed plans for this post had already been formulated. This would allow the NTC to develop away from its voluntary base as at present when more could be done and be seen to be done. This function would be supported by secretarial assistance and there would be a professional marketing and PR consultant retained to



Howard Swan and Keith Cleverly

develop the image of the Council. Besides running its annual conference, the 1987 version of which is being held in late October on the subject of Water Management for Turfgrasses, the NTC has already planned an intensive series of regional workshops on wild flora, fertiliser uses in fine turf, diversification of farmland to recreation and workshops on pesticides legislation which will be held in November. To coincide with this the NTC is publishing a code of practice for pesticide usage for the industry in association with the NAAC and the Ministry of Agriculture.

This increased activity which will

be made possible by the establishment of the permanent secretariat, obviously requires funding and Swan detailed at the reception the launch of the Premier Patrons Scheme, which unites support on an annual basis from the industry. Three levels of patronage are envisaged; Gold, Silver and Bronze, to commence in 1988 at £800, £400 and £200 respectively. The founding Golf Patron was ICI Professional Products. The Toro Company, Supaturf Products Ltd., Vitax Ltd., Rolawn Ltd., and Ransomes Simms and Jefferies plc joined them in pledging their support as Gold Patrons. Brian D. Pierson (Contractors) Ltd., the specialist golf course constructor became the founding Silver Patron, and *the Golf Course*, the Official Publication of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, became the founding Bronze Patron. Hawtree & Son Golf Course Architects and British Seed Houses Ltd., Maxicrop International Ltd., and Walkover Sprayers were the other Bronze Patrons.

The outstandingly successful response to the National Turfgrass Council's future plans and the Premier Patron Scheme prompted Chairman Swan to conclude.

"I am absolutely delighted with the way that we have begun this campaign and can see that in future months shall build upon this excellent base and be able to meet the projected budgetary requirements for the secretariat so that all our plans can be implemented.

"At last the NTC seems to be getting off the ground and with the continued support of all sides in the industry, associations, companies and individuals, I can see the Council truly representing, as it should, all facets of the business to the outside world and government".

**NATIONAL TURFGRASS COUNCIL AND
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL CONTRACTORS
WORKSHOP ON "AMENITY PESTICIDES '87"
STONELEIGH, THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER 1987**

Since the last amenity pesticides workshop a year ago, the National Turfgrass Council and the National Association of Agricultural Contractors have been working, with the approval of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, to prepare a code of practice specifically for the amenity sector.

This workshop at Stoneleigh on Thursday 12 November 1987 is mainly to introduce the new code. Speakers will explain how it would be applied in various situations, what is included, and what is not.

There will also be a chance to get up-to-date on operator training and certificates of competence, with a speaker from the ATB, and Phillip Sheppy of the NPTC to review and explain the pesticides application tests.

The price is £37.00 per person, including a copy of the code available at the workshop, lunch and other refreshments, and the workshop report afterwards.

Enquires to:-

Mr. J. P. Shildrick,
Secretary, NTC,
3, Ferrands Park Way,
Harden,
Bingley,
W. Yorkshire,
BD16 1HZ

Tel: (Daytime): 0274 565131
(Evening): 0535 273188

OUTLINE PROGRAMME

9.00 onwards Registration

9.45 - 10.15 Coffee available

SESSION 1. CODE OF PRACTICE FOR PESTICIDES IN AMENITY AREAS

10.15 - 10.30 Chairman's welcome and introduction

10.30 - 10.50 The Local Authority's view - Jon Bauer, City of Sheffield

10.50 - 11.10 The Contractor's view - Speaker from the National Association of Agricultural Contractors

11.10 - 11.30 The HSE view - Jim McIntyre, Health & Safety Executive

11.30 - 11.50 The Water Authority's view - Mrs Katherine Bryan, Severn-Trent Water

11.50 - 12.45 Group discussions on the Code of Practice

12.45 Buffet lunch

1.45 - 2.15 Comments and queries from groups

SESSION 2. UPDATE ON OPERATOR TRAINING AND PROFICIENCY TESTING

2.15 - 2.20 Chairman's introduction

2.20 - 2.40 Training courses - Speaker from the Agricultural Training Board

2.40 - 3.00 Proficiency testing - Phillip Sheppy, National Proficiency Tests Council

3.00 - 4.00 Final discussion

4.00 approx Tea and disperse.

