

EDUCATION

BIGGA/SUPATURF 1989 EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE QUEENS' COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE, 4th-6th APRIL 1989

BIGGA considers it particularly appropriate that the first National Educational Conference of the new Association is being held at Cambridge - a centre of learning and academic excellence.

The Association considers the education and training of greenkeepers to be of paramount importance and it is to be hoped that the Conference and its setting will prove the inspiration for many delegates to pursue higher standards of education and learning in the future.

Accommodation will be provided in Queens' College which incorporates the old with the new and was founded in 1446. Delegates will be housed in the student accommodation and the Conference Banquet will be held in The New Hall which was opened in 1979. The Old Hall, built in 1449, with an interior richly decorated in the eighteenth and nineteenth century, will be used for a reception by SUPATURF, the Conference's sponsors, whose support and co-operation has been much appreciated by the Association.

The Conference will be held in The Peterhouse Theatre adjacent to Queens' College, a modern purpose-built facility providing all necessary services and a high degree of comfort for delegates. For two of the buffet lunches, we will be using The Garden House Hotel in an attractive setting overlooking the river.

Cambridge itself will appeal to delegates with its unique atmosphere; its narrow, bicycle-filled streets; the variety of languages to be heard; shops displaying British craftsmanship at its best, and always a sense of history and tradition.

BIGGA welcomes you to Cambridge and to a Conference which we feel sure will prove instructive and rewarding.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 4th April

9.30 am onwards Registration - Queens' College
11.45 am Buffet Lunch in The Garden House Hotel
1.20 pm until 5.50 pm Conference - First Session
7.00 pm - 7.30 pm Dinner in Queens' College

Wednesday, 5th April

7.45 am until 9.00 am Breakfast
9.00 am until 12.30 pm Conference - Second Session
12.30 pm Buffet Lunch in Queens' College
1.50 pm until 5.50 pm Conference - Second Session continued
7.00 pm Reception in The Old Hall, Queens' College given by **Supaturf Products Limited**
8.00 pm Conference Banquet in The New Hall, Queens' College
Speaker:
David Purdie, Medical School, Leeds University

Thursday, 6th April

7.45 am until 9.00 am Breakfast
9.00 am until 1.30 pm Conference - Third Session
1.30 pm Buffet Lunch in The Garden House Hotel

CONFERENCE DAILY PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 4th April

9.30 am Registration in Queens' College
11.45 am Buffer Lunch - The River Suite, The Garden House Hotel

Conference Commences

Session Chairman, Ivor Scoones, Vice-Chairman, BIGGA Educational Sub-Committee

1.20 pm	Introduction	Jack McMillan, Chairman, BIGGA
1.30 pm	'Converting from Poa Annua to Agrostis at Bayview'	James Wyllie, President James A. Wyllie & Associates Limited, Canada
2.10 pm	'Golf Course Management in the Cotswolds'	Lawrence Pitthie, Course Manager Minchinhampton Golf Club
3.30 pm	Coffee	
4.00 pm	'Current Trends in the Maintenance and Science of Golf Course Turfs in the United States'	J.B. Beard, Professor of Turfgrass Physiology and Ecology, Dept. of Soil and Crop Sciences, Texas A & M University
4.40 pm	'Research and the R & A'	Michael Canaway, Assistant Director (Research), The Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley
5.20 am	Panel Questions	
5.50 pm	Close	

CONFERENCE DAILY PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 5th April

Session Chairman, Paddy McCarron, Chairman, BIGGA Education Sub-Committee

9.00 am	'Similarities and Differences in Golf Course Maintenance Between Great Britain and the United States'	Dr. William Dest, Associate Extension Professor, Department of Plant Science, University of Connecticut
9.40 am	'Constructing a Golf Course on Sussex Flint'	Raymond Hunt, Course Manager, Goodwood Park Hotel Golf Course
10.20 am	Coffee	
10.40 am	'Greenkeeper or Superintendent?'	Dennis Mortram, Reaseheath College, Cheshire
11.20 am	'Golf Development and Course Management in Sweden'	Rolf Lowgren, Chief Consultant, Swedish Golf Federation
12.00 pm	Panel Questions	
12.30 pm	Buffet Lunch - Queens' College	
1.50 pm	'Education and Training for Professional Bodies involved in Golf'	Malcolm Hulley, Association Secretary, The Professional Golfers Association
2.30 pm	Tournament Preparation	Kevin Munt, Course Manager, West Germany
3.10 pm	'Raising Distributor Standards Through Education'	Richard Fry, Director, Supaturf Products Limited
3.40 pm	Coffee	
4.00 pm	'Fertiliser Use, Theory and Practice'	Dr. William Adams, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth
4.40 pm	'The Biggest Problem of Golf Course Turf in the USA'	Jim Snow, Director, North Eastern Region, Green Section, United States Golf Association
5.20 pm	Panel Questions	
5.50 pm	Close	

CONFERENCE DAILY PROGRAMME

Thursday, 6th April

Session Chairman, Bill Lawson, Vice-Chairman, BIGGA

9.00 am	'The Role of the Golf Unions in the 90's'	Keith Wright, Secretary, English Golf Union
9.40 am	'The Role of Phosphorus and Potassium in Maintaining Bentgrass Putting Greens'	Dr. William Dest, Associate Extension Professor, Department of Plant Science, University of Connecticut
10.20 am	Coffee	
10.50 am	'The Educational Minefield'	Tony Gentil, Reaseheath College, Cheshire
11.30 am	'My Experience of Green-keeping in Portugal'	Peter Wisbey, Course Manager, Sas Lourence/Penina, Portugal
12.10 pm	'Modern Nutritional Strategies for Golf Course Turfs'	J.B. Beard, Professor of Turfgrass Physiology and Ecology, Dept. of Soil and Crop Sciences, Texas A & M University
12.50 pm	Panel Questions	
1.20 pm	Summing up	Jack McMillan, Chairman, BIGGA
1.30 pm	Buffet Lunch - The River Suite, The Garden House Hotel	

Course construction in Australia

Chris Nicholson is an Ex-Head Greenkeeper at Mid-Herts Golf Club and reports on the project he is involved with in Western Australia



I am at present here in Perth, Western Australia engaged in the construction of a 27-hole championship golf course, 40 kilometres north of Perth at Ellenbrook, in the wine-growing district of Western Australia. This is the largest golf course under construction in Australia at the moment. The company I am employed by is Sanwa Vines, a Japanese consortium and the course is the brainchild and designed by Graham Marsh.

There are 27 normal greens, plus 3 gambling holes, 4 practice greens and 4 championship tennis courts, 2 bowling greens and an archery range. A huge Clubhouse and hotel complex are also under construction on site. The fairways are skirted by 400, one acre blocks where luxury houses will be sited. A vineyard is being planted to supply the club with its own wine brand.

The huge machinery shed has just been completed to house the vast amount of new machines that are arriving almost daily. The local Toro dealer must have thought it was Christmas when we ordered four GM3's, four bunker rakes and four 420d's to name but a few. The

sheds cover the area of a soccer pitch with machine workshop, with full-time mechanic, fertiliser and chemical stores, with wash-down areas, suction fans, staff rest-rooms, showers, lockers. Every modern convenience has been supplied for the 22 staff we have at the moment, a world apart from what most Clubs expect their greens staff to contend with.

The greens are built to USPGA Standards, sand on a blanket of 18in aggregate or 'Blue Metal' as the locals refer to it. Some greens have agraflex drains beneath but we have found not all need it. The greens are then fed after final shaping with a pre-plant nutrient, consisting of chicken pellets and a cocktail of muriate of potash, nitrogen (Agran) super copper, zinc and Epsom salts. This is then raked into the surface and the green is then sprayed with Pencross Bent in an emulsion, to help the seed hold on the surface. The results we have had so far are good and a nice even cover has been achieved. This grass grows well over here, although I am not so sure how it would go in the UK climate.

The tees are, after final shaping, laser-levelled with a special machine I have never seen in the

UK. It comprises of a small tractor with a laser controlled scraper-come-hopper at the rear. A laser on the hopper works in conjunction with a laser to the rear of the tee to give a perfectly level tee. A drop of 2 per cent from front to rear of the tee is allowed for run-off. The tees are then stolonised with Greenless Park grass, disked into the surface and rolled. Most holes have at least five tees and each are stepped out in front of the other and most have buggy paths alongside.

The fairways meander through virgin bush, every care has been taken to maintain the natural habitat of the many kangaroos and other wild animals and plants that live around the course. The fairways have been panned with clay to prevent leaching of chemicals into the nearby Ellen brook. This clay, a few inches under a British fairway, would be deemed as a disaster. But when you consider the evaporation which takes place on an Australian fairway, you can see that no problems occur.

A great deal of revegetation has been done on each side of every fairway to tighten them up as it were. We have purchased a tree spade at the cost of A\$70,000 to transplant larger trees and palms. This has proved most successful and in time the natural bush will skirt each fairway, thus making a stray shot almost unplayable. As with the tees, the fairways are stolonised after pre-plant nutrients are added, this is done in the larger areas with a muck spreader, then they are disced in and repeatedly rolled.

The watering system or reticulation as is the word here, is complicated to say the least and is vast. The bore holes have been sunk to feed water to the lakes which, in turn, are pumped into the pump house area which is situated under ground. Massive pumps then push the water to each part of the course controlled by a main computer in our shed. Each fairway has its own satellite computer which can be operated manually if needed. We are using Toro 620 heads, 2,500 of them in all, working on 80/90psi.

We have at the moment three full-time staff learning the programmes and trouble-shooting the whole system in conjunction with the installers, Challenge Irrigation Ltd. I won't say there haven't been prob-

EDUCATION

lems, but most have been ironed out by now. The cost of the system will be about A\$3½ million.

One or two observations about greenkeeping in Australia, at least in W.A. could also prove interesting to my friends back in Britain. They seem to have to use a great deal more chemicals and fertilisers because of the leaching out of the sandy soil. This adds to the thatch problems of course, so maintenance is far more intensive than in the UK. It is not uncommon for whole fairways to be sprayed out and restolonised with couch grass. This gives a good cover but after a while thatches up again if not maintained properly. Courses out here are run more on American lines, the superintendents have a good association and are very professional in their approach to the job. They are mostly well paid and a car is normally part of their wage package. A four wheel drive vehicle is essential on a course of this size, as are the many trial bikes used to get around the course. Most staff carry a radio to contact each other



and it is surprising how much time this saves.

Naturally I have gained a great

deal of experience since working here and am learning new things daily.

COMPACTION, THATCH OR DRAINAGE PROBLEMS?

For really fast hollow tining of your problem areas, with variable tining and coring, get Coremaster on your side and cut disruption to a minimum.

C. & M. Sportsground Management, can core up to 18 Greens in a day, or a Bowling Green in 3 hours - fast specialist equipment - at economical rates.

GET C & M COREMASTER HIRE WORKING FOR YOU

Contact the Turf Aeration Specialists C & M Coremaster Hire. The War Memorial Sportsground, Colston Avenue, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 2PW



TEL: (0306) 884732.



THE BRITISH MASTERS.

Lindum are Masters of growing fine turf for golf greens and tees.

"I am absolutely delighted with the quality of the Lindum turf supplied for the greens of our new south course." Michael Hunter, Estate Manager, Wentworth Golf Club.

Need we say more? If so, ask for a copy of our new brochure.

LINDUM Seeded Turf

FOR LANDSCAPE AND LEISURE

For more information, telephone Tim Fell, 065 261 329, Lindum Seeded Turf, Church House, Horkstow, Barton on Humber, South Humberside DN18 6BG.

THE MASTERS OF FINE TURF PRODUCTION

EDUCATION

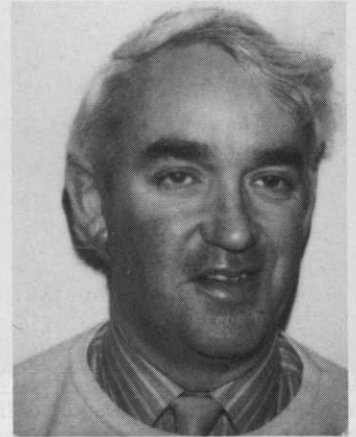
BIGGA/SUPATURF 1989 EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE QUEENS' COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, 4th-6th April, 1989

In this third profile on speakers to be heard at the conference, *THE GOLF COURSE* this month features Tony Gentil of the Cheshire College of Agriculture, Reaseheath. For Conference details, please contact Neil Thomas, Executive Director, BIGGA, Sports Turf Research Institute, BINGLEY, West Yorkshire, BD16 1AU. Tel: 0274-560556

TONY GENTIL

Tony Gentil is Deputy Head of Horticulture at the Cheshire College of Agriculture, Reaseheath - one of the approved Greenkeeper Training Colleges. Tony has extensive experience of further education within the sphere of horticulture and management. He is also involved with the writing and editing of educational texts and has been particularly active in open learning. Tony will be elaborating on different aspects of the educational minefield and explaining the complexities of current educational opportunities. His lecture will explain the changes in philosophy and attitude towards education being developed in conjunction with the industry rather than in the traditional way of educational bodies telling the industry what it should need, and his lecture will be of particular value as the Association moves forward with its education and training plans for greenkeepers.

Tony promises to offer some encouraging and controversial insights and delegates should thereafter have a much better understanding of terms like BTEC, NCVQ, CPVE, TVEI, 'Open Learning', and Distance Learning! Conference attendees can look forward to an informative lecture.



NATIONAL TOURNAMENT 1989

Members should note that this will be held at The Lyme Regis Golf Club, Lyme Regis, Dorset from 14th-16th August 1989.

For full details, please contact

Gordon Child, Regional
Administrator, Archways, Churston
Road, CHURSTON FERRERS, Nr
Brixham, South Devon, TQ5 0HU.
Tel: 0803-844056.

G.C.S.A.A. CONFERENCE AND SHOW, ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA 6th-13th FEBRUARY, 1989

A BIGGA party of thirty persons attended the recent G.C.S.A.A. Conference and Show. A full report with photographs on this major greenkeeping event will appear in the next issue.