

SPEAKER PROFILES

NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

What should we look out for during the installation of a new irrigation system? How did we water our courses before irrigation? What makes a good irrigation system? These are just some of the questions that Martin Smith, head greenkeeper at Ramsdale Park Golf Centre, near Nottingham, will answer during his lecture at the National Education Conference. Martin, 42, has a unique view of irrigation since he is a greenkeeper who spent ten years as an irrigation installation engineer working all over Britain and Europe.

With the environmental issue becoming more and more important, greenkeepers cannot afford to miss ecologist Bob Taylor's talk on 'Managing the Ecology of the Golf Course'. Bob joined the STRI as an advisory agronomist in August 1989 after graduating from Sheffield University with a BSc honours degree in botany. Before going to university he worked for 11 years as a supervisory electrician with British Coal. At the STRI he advises a variety of sports clubs throughout the north of England on general maintenance but his real speciality is ecological matters particularly on golf courses where woodland management or sites of scientific interest are involved.



Want to know what the Council for the Protection of Rural England has to say about golf courses and the environment? Then don't miss Neil Sinden's talk. Neil is the assistant secretary of the CPRE.



Thinking of planting some trees on your course? Get some tips from an expert. Wally Grice, a woodland officer with the Forestry Authority (part of the Forestry Commission), has been working in forestry for 17 years. He now covers the Craven, Harrogate and Selby area. At the National Education Conference 33-year-old Wally will be covering 'Aspects to Consider When Tree Planting on Golf Courses'.

Geoff Allinson, 27, is course manager at Patsull Park Golf Club, an 18-hole parkland course. Geoff took up the post in 1993 after growing in a 27-hole pay-and-play facility close to Telford in Shropshire. Before that he was involved, as an assistant, with the growing-in of the Wisley Club in Surrey. His talk is about 'Perseverance, pride and professionalism - the three qualities every greenkeeper should possess.



The £40m London Golf Club in Kent opened to much acclaim last summer. Its courses manager, Joe Paulin, will tell delegates all about it during his talk on 'The Evolution of the London Golf Club - Natural Resource Management'. Joe is a 44-year-old American who has a BS degree in agronomy from the Purdue University. He has worked at some of the world's best courses including Clondeboye Golf Club in Bangor, Northern Ireland, and The Gleanegles Hotel in Scotland.

Irrigation consultant Philip York will explain how operating costs can be reduced with proper system design/installation and good management. The right selection and spacing of sprinklers is critical if the system is to be efficient. How to achieve a reasonably uniform application of water is just one of the questions answered in his talk. Philip began in the irrigation industry in 1962, initially designing agricultural systems for the Eastern Counties Farmers Ltd's irrigation department. He has also worked for Wright Rain Ltd and the Toro Company, rising to managing director of their UK subsidiary before leaving in 1985 to set up his own consultancy. He now specialises in irrigation for golf courses.



Two Swedes - Stig Persson and Hakan Eriksson of the Swedish Golf Federation - will explain what's happening in their homeland and how the greens section of the SGF works. They will also present their environmental pro-



gramme. Stig, 46, worked for five years as head greenkeeper at Barseback G&CC and spent another five years as an installation manager for Rain Bird in Sweden before becoming general manager of Ljunghusen GC, a 27-hole seaside course on the southwest corner of Sweden. Hakan is 33 years old and started working for the SGF as an agronomist in 1990. "In my work I give advice to about 30 golf clubs about running of the course. I am also responsible for research and experiments in course running within the Swedish Golf Federation," he tells us.

The main themes of the National Education Conference are ecology, agronomy and irrigation. Billy McMillan, course manager at the Wildwood Golf Club, will put it all into perspective for us. Billy, one of Jack McMillan's boys, has been a head greenkeeper for more than 18 years, including spells at Cray Valley GC, Badgemore Park GC, Sunningdale GC, Effingham GC before starting at Wildwood in 1991.

BTME SEMINAR SPEAKERS

Dr David Patterson is a turfgrass breeder at the Northern Ireland Horticultural and Plant Breeding Station, which is situated in the heart of County Armagh. His seminar is about plant and grass breeding. He will explain how grasses are cross-fertilised and new varieties are synthesised by crossing parental varieties which have complementary characteristics. Much of the parental material is selected from old golf courses. Dr Patterson has an honours degree in agricultural science and a PhD in applied plant science from the Queens University of Belfast.

Jim Cassidy, 35, has been in greenkeeping for 16 years and has spent 11 years as a head greenkeeper. He is currently course manager at Ashridge Golf Club and plans to tell seminar goers about his five years there, his relationship with the National Trust, the geology and wildlife on site, the management structure in the club, improvements brought about by investment in modern machinery, a new machine store and new staff facilities.

Greenkeepers may be asked to manage rabbits, badgers, squirrels, rats, moles or Canada geese. Or they may have to supervise the management operations of a pest control company. Either way, greenkeepers will encounter problems. The types of problems will be discussed by Dr Gordon McKillop of the Central Science Laboratory in Worplesdon, Surrey. He has 15 years experience of research into wild rabbits, particularly management techniques and damage assessment. He has also designed and tested the non-lethal electrified grids which have been installed in the Channel Tunnel as one means of preventing rabid animals crossing through the Tunnel from France.

The British Institute of Golf Course Architects' chairman, Cameron Sinclair, will be giving a talk entitled 'Modern Golf Course Design allied to Modern Maintenance.' Keen golfer Cameron started his golf course design career with the firm of Cotton (CK), Pennink, Steel and Partners Ltd soon after graduating from Heriot Watt University with a degree in landscape architecture. In 1986, through an association with Graham Marsh, Cameron was given the opportunity of working in Australia on the design of a new resort course. Eighteen months after construction started the result was the prestigious Palm Meadows Golf Course. Cameron was then offered a job as a senior designer with Marsh's organisation and stayed in Australia for two years designing two new resort courses in Queensland. He is now operating as an independent golf course architect based in the UK.



Joseph Baidy, president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America will talk about the United States' view of Europe during the third European Forum. The Forum is aimed at greenkeepers in Europe and Sweden's Tommy Lindelof and Peter Shaw, who works in Germany, are among the other speakers. Dennis Mortram from Reaseheath College will give an overview of greenkeeper training in England.