

The latest FEGGA conference was held in Fuengirola, Spain, and took 'Water Management on the Golf Course' as its main theme. BIGGA's Executive Director, Neil Thomas reports...

# Flowing conversation

FEGGA's second conference was held in Fuengirola, Spain in November.

Delegates attended representing their Associations from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

The conference was again sponsored by Toro as part of their commitment to the education and training of greenkeepers throughout Europe and on this occasion they were partnered by Supaturf/Aquatrols given the theme of the conference "Water Management on the Golf Course".

The conference also featured a FEGGA summit giving delegates the opportunity to express their views on the future development of FEGGA and to review its progress since its inception in March 1996.

The first part of the programme dealt with the theory and reality of water management while the second covered strategies for effective management. Justin Smith of Supaturf began with a review of soil-water-plant system basics and the implications for responsible water management. He was followed by Mark Gunter of Toro who reviewed the basics of irrigation systems. Demie Moore of Aquatrols then gave an excellent introduction to water dynamics, repellency and movement in the soil-water-plant system. The first part of the programme concluded with Justin Smith giving an interesting talk on water management in turf.

The second part of the programme began with Justin Smith covering prac-



tical applications of moisture sensing before Mark Gunter dealt with the key principles of irrigation systems. Demie Moore then spoke on rootzone delivery and managing water movement.

Mike Meyrick, currently working in Switzerland, followed with a paper on water storage and legalities before David Stubbs concluded proceedings speaking on issues relating to water within the "Committed To Green" document.

Delegates benefited from an in-depth study of water management and some really excellent presentations before relaxing at the Toro dinner which was highlighted by the presence of flamenco dancers with three delegates being invited to take to the dance floor. It is better that they remain nameless!

The next day saw the first session of the FEGGA summit followed by a visit to San Roque Golf Club and a tour of the golf course under the guidance of the Head Greenkeeper, Salvador Gonzalez, President of the Spanish Greenkeepers Association.

The final morning saw the second summit session before delegates departed throughout Europe albeit reluctantly given that Spain was still enjoying hot, summer weather.

FEGGA's AGM will be held in the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate at 12.00 pm on Thursday 21 January where a large attendance is anticipated of members of associations affiliated to FEGGA as well as other interested parties.

Below: Mark Gunter of TORO lectures on irrigation systems

