

CELEBRATION

Plumpton College is celebrating achieving full status as a Centre of Vocational Excellence (CoVE) for Horticultural Technologies.

Plumpton College is the Collaborative Partner with leaders Chichester College, Brinsbury Campus and Writtle College. The award has brought with it substantial investment from the Learning and Skills Council to the colleges involved.

The college has invested in a training centre which enables the College to deliver bespoke and flexible courses and seminars tailored to Horticultural needs.

In response to research with rural businesses, most of the short courses and seminars offered are one-day or half-day sessions, which can also be held at the employers' own workplaces.

Des Lambert, Principal of Plumpton College said "This CoVE has been an important development in helping to move forward Horticultural Technologies at the College."

SEEDS OF CHANGE



Stephen Denton took on his new role, as Grass Seed Development Manager for leading seed agent Rigby Taylor, last month.

In the company's sales division for the past 11 years, Steve, 41, said: "My interest has always been in

the more technical aspects of turf, having been involved in greenkeeping and sports ground management, here and abroad, for more than 20 years."

Brian Robinson, Director of Seed Research, said: "I am extremely pleased to welcome Steve, as I feel his background and experience will make a very valuable contribution to the long-term development of our Mascot mixtures. Our objective is to help clubs set higher standards by providing advice on seed selection and best maintenance practices."

BRYAN BOSWORTH

It is with great sadness that we have to announce that Bryan Bosworth passed away after a long illness, bravely borne, aged 70 years.

Bryan joined Banks Amenity Products as a Sales Representative in 1986, covering the East Midlands, Home Counties and East Anglia, progressing to Sales Manager, a position he held until he retired from full time work in 2001. However, as he enjoyed working in the industry, he continued to work in a part-time capacity until 2004.

Bryan's cheerful, friendly disposition made him popular with customers and colleagues alike, and all who knew him.

We extend our condolences to his wife Joan, family and friends at this sad time.

SUSTAINABILITY FUND FOR GOLF LAUNCHED

Officials of Golf Environment Europe have announced the launch of a new Sustainability Fund for Golf in Europe.

The fund will assist the golf sector in Europe to address the increasingly important issues of environmental sustainability. It will enable Golf Environment Europe, an independent, non-profit body, to support and report on environmental achievements within European golf.

At a special reception to mark the occasion, Tom Garvey, Chairman of Golf Environment Europe said: "Golf Environment Europe was launched by the European Commission in Brussels in June 2005. Since then we have garnered considerable support from within and out-with golf. Our key mechanism, the European Forum for Golf and Environment, has been received with enthusiasm by the entire sector."

"Today we formally establish our sustainability fund - a fund that will enable GEE to work in partnership with many golf bodies, environmental organisations, government agencies and sponsors, towards the common goal of promoting environmental sustainability within European golf."

"We want to acknowledge the European Tour's support in the establishment of the fund, who today make a significant contribution and show genuine leadership on this matter. We also acknowledge our early sponsors - Volvo and Deutsche Bank; and Rolex and Ransomes Jacobsen who are the first official corporate partners."

"We also appreciate the considerable in kind support from other members of the Forum - the European Golf Association, The R&A, the Federation of Greenkeepers, the Institute of Golf Course Architects, the Association of Golf Course Owners, the PGAs of Europe, many national golf federations and research institutes."



Representatives, from left to right are: Alan Prickett, Ransomes Jacobsen; Tchie Kano, Alstom; Patrice Clerc, ASO; Thomas Godfrey, Spring Worldwide; Lodewijk Klootwijk, European Golf Course Owners Association; George O'Grady, European Tour; Jonathan Smith, Golf Environment Europe; Jaime Ortiz - Patino, Golf Environment Europe; Colin Wood, Golf Environment Europe; Maria Strandberg, Scandinavian Turfgrass Foundation / European Forum for Golf and Environment; Stig Persson, Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Association; Heinz Fehring, PGAs of Europe; Angel Gallardo, European Tour; Simon Cory-Wright, European Tour; Scott Kelly, European Tour; Mike Wood, European Institute of Golf Course Architects; Tom Garvey, Golf Environment Europe and Richard Hills, European Tour

BIGGEST EVER TURF CONFERENCE IN DENMARK

180 people crowded into the theatre at the historic Torvehallerne venue in the beautiful resort town of Vejle in Jutland, Denmark last October for an education-based two-day conference of the highest international standard - The Danish Greenkeepers Association's International Conference 2006. The DGA noted with satisfaction that no less than 30% of the association's total membership was in attendance. The education conference was preceded on the 24th by the association's AGM and a Greenkeeper Golf Championship.

The DGA started as a social get-together in 1963, but in the last decade it has been transformed into the focal point of the golf industry in Denmark. As others in Europe have discovered, the golf industry's customers expect more and more from greenkeepers and turf care standards have been raised.

It was felt that golf course design and people-management topics would be great themes to attract greenkeepers from Denmark and Norway.

The DGA wishes to record its sincere thanks to all the conference speakers, without whom, the conference would not have been the great success that it has been.

By Søren Nicholson

