

Dodgertown

At this time, I would like to extend to you and to anyone interested in Sports Turf Management, an invitation to STMA's Annual Meeting. It will be held this coming January at Dodgertown in Vero Beach, Florida.

This will be the first annual meeting which STMA sponsors alone, and will focus solely on sports turf and athletic facility management. STMA has come a long way in a relatively short span of time. The association started as a dream of Harry Gill and a few others, grew to 60 members and then mushroomed. Today STMA has over 700 members and is still growing at a phenomenal rate.

STMA stands for professional development through education. The annual meeting is one of the best means to expand your professional network and to take advantage of the opportunities to learn "what the other guy is doing." The program will offer educational sessions, social events, a trade show, and plenty of opportunities to exchange ideas and expand your knowledge of the sports turf profession.

It will be an honor to serve as president for our first "solo" meeting. I look forward to seeing you at Dodgertown in January, 1989 to learn together and to enjoy the sights and sounds of Florida.

More information will be available after August 15, 1988. Call Melissa at the STMA office (714) 981-9199 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (PDT).

The Institute Of Groundsmanship

From a talk presented by Christine Smith, Institute of Groundsmanship in England, at a STMA meeting in Houston, Texas.

A small pub in the heart of the City of London was the birthplace of the Institute of Groundsmanship. Ten working groundsmen met and decided to form an association, each paying a pound subscription. The aims established then were:

- To give opportunity for training.
- To raise standards of sports ground maintenance.
- To bring groundsmen together.
- To improve the status of groundsmen and the profession.

Those aims are the base on which the largest Institute in the leisure and amenity sector in Britain was built—and is still building today—more than 50 years after that pub meeting. They are followed through a system of zones and branches, recognized examinations and qualifications and a monthly journal, *The Groundsman*. The Institute also offers an advisory service for members of the public and private sports grounds.

From that inauspicious beginning has grown the organization which each year runs the Sports and Leisure World Trade Exhibition, the largest turf show of its kind in the world. The exhibition was first held in 1938, the second in 1947. When we fill the Royal Windsor Racecourse with the latest technology available to today's turf technician in September, we will be celebrating its 50th anniversary year with the 43rd exhibition.

This annual event and *The Groundsman* finance the education side of our work, which helps keep groundsmen up to date with their education and hopefully, does so in an entertaining as well as an informative way. The journal celebrated its 40th anniversary last year.

Behind all this is one man, Mr. William Bowles, BEM, who was head groundsman at Eton College, Britain's premier private school, when he called that historic meeting. It was his vision that launched the Institute and he has been able to see it reach maturity. Mr. Bowles retired only a couple of years ago from the school and is still a working groundsman as adviser to the Guards Polo Club where members of the Royal Family are frequent players.

We salute the babes of STMA and hope that our shared aims will forge even stronger links between us.



Life is not easy for the person who goes through the motions of existence but never achieves anything. Those who are out on the firing line doing their best are the ones that others take pot shots at without thinking. Sports Turf Managers are the ones others are shooting at, so be ready. Many times people are never praised when they do a good job—it is only when something goes wrong that we hear from folks.

Have you ever noticed that there comes a time in everyone's life when it seems that one crisis leads or follows another. And when things really start looking bleak we develop a severe depression that becomes overwhelming. But suddenly out of the darkness a tiny light appears, a minute ray of hope which begins to brighten. And if you haven't already guessed it, the glow is coming from your real friends, the true, sincere light in your life. The comfort and radiance friends exude eases the pain because they are always there when you need them. This has happened to me lately—some of the most wonderful people and friends I know are members of STMA. STMA is more than a group of 700 plus people. It is comprised of many thoughtful, loving, helpful, caring and concerned individuals who are more like brothers and sisters. I hope your experience and impressions with your fellow STMA members is filled with the same compassion, wonderment and love. STMA needs this level of grandeur to make this sort of impression on the industry.