

# Sports Turf Manager



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## Sports Turf Institute - 5th Annual Cal Poly University Pomona March 22, 1988

The 5th Annual Sports Turf Institute at Cal Poly University in Pomona, California will be held Tuesday, March 22, 1988 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A line up of exciting and educational topics will be presented during the morning session. Topics include:

1. The Sports Turf Boom: Fact or Fiction
2. Grasses on the Horizon: Sports Turf
3. Proper Construction Saves \$\$ Later
4. Ways to Germinate Seed Faster
5. Irrigation for Sports Turf
6. The PAT System for Parks
7. Research Update: Sports Turf

The second activity of the day will be the on-site field demonstrations which are geared toward teaching the fundamentals of special athletic field techniques. The batting order will include:

1. Baseball Field Maintenance
  - A) Skinned Infield Preparation
  - B) Tips on Care of the Infield Grass, Home Plate Areas and the Pitching Mound
2. The Cambridge Drainage System
3. Coring and Sand Topdressing
4. Field Renovation Techniques
5. Backlapping Procedures for Reel Mowers

A trade show featuring 60 or more of the leading companies that market or sell equipment, products or supplies for athletic fields will be held from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. Special door prizes and other gifts will be drawn at the conclusion on the day's activities.

For more information about the Institute, trade show, accommodations, etc., please call Mary Giles at the STMA office 714-981-9199.

## STMA Educational Sessions — Houston

The educational sessions presented in Houston were of exceptional quality and the speakers included the leading sports turf educators, scientists and practitioners in the world. Attendance was disappointing but the knowledge and information that was expounded and disseminated would be helpful and useful to each and everyone who is a sports turf manager. The following is a brief synopsis of the educational presentations from the Houston conference:

1. A Synopsis of Sports Turf Related Organizations and What Makes Them Tick
  - A. Dr. Peter Hayes, Director of the Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, England, discussed the historical aspects and the management of the STRI. He talked about the four functions, namely (1) advisory work, (2) consultancy work (3) research work, and (4) education. In summary, the Sports Turf Research Institute is the only body in the UK which is an independent research and extension organization. This is STRI's main strength - in that it is independ-

- ent of trade bias and there is a two-way flow of information from extension agronomists in the field to research workers on the trial grounds.
- B. The Institute of Groundsmanship is headquartered in London, England and featured three prominent speakers:
  1. Christine Smith, who is a feature writer on their magazine, **The Groundsman**, and a member of the press and public relations team, discussed the aims of the IOG:
    - a. to give opportunities for training

(continued on page 2)

## Houston Education (continued)

- b. to raise standards of sports ground maintenance
- c. to bring groundsmen together
- d. to improve the status of groundsmen and the profession

In addition, the IOG publishes **The Groundsman**, a monthly journal, sponsors the sports and leisure world trade exhibition at the Royal Windsor Race Course each September and offers an advisory service. Ms. Smith concluded her talk by "saluting the babes of STMA with the hope that the shared aims will forge even stronger links between the IOG and STMA."

- 2. Ray Johnston, the national chairman for the IOG, thanked the STMA for the opportunity to speak about their organization. He concluded by saying "we hope the links that already exist between the IOG and STMA and the personal friendships of our individual members will be further strengthened to the greater benefit of our profession."
  - 3. Brian Robinson, a member of the national executive and vice chairman of the Education Committee spoke about membership, qualifications, educational enrichment and the awards bestowed upon the top professionals in the industry. He then introduced the Master Groundsman of the Year, Laurence Pithie and the Young Groundsman of the Year, Huw Morgan.
- C. Dr. Eliot Roberts discussed the National Sports Turf Council - its goals, objectives and accomplishments. He provided a brief history, spoke about research and education and then discussed people-related problems, safety, field liability, economics, technical information, use of the field, technology-

related problems, soil properties, irrigation, grass types, weeds and putting it all together.

- D. Dr. Kent Kurtz, Executive Director of STMA, briefly discussed the missions and goals of STMA. He emphasized education of both established members and young members who will someday be the leaders in the field.
2. The remainder of the educational sessions dealt with the technical, scientific and practical field management information. Dr. Robert Shearman discussed wear tolerant management in sports turf; Dr. James Beard introduced and discusses the new Mesh-Element Root Zone Matrix Concept; Dr. Henry Indyk and Penn State University graduate student, John Rogers, spoke about athletic field conditions and field hardness studies related to injuries in high school football. The afternoon session heard Dr. Milton Engelke talk about the future in breeding turfgrasses for sports turf. He was followed by Jim Anglea, the sports turf manager at Texas-Arlington Baseball Stadium, who discussed the maintenance of baseball turf. Dr. Roy Goss emphasized that managing sports turf requires patience, knowledge and common sense. Dr. Peter Hayes, STRI, presented a talk on managing and maintaining soccer fields in the UK. Melvin Robey emphasized the ways to manage sports turf on a meager budget while Dr. Robert Carrow pointed out how soil compaction and water management are integral to proper management of sports turf. The sessions concluded with Jeff Graydon who pointed out the need for suggested recommendations and specifications for the care of athletic turf.

NOTE: If anyone would like to purchase a proceedings from the conference, contact Mary Giles at the STMA office (714-981-9199). Cost will be \$10.00 each.

Kent Kurtz

## Sports Turf Tour Houston, Texas - Feb. 5, 1988

A small but courageous group of sports turf managers braved rain, cold and eventual snow on the sports turf tour in Houston, Texas. Earl Ericson, Park and Recreation Director for Pasadena, Texas Parks Department hosted the tour showing the group his parks' sports facilities. We were introduced to John Ray Harrison, Mayor of Pasadena, Texas who talked about his city and its sports fields. He was a baseball coach at San Jacinto Community College for many years, was a state legislator and judge before assuming his mayoral duties.

The Pasadena Unified School District sports facilities were next on the tour agenda. Harold Stevens, Assistant Athletic Director, talked about his facilities. The group visited a natural grass football field, a varsity baseball field and, finally, the artificial turf football stadium.

It was an international group - five members of the Institute of Groundsmanship, two guests from West Germany, three employees of O.M. Scott & Sons and many STMA members. The Institute of Groundsmanship gave Dr. Kurtz an engraved leaded crystal bowl for his continued friendship and cooperation with the IOG. They also presented Mark Hodnick, STMA President, with a beautiful hand-painted IOG crest for the STMA office in Upland.

The final leg of the tour to the O.M. Scott & Sons Field Research Station was eventful. The rain turned to sleet, the sleet to snow and by the time we arrived at the station in



STMA members enjoy the sports tour.

Cleveland, Texas over one inch of snow was on the ground. There was not much to see due to the snow, but we all appreciated the hours and hard work spend in our behalf by the O.M. Scott personnel. We met some wonderful people, made friendships, gained knowledge, shared problems and ideas, and, above all, met together in an effort to make sports turf better, safer and more enriching.

Kent Kurtz