

DID YOU KNOW?

Blind Lawn Bowling

(From *The Record*, Feb. 7, 1997)

The lawn bowling that Norm Green took up to 'get him out of the house' is about to take him and his coach half-way around the world. Green, a lifelong sportsman, whose balance and delivery made him a Canadian champion blind lawn bowler, and Hackbart, a volunteer coach with the eyes and strategy to make things happen, are leaving for New Zealand Feb. 26 for the World Championships. Green and Hackbart combined to win a gold medal in Moncton, NB, in the rain-soaked Canadian Championships in September to qualify for the team that will represent Canada in the World Championships in Hamilton, New Zealand, in round robin competition against nine bowlers from March 3-14, 1997. "I took up lawn bowling to get out of the house", Green said in an interview while training at the Manulife Soccer and Sports Centre in Waterloo's Bechtel Park. At the time, he needed to find new activities after the injuries he sustained in an 18-foot fall from a catwalk at Seagram's Distilleries left him totally blind in his left eye and with just 5 percent vision in his right eye. Blind lawn bowling is a game in which the bowler is guided not by sound, but by the advice of a sighted coach standing behind him. And Green, a 52-year old former millright, who lives in St. Clements and plays in Elmira, has Hackbart, a 68-year old retired insurance adjuster from Kitchener, reading the lie of the greens and looking for weaknesses in the opposition. "We are a team", Green said. "He'll tell me what to do, it's up to me to fulfill it". Hackbart's work as a volunteer with the blind goes back 40 years. His wife Margaret, has been partially blind all her life. "I am glad to have Clayt as a coach", said Green, who adds, "Whatever handicap you have, there are activities out there for you". Expenses for their trip to New Zealand are expected to reach \$7000.



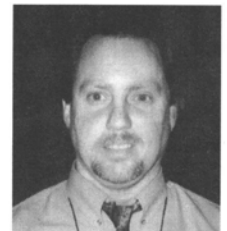
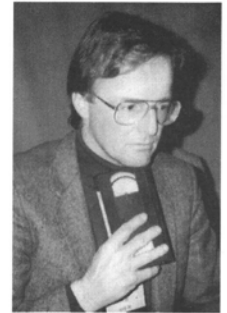
STA Board Members met at the Ontario Turf Grass Symposium in January. Standing left to right are Andrew Gaydon, Dave Smith, Jane Arnett-Rivers, Everett Nieuwkoop, Harold Van Gool and Don Bridgman. Seated are Sonja Schneider, STA Executive Secretary and Chris Mark, President.



The Sports Turf Association display at the Ontario Turf Grass Symposium.



Dr. Steve Baker (left), of the Sports Turf Research Institute in England was a guest speaker at the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium. He is seen here with Rob Witherspoon, Director of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute.



Guest Speakers at the Turfgrass Symposium included (top to bottom): Sean Gault, Grounds Superintendent of Woodbine Race Track; Dwayne McCallister of Oakville Parks and Ken Mrock, Grounds Supt. for the Chicago Bears.