

# IOG Annual Sports Turf Conference 2009

15th October 2009, The Emirates Stadium London

## 'Recognising the very best of our industry'

- 9.00 – 9.30**     **Registration and coffee**
- 9.30 – 10.00**   **Welcome and industry update**  
*An update on progress and events over the last 12 months as well as a look at plans for the future. In conjunction with research partners Sheffield Hallam University, we unveil the facts and figures from the most comprehensive industry research to date to establish just what our industry is today.*  
**Geoff Webb, CEO and Richard Moore, Sheffield Hallam University**
- 10.00 – 10.30**   **Panel debate with audience Q&A's**  
*Your opportunity to ask your questions to representatives and experts from across all sectors of the industry.*  
**Facilitated by Mark Siggers, leading TV and radio sports presenter**
- 10.30 – 11.00**   **Keynote speech**  
**Gerry Sutcliffe MP, Minister for Sport**
- 11.00 – 11.20**   **Coffee break**
- 11.20 – 11.50**   **Synthetics – the global picture**  
*A consideration of the global impact of the manufacture, installation and maintenance of a synthetic surface.*  
**Nigel Fletcher, FIFA**
- 11.50 – 12.20**   **Keynote speech: Regenerating grass roots sport through partnerships**  
*A look at how the ECB are encouraging partnerships with volunteer and professional support staff, including umpires, scorers and groundsmen, to establish unity and consistency in approaches from grass roots up to the professional arena.*  
**Mike Gatting, ECB**
- 12.20 – 12.50**   **What's the cost of going green – can you afford not to?**  
*Will sports, leisure and grounds care industries follow the many other industries whose environmental policies are at the top of their agendas? As well as benefitting the environment, a sustainable environmental policy can reduce costs and be a powerful marketing tool in a competitive market.*  
**Lee Penrose, STRI**
- 12.50 – 14.00**   **Lunch**
- 14.00 – 15.00**   **Stadium tour (refreshments on return)**
- 15.00 – 15.30**   **The future of lighting rigs in sport**  
*The benefits of using lighting rigs in football stadia is well recognised but what opportunities do they offer for other sports? We look at a case study of their use in other sports.*  
**Chris Woods, ECB**
- 15.30 – 16.00**   **Research and development – managing stress in turfgrass**  
*Turfgrass can be damaged by a wide range of biotic and abiotic factors including nematode pests, disease and weather. Anecdotal evidence has demonstrated the value of biostimulants (such as seaweed extracts) in reducing stress and alleviating damage symptoms in plants but current research is now identifying some of the mechanisms which may be involved in stress reduction. An understanding of these mechanisms may deliver enhanced control of pests and diseases, as well as methods to protect turfgrass from abiotic factors such as extreme temperatures and drought.*  
**Dr Colin Flemming and Dr Kate Entwistle**
- 16.00 – 16.30**   **Overcoming the skills gap**  
*The introduction of the Apprenticeship, Learning and Schools Bill means an apprenticeship will be guaranteed for anyone who is qualified - how will the industry manage this and optimise the opportunity?*  
**Peter Martin, Lantra**
- 16.30 – 17.00**   **Round-up and close**

**A fringe seminar programme and series of drop-in clinics will be available and running throughout the day including:**

- Selective breeding – DLF Trifolium
- Online learning - IOG
- Train to Gain - IOG
- Careers clinic
- Disease clinic
- Preparing for retirement
- Going it alone – business advisory clinic