

IOG Groundex Seminar Programme Sets New Standard In Grounds Care Education

A new era in grounds care education will be established at IOG Groundex (Ricoh Arena, Coventry on 23-24 October 2006) as the exciting programme of events planned by the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) focuses on a series of free seminar presentations covering personal development skills such as presentation and public speaking, and media training, as well as traditional grounds maintenance and management issues.

The personal development seminars will also include presentations on Employee rights and negotiation skills, and IT basics.

The programme, which sets a new standard in grounds care education, has been developed in response to industry demand, according to IOG chief executive, Geoff Webb.

"Grounds professionals are nowadays being called upon on a daily basis to demonstrate a variety of personal development skills as part of their jobs," he says, "and the onus is clearly on professional organisations like the IOG to ensure that these individuals are not only well-versed in what is required but also in helping them to gain the appropriate skills."

He continues: "Grounds professionals in all types of venues are increasingly being asked to, for example, make presentations to groups of visitors as well as to their colleagues, and in some cases to answer leading Press questions, particularly concerning playing surface standards and water efficiency, for instance.

"Being able to constructively answer such questions and to present the correct professional image is based on a level of self-confidence as much as it is on 'product' knowledge – and it's clear that there is certainly no shortage of practical skills among grounds care professionals."

Educational value is, in fact, the spearhead of the IOG Groundex promotional message to visitors and exhibitors (companies such as British Sugar Topsoil, Dennis, Fleet Line Markers, Harrod UK, Ransomes Jacobsen and Warwickshire College have already booked stand space) and grounds maintenance and management issues are, of course also being addressed. There will be special presentations on:

- Modern techniques and getting the basics correct
- Advanced topics including the management and science of grounds care

- Health and safety – the latest rules and regulations
- Pesticides – the essential requirements.

IOG Groundex was announced by the IOG as a focused, regional educational event, and such an industry-relevant seminar programme sets a new benchmark in the professional grounds care event calendar.

- Visit www.ioggroundex.co.uk for more details.