

## **IOG Strategy Moves Forward As Ian Lacy Joins As Head Of Professional Services**

Following the successful launch of 'Challenging Perceptions' the strategy document of the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG), the leading membership organisation for grounds professionals involved in the management of sports pitches, landscape and amenity facilities, the IOG announces a significant step forward with the appointment of Ian Lacy in the new role of Head of Professional Services.

A former groundsman, and a qualified IOG instructor as well as Football Association and ECB consultant, 40-year-old Ian will step into the newly-created role at the IOG in late November.

The Challenging Perceptions strategy highlighted the IOG's professional services, membership and communications activities as areas for major development – part of a 10-point plan that will take the IOG and the industry in general forwards over the next six years.

Ian Lacy will work closely with IOG chief executive Geoff Webb and head of marketing & events, Siobhan Harper, to deliver this agenda.

With 20 years' experience in the amenity horticulture and sports turf industry, Ian Lacy, LCGI, Cert Ed, holds the City & Guilds assessor awards D32.33 and the internal verification award D34, and he delivers IOG Level 1 and 2 training courses on cricket, football and rugby groundsmanship and bowling green maintenance. He is also qualified to deliver the IOG course, Pests and Diseases of sports turf.

He is currently a consultant to the IOG and ECB, and to the FA in relation to Football Foundation/Sport England bids.

He was formerly greenkeeper at Seaton Carew Golf Club then head groundsman at Seaton Carew Cricket & Sports Club before joining Hartlepool Borough Council (training/parks section) and moving to East Durham and Houghall Community College as Team Leader in Horticulture.

Commenting on his new role, Ian Lacy says: "I am excited by my appointment and look forward to a challenging but rewarding role. With the demands now placed on the grounds care industry, it is vital that the IOG sets high quality standards for the future, and I hope that I will play my part in helping the institute achieve these." Geoff Webb, IOG chief executive, commented: "I am delighted that Ian will be joining us. We have set ambitious targets and I am sure that he will add value to the team with his considerable knowledge and experience. Ian came through a rigorous selection process where there were excellent candidates against him.

"I wish him well and am confident that this appointment signifies our intention to create a first class team of staff to work hand in hand with our members to achieve our overall vision of 'Quality Surfaces through Quality Services'."