

IOG, Ilam and Sapca Team Up and Present Unified Voice on Industry-Wide Best Practice

The Institute of Groundsmanship, (IOG), the leading membership organisation for grounds professionals involved in the management of sports pitches, landscape and amenity facilities, has announced a groundbreaking tripartite collaboration agreement on industry-wide best practice with ILAM, soon to become the Institute of Sport, Parks and Leisure (ISPAL), and the Sports and Play Construction Association (SAPCA).

Together, ISPAL, IOG and SAPCA will for the first time in their histories present a unified voice on industry-specific issues such as:

- Resource utilisation
- Venue procurement strategies, planning, construction and ongoing maintenance
- Health and safety
- Training and education.

With ISPAL representing the interests of managers across all leisure sectors, and SAPCA being the UK trade association for the sports facility construction industry, it is clear that all members of these organisations – which between them represent around 20,000 industry professionals – have positive interests in, and long-lasting concerns with the country's sporting and leisure facilities, embracing both current requirements as well as likely future demands.

By working together, the organisations will facilitate a co-ordinated approach to best practice standards in the total lifecycle management of venues and facilities of every size and type.

The agreement coincides with the IOG's just-announced 'Challenging Perceptions' strategic review, the institute's major development plan that will carry both the IOG and the grounds care profession in general forward in unprecedented style over the next six years.

Says Geoff Webb, IOG chief executive: "The development and strengthening of 'Working partnerships' is a Challenging Perceptions strategic action point, and our innovative partnership with these organisations is both timely and significant as we begin preparations for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games as well as the legacy benefits that are intended to follow.

"Together, IOG, ISPAL and SAPCA welcome discussions with like-minded industry organisations to further expand and reinforce the unparalleled opportunities that such collaboration will generate."