

IOG Delegates get Emirates and Wembley Stadium Updates on Arsenal Study Tour

Due to delays in the construction of Wembley Stadium and the resultant health and safety issues – which were unforeseen by Wembley - the educational presentation and visit planned there as part of the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) 'New Perspectives: Looking Ahead to 2012' Annual Conference has been 'moved' to Highbury, the home of Arsenal FC.

Steve Welch, Wembley's Grounds Manager, will discuss 'The past and future challenges of Wembley Stadium' and John Hewitt, from Hewitt Sportsturf, will provide 'An insight into the construction of the Emirates and Wembley stadia'.

Delegates will also tour the Arsenal ground and inspect the club's artificial lighting system. Interested delegates will be able to visit Wembley at a later date.

As part of the extensive programme of activities planned for the IOG conference on April 7-11 at the Hilton Hotel, Watford, the study tour has attracted a 'full house' of grounds professionals.

Places are available, however, for the conference sessions – where Stephen Baddeley, Sport England's Director of Sport and interim Chief Executive and Accounting Officer, will make the opening keynote address on 'The Legacy of Sport' as, during the build up to the 2012 Olympics, the UK commits heavy investment to sporting facilities at all levels – and for the visits to the revamped Ascot Racecourse and to St Albans School.

The IOG Annual Conference (visit www.iog.org for full details) includes hard-hitting presentations on, for example, climate change, noise and vibration legislation, waste recycling and education, as well as groundbreaking insights into the latest industry research.

It also incorporates the Premier League and Football League Groundsman's Seminar and a number of workshops covering health and safety issues, aeration and irrigation, for instance.

The conference is open to IOG non-members.