

Sport England Boss and Soccer Goalkeeping Legend join speakers at IOG Conference

Two high-profile names from the world of sport – Stephen Baddeley of Sport England and soccer legend Peter Shilton – have been added to the impressive list of speakers at the Institute of Groundsmanship's (IOG) 'New Perspectives; Looking Ahead to 2012' annual conference at the Hilton Hotel, Watford on April 7-11.

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.

In addition to focusing on the need for the grounds care industry to be well-prepared for the challenges that lie ahead, his keynote address will, in turn, emphasise the importance of the role of grounds professionals in not only maintaining playing surfaces in pristine condition, but also increasingly in the management of stadia.

The IOG annual conference also incorporates the Premier League and Football League Groundsman's Seminar - which offers a programme dedicated to the needs of football club grounds professionals – so it is therefore appropriate that England goalkeeping legend Peter Shilton has been secured as the after-dinner speaker on Saturday April 8 at the Gala evening.

With 125 England caps, Peter Shilton will undoubtedly present an entertaining insight into his life at Leicester City, Stoke City, Nottingham Forest, Southampton, Derby County, Plymouth Argyle, Bolton Wanderers and Leyton Orient.

Featuring sessions on climate change, noise and vibration legislation and waste recycling, as well as technology-led presentations, for example, plus workshops covering health and safety issues, and aeration and irrigation, the IOG conference will also feature exclusive visits to the new Wembley Stadium and the revamped Ascot Racecourse, in addition to an educational trip to St Albans School - making it an unmissable event for everyone involved in grounds management and maintenance, and in particular, sporting surfaces.

The Conference is open to IOG non-members: visit www.iog.org for the full programme.