



INTERNATIONAL GREENKEEPERS GAZETTE

THE GROUNDSMAN

To unite greenkeepers, promote the industry, and help share the art of greenkeeping with others. The organisation is made by greenkeepers, for greenkeepers.



WHY TRADE SHOWS ARE IMPORTANT - PAGE 10



MEET ALBERT, AN IGFH MEMBER WHO BECAME INSPIRED TO TAKE HIS CAREER ACROSS THE WORLD

- GOLF
- FOOTBALL
- RUGBY
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- TRAINING AND EDUCATION
- LEGISLATION UPDATES
- SYNTHETIC SURFACES
- VOLUNTEER SECTOR
- PEOPLE PROFILES



Without our sponsors and associates, we wouldn't exist. Huge thanks to all those involved and the names below!



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THE GROUNDSMAN

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Any members that have listened to our [International Greenkeepers For Hire Podcast](#) may remember Mountain View Seeds from [Episode #2](#), where we discussed all things grass with the company's very own Brett Freeborn, and then Director of International Sales, and Dr. Chas Schmid, Director of Agronomy.

Welcome Mountain View Seeds!

Mountain View Seeds is an Oregon-based farmer-owned wholesale grass seed supplier, partnering with more than 50 processing facilities and a network of over 400 seed producers. The company supplies a range of high-quality grass seed varieties from the best farms, and partners with universities and international turfgrass leaders to identify the best genetics and then breed the best varieties for sale to the world.

Some of the top-rated seed types sold by Mountain View Seeds are bermudagrass, tall fescue, perennial ryegrass, and Kentucky bluegrass, and the company supplies cool-and-warm-season varieties across 6 continents.

In recent years Mountain View Seeds has expanded into the warm season vegetative turf business by starting a subsidiary MVP Genetics, a company dedicated to introducing top-rated varieties of vegetative species such as bermudagrass and zoysia grass to market.



Mountain View Seeds is more than just a grass seed company - the guys behind the product are big advocates for turfgrass use around the world, and that's why they were keen to partner with IGFH.

As many of our readers will be aware, International Greenkeepers couldn't operate without the support of our sponsors. With that said, we're selective about who we work with, and it's essential to us that our sponsors have morals that align with our own, sell high-quality products, and can help us to continue to deliver value to our community.

We're happy to say that Mountain View Seeds ticks all of our boxes as a reputable, ethical company with a shared passion for doing good in the turf industry.



The company was founded over 70 years ago and has since expanded its capacity significantly to distribute over 70 million pounds of seed annually. Every stage of the process, from order fulfillment to inventory management and delivery, is handled by competent staff who truly care about delivering the highest-quality product and the best customer experience.

Thanks to the support of Mountain View Seeds and our other sponsors, we can continue to invest in producing free educational content for our members.

At IGFH, our key goals are to run scholarships worldwide and help new, young, and existing members experience parts of the industry they may otherwise miss out on. We're keen to offer promotion and education in one, helping to boost excitement for the industry and prove that we have many fantastic job opportunities available in our sector.

International Greenkeepers would like to extend our thanks to Mountain View Seeds for supporting us as our latest sponsors.

If you have any questions about Mountain View Seeds or IGFH, please do get in touch at internationalgreenkeepers@gmail.com.

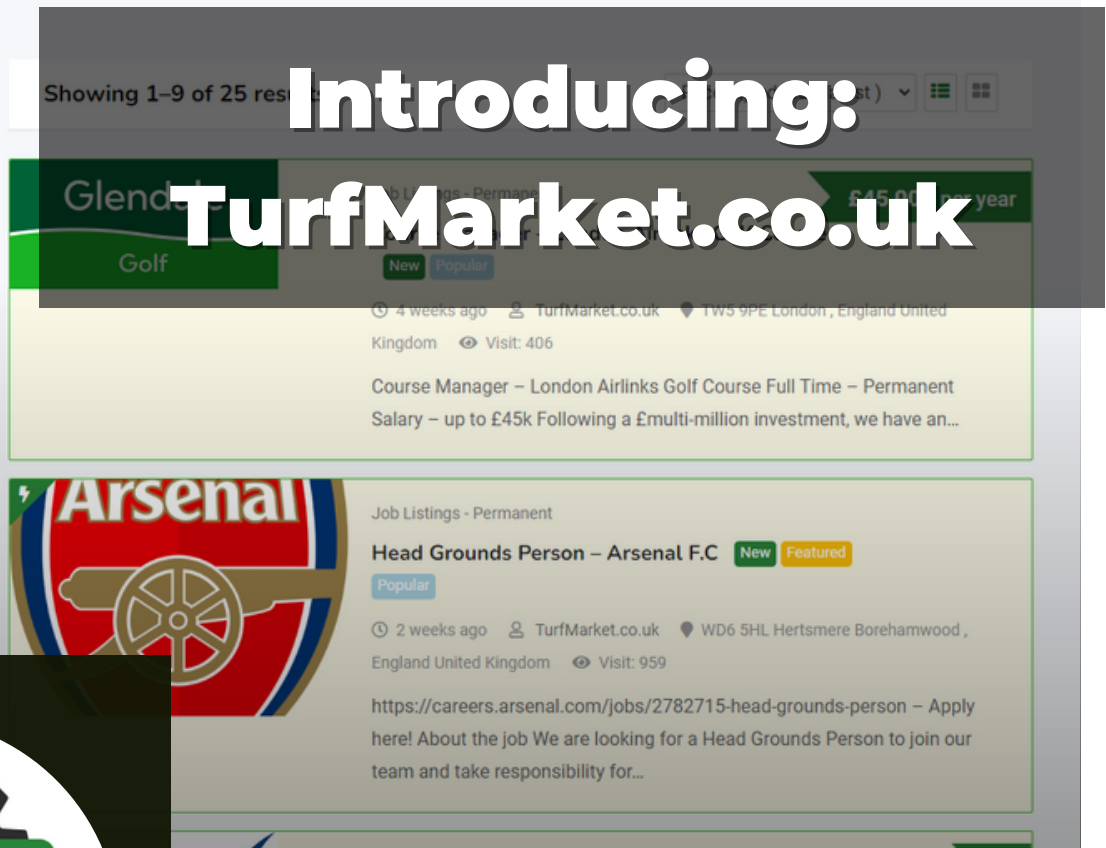


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TURFMARKET.CO.UK

Your one-stop shop for job listings, machinery, training, events, & more in the UK turf industry.

After several months of planning, developing, and testing, we've officially launched our latest resource for members of the turf industry: Turf Market.

Turf Market is your all-in-one solution for buying and selling equipment, sharing and responding to listings for jobs, workshops, and training, promoting events, hiring services and machinery—and much more.

We created this online marketplace because we noticed that there was a lack of affordable means of selling or sourcing second-hand equipment, sharing courses and job offers, and connecting with UK-based buyers and sellers in our industry.

In our opinion, it doesn't seem right that you should have to pay an extortionate fee to list a product, service, event, or job online, especially since this pricing model disfavours professionals looking to sell or promote lower-priced or free products or resources, meaning that the cost of the listing is significantly higher than the earnings potential.



We also thought there should be a better solution to simply posting ads in Facebook groups (and hoping you don't get banned or kicked out for blatant advertising!) — a dedicated location for people with a genuine interest in selling, showcasing, browsing, and buying.

This led us to create our own simple, all-in-one solution to unite professionals in the turf industry with a keen interest to sell or discover equipment, machinery, courses, jobs, events, literature, and much more.



Archives

> May 2023

📅 27 May 2023 👤 TurfMarket.co.uk 🗨️ (0) 📌 Selling Tips

Looking to quickly sell a new or used item in the turf industry? Here, we've shared our top 6 tips for fast, successful selling.

This automated and custom-built classified website is designed specifically for the turf industry and taps into our established network of 10,000+ members.

There are tens of listing categories to choose from, including:

- Agriculture equipment
- Careers
- Cleaning
- Horticulture and landscape
- Literature
- Promotions and events
- Training and qualifications
- Tenders and contracts
- Vehicles

If you're looking to buy or browse, visit our home page and select a category that meets your search intent, or click "All Ads" and take a look at the most recent listings.

If you want to share a listing, we have a few different pricing packages:

- Standard Listing Membership: £10 for 1 ad, 30 days
- Top Listing Membership: £20 for 1 ad, 30 days
- Top And Featured Listing Membership: £30 for 1 ad, 30 days
- Bronze Membership: £45 for unlimited ads, 30 days
- Silver Membership: £125 for unlimited ads, 90 days
- Gold Membership: £250 for unlimited ads, 180 days
- Platinum Membership: £500 for unlimited ads, 365 days

We believe Turf Market is different from other marketplaces for greenkeeping for two reasons:

1. Our listing fees are significantly lower than our competitors'. Our prices are low and always will be.
2. We offer the biggest range of listing categories, from jobs and courses to machinery and equipment. There truly is something for everyone.

We aim to provide the most seamless experience for all our visitors, so we're keen for feedback from our readers. If there's anything we can do to further simplify or enhance your browsing time on our website, let us know.

Learn more about our pricing options for listing a product by visiting <https://turfmarket.co.uk/pricing-and-memberships/>

Thanks for supporting us on our latest venture, and we hope our newest resource furthers our aim to provide continued value to our members within the greenkeeping industry.



Meet Albert, an IGFH Member Who Became Inspired To Take His Career Across The World

At International Greenkeepers For Hire, one of our main aims is to inspire our members to travel the world and experience their job role from a new location.

Having worked overseas myself, I can say firsthand that using your skills in a different region, with a climate that you're not used to and environmental factors that you've never before had to consider, is invaluable to both personal and professional growth.

But don't just take it from me. One of our very first members, Albert Oberholzer, became inspired to travel from his hometown in South Africa to pursue a greenkeeping job in New Zealand after joining our Facebook group.

We had the pleasure of interviewing Albert, who shared his experience of traveling more than 8,000 miles across the world to pursue an exciting new career opportunity at the age of 41.

Albert told us that he found IGFH on Facebook, back when the group had just 11 members, when he was looking for jobs online.

He contacted Daryl, the founding member of IGFH, who put him in touch with a golf course in Australia. This ended up not being the right fit for Albert, but he continued to search for opportunities to work abroad, deciding on New Zealand as his location of choice.

The process of applying for jobs was not a quick or easy one, but eventually, less than a year after deciding he wanted to live and work in New Zealand, Albert received a formal employment contract for a lawn care company based in Nelson Tasman, a picturesque region on the north-west of New Zealand's South Island.

If you've been considering applying for an overseas job, you might be wondering what tips Albert can offer on his experience.

Albert said that he was "very driven", sharing that he "jumped online almost immediately" to get his CV out there, spending a lot of time on social media and following pages like the IGFH Facebook group to search for lawn-related companies in New Zealand.

Even when two job offers fell through - which Albert admitted was "disheartening" - he continued to pursue his options, emailing his future employer on two separate occasions to enquire about available job roles. A few weeks after his second email, Albert received a phone call, which turned out to be an impromptu interview for the lawn care job he'd enquired about—and the rest, as they say, is history.

So, resilience clearly plays a role in applying for careers overseas. Good organization skills are also essential when making a big move across the world!



Meet Albert



ALBERT OBERHOLZER

“Working in New Zealand is just amazing. I come across friendly and kind people every day, and my customers are just as passionate about great lawns! Being located in Nelson also means that most jobs come with a great view.”

Albert didn't only have to juggle selling his house and applying for visas—he also had to navigate life in a new country during the Coronavirus pandemic, which threw New Zealand into lockdown just two weeks into starting at his new job. This meant that Albert's wife and daughter, who had planned to meet him in New Zealand two months after his arrival, were unable to arrive in the country until eight months later.

Thankfully, COVID-19 eventually became a thing of the past, and after two years on the job, Albert's employer made an offer he couldn't exist: to become the owner of the company. Albert and his wife now proudly own Lawn Rescue 22—the most fantastic end to an inspiring story.

Of course, there are some challenges to working in a different climate, especially as New Zealand experienced a period of extreme weather during Albert's employment. This, according to Albert, made things “a bit hectic”, and the rain made his job more challenging, since “there's not much you can do on a waterlogged lawn”.

Does he plan to stay in New Zealand forever? As the owner of a company based in the country, Albert is unlikely to move any time soon. But he says if the opportunity ever arises in the future, he'll begin by looking at jobs in Australia. He'd also love to work at a golf course in Florida, USA, as he did years earlier after completing his studies. IGFH will be his first port of call.

Let's finish with one last nugget of inspiration from Albert, as he tells us about the best thing he learned from his career and what advice he would pass on to aspiring greenkeepers:

“Don't be afraid to ask for help and never stop learning. Keep learning, be humble, and never give up on your dreams! If your dreams don't scare you, you're not dreaming big enough.”

Big thanks to Albert Oberholzer for his involvement in this article. If you're an IGFH member who has secured a greenkeeping career abroad, we'd love to hear from you! Contact us - internationalgreenkeepers@gmail.com

Why Trade Shows Are Important, According To Industry Experts



On May 22, we attended the Lackham Careers And Trade Show, hosted by Wiltshire College & University Centre. This open event aimed to give students the opportunity to explore the range of careers available to them and meet face-to-face with potential employers, particularly from the land-based sector.

IGFH representatives manned the International Greenkeepers stand at the day-long event, and while in attendance, we took the opportunity to catch up with other exhibitors and get their insight into why they believe that attending trade shows is important.

Victoria Fiander, Assessor in Horticulture at Lackham, said that events like these are “really important to bring in the next generation of horticulturalists, ground staff, arborists”, giving students an opportunity for “networking and sharing what we’re doing across the industry”.

Some of the many exhibitors at the event included:

[Robert Jack of Howardson Group - Dennis, SISIS, Lloyds, and Hunter Grinders](#)

[Gareth Actseon of Origin Amenity Solutions](#)

[Simon Moore of Fleet Line Markers UK](#)

[Vicky Panniers of the Sports and Grounds Expo](#)

[Piers Lavan of Hortico Nursery \(also a lecturer at Lackham\)](#)

[Piers Horray of Dyhram Park in Gloucestershire](#)

[Chris Faulkner of Kersten UK](#)



Why Trade Shows Are Important, According To Industry Experts

The Lackham Careers And Trade Show runs annually, and we look forward to returning next year. Dates haven't been finalised but the event is set to run at a similar time of the year; either May or June 2024.

After the opening ceremony, students had the opportunity to move between exhibitors, stopping to network as they pleased. There was also an ice cream van - a big selling point on a sunny day!

There was plenty to inspire at the event, and students were able to learn more about working for some of the leading companies and manufacturers in horticulture, animal care, engineering, and more.

It was also great to see a number of previous apprentices from the college manning the stands for companies that they now work for, or exhibiting for their own companies that they have established since leaving education.

From our own stand, we spoke to students about potential overseas working opportunities, knowledge transferral from previous qualifications, and the many benefits of working in our industry.

Why do we personally attend trade shows and events? The main draw of these events for us is that they provide us with a fantastic opportunity to share our knowledge about the industry, raise awareness of the different opportunities and benefits of working in greenkeeping and grounds management, and ultimately inspire future professionals to develop their skills and grow their enthusiasm in their careers.

If you're a visual learner or you'd like to learn more about why experts think that careers and trade shows are important, look online for our video, which showcases our full conversations with the exhibitors at the event. Our YouTube channel is "International Greenkeepers - IGFH" - or type <https://www.youtube.com/@internationalgreenkeepers> into your address bar.

Fancy manning a stand at next year's event? Contact Victoria Fiander at Victoria.Fiander@wiltshire.ac.uk

DENNIS FT510 IS A BREEZE AT PREES

Duncan Austin, Head Groundsman at Prees Cricket and Recreation Club in Shropshire, needed to upgrade the Club's trusty old Dennis FT510 cylinder mower - and there was only one machine he had in mind.

Duncan Austin has been working at Prees Cricket and Recreation Club for the past six years. He is responsible for maintaining three grass football pitches, two artificial football pitches, a cricket square and two bowling greens.

For the bowling greens, Duncan has long relied on the Dennis FT510 cylinder mower.

"I had a Dennis FT510 which was well over 20 years old," he said. "Unfortunately, it was coming to the end of its days and the cost of repairing it was similar to the price of buying a brand new one. I didn't even need to look at other brands of mowers. The FT510 was so good, I was adamant that I wanted another one. The treasurer backed me, and we went ahead and bought one."

The Dennis FT510 has become the 'must have' piece of turf maintenance machinery at bowling clubs around the country and it's easy to see why. With a 51cm working width, the FT510 provides its user with comfort, flexibility and excellent performance. A true sense of control is obtained through the unique roller clutch drive for a smooth take-up and a variable clip rate helping to create the desired finish.



Duncan explained how he uses the Dennis FT510 on a regular basis to maintain the greens.

"I cut the greens with it 2-3 times a week depending on what games are on and it provides a perfect finish every time. In the winter we normally leave the greens at a length of 10mm, but we maintain them at 5mm during the season. I will also verticut with the FT510 every three weeks and try to rotate that with a sarel roll or a brush.

"The interchangeable cassettes on the FT510 are the best feature – they are so quick and simple to change," continued Duncan. "If I need a new bottom blade or need it sharpened, I have only got to take the cassette with me rather than take the whole machine.

"Another good feature about the Dennis FT510 is the click height adjuster - it is a very user-friendly mower. I wouldn't want any other machine for our greens."

For further information or a no obligation demonstration, please contact Dennis 01332 824 777 or visit www.dennisuk.com

For more news, reviews and insightful views, you can follow Dennis on Twitter and Instagram @DennisMowers and like the company's Facebook page – www.facebook.com/DennisMowersUK. You can also view the latest Dennis videos by visiting www.youtube.com/DennisMowers

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SHROPSHIRE CLUB CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF THE SISIS QUADRAPLAY

The football pitches at Prees Cricket and Recreation Club in Shropshire have significantly benefitted from a SISIS Quadraplay, according to Head Groundsman Duncan Austin.

With a multitude of football teams ranging from under 8's up to seniors, both men and ladies, it is safe to say that the three football pitches are heavily used.

Aside from the three football pitches, Duncan also maintains two artificial football pitches, a cricket square and two bowling greens, so anything that makes his life easier is a huge benefit. It is for this reason that Duncan and the Club decided to explore the possibility of obtaining an equipment grant through the Football Foundation.

"The Football Foundation is helping to improve football pitches at grassroots level and there are several grants available," said Duncan. "We conducted a big pitch assessment, took photos, root depth measurements and provided the Football Foundation with lots of other information. We were over the moon when we found out we had been accepted for the grant.

One of the machines they recommended was the SISIS Quadraplay."

The multi-functional SISIS Quadraplay single pass maintenance system is perfect for busy groundspersons like Duncan as it incorporates a mounted frame for up to four implements such as grooming rakes, spikers, slitters, rollers and brushes. The implements can be fitted to the mainframe in any order and can be independently adjusted to achieve the desired effect. Compact, robust, versatile and with the ability to carry out up to four operations simultaneously - the Quadraplay makes life a lot easier for many groundspersons.

Duncan was familiar with the SISIS Quadraplay after previously seeing it in action at a demonstration evening at a nearby football club. He admits to being impressed when he first saw the Quadraplay but didn't realise just how beneficial it could be, until now.

"The grass gets trodden down after a game and that doesn't do the leaf any good so the Quadraplay can stand the plant up to help it dry out and you have the spike at the front which gets rid of any surface moisture. Therefore, the surface dries out quicker and is healthier for the plant. Then when you come to cut, because the plant is stood up, you get a nicer clean cut. You can also use the brush which is excellent for presentation.

"It is just so versatile. You just can't overuse something like the SISIS Quadraplay in my opinion."

For further information or a no obligation demonstration, please contact SISIS on 01332 824 777 or visit www.sisis.com

For more news, reviews and insightful views, you can follow SISIS on Twitter or Instagram @SISISMachinery and like the company's Facebook page - www.facebook.com/SISISMachinery. You can also view the latest SISIS videos by visiting www.youtube.com/SISISMachinery



We're currently looking for more brands and businesses to sponsor International Greenkeepers For Hire, and we'd like to showcase some of the reasons why you should consider sponsoring us.

We understand that sponsorships aren't a one-way relationship. Both parties have to benefit from the agreement, and we've worked hard to develop an abundance of benefits and opportunities for the companies that sponsor IGFH.

Why Sponsor Us?

About International Greenkeepers For Hire

If you're reading this, you probably already know a little about who we are and what we do. But here's a quick recap for anyone who may need it.

International Greenkeepers For Hire (IGFH) is the only international hub for every greenkeeper, groundsperson, and turf manager at all career levels and in all positions.

We're founded by a team of passionate greenkeepers, with the aim of promoting the industry and sharing free resources to teach and inspire the next generation of turf professionals.

We're funded by sponsorships, which enable us to provide training, education, international scholarships, and much more, entirely for free, for our growing membership base.

Our current sponsors help us to offer more opportunities and continue to provide free educational resources to our members. The more sponsors we have, the more of this we can provide!

Our Sponsorship Perks

Our sponsors can enjoy the following perks and opportunities:

- Advertising banners on multiple pages of the IGFH website
- Up to 4 dedicated advertising spots in the IGFH magazine (and a front cover spot for Gold Tier sponsors)
- Up to 12 annual article posts to IGFH members, also emailed to our subscriber list
- Up to 2 yearly educational videos on our YouTube channel per year
- Inclusion in our classified directory with a description and link
- Up to 50 free uploads/month to our Live Library, a resource that shares, testing data, research, manuals, training documents, and other written content for industry members



How Do Sponsorships Help Us?

Since accepting sponsorships from our first few sponsors, we have already been able to expand our offering and provide several exciting opportunities for our members.

Here are a few examples of how we have used our sponsorship funding in the past year:

An Internship In Scotland:

We organized an IGFH experience between international greenkeeper Yon Yoeun and hiring manager James Swanson at Cullen Links, based in Moray Firth, Scotland. Yon, a Danish greenkeeping student at Roskilde Technical VET College, worked for four weeks at the scenic 18-hole golf course and said that the experience "enriched my life".

Careers Events And Trade Shows:

Our sponsorship funding has also enabled us to attend numerous exciting career events and trade shows, including Western Sydney Careers Market, the Lackham Careers And Trade Show, the Hawkesbury Show, and the Coleg Cambria Sustainability Event. Attending these events helps us to network with other like-minded professionals and spread the word about what we do, and supports our mission to encourage new people to join the industry.

Inspiring Members To Pursue International Careers:

Taking on several sponsors allowed Bradley Tennant, one of our founding members, to quit his day job and work on growing IGFH and communicating our message to a wider audience. We've inspired many of our members to pursue international careers, including Albert, who joined the International Greenkeepers Facebook group and became inspired to move from his home in South Africa to pursue a greenkeeping job in New Zealand.

"International Greenkeepers for Hire (IGFH) is a great organisation for greenkeepers. I particularly like the IGFH's Facebook group where knowledge about the profession is shared. It is also a good platform for networking. I've seen a number of people getting employment through the IGFH." - Siboniso Patrick Zwane

"As the title would suggest, IGFH is an invaluable resource for job searching, but I think especially for those already set in a career, it's a great way to hear new voices. They say you should never stop learning, and IGFH is a great way to keep up with new trends and ideas." - Stephen Valente

"IGFH has made a massive difference as I am now part of a group of like-minded people so guys thank you for starting this up. It has been and will continue to be brilliant." - James Swanson

WHO SHOULD SPONSOR US?



We think you'd make a great IGFH sponsor if:

- You're a strong advocate for inspiring the next generation of the grounds and greenkeeping industries with educational content, experiences, and training—and you don't think it should cost the world.
- You're keen to give back to your industry by helping to support opportunities that may otherwise be inaccessible to many members of our community, whether due to age, experience, or location.
- You're looking for unique ways to boost brand visibility and expose your company to new audiences, through events, social media, and magazine/website features.
- You want to gain a competitive advantage over your direct competitors and further develop the connection between your company and your target audience.
- You're interested in opportunities to simultaneously promote your business and give back to your industry. You can feel good about your role in supporting our members while also enjoying the promotional benefits of being an IGFH sponsor.

Think your interests align with our own? Join our growing list of sponsors and enjoy the benefits of a sponsorship with International Greenkeepers For Hire today.

Email Bradley, founding member of IGFH, to request to view our 2023 media pack for more information about our sponsorship packages:

internationalgreenkeepers@gmail.com

Want to learn more about what we do? You can find us in the following locations:

- Website: www.internationalgreenkeepers.com
- YouTube (videos uploaded weekly): <https://www.youtube.com/@internationalgreenkeepers>
- Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1319957671461271>
- View our previous magazine editions: <https://internationalgreenkeepers.com/magazine#e106e2d6-a3b4-489e-b44e-81b5df862383>



Welcome to your day at SAGE 2023

Team members from land colleges and those looking to enter the greenkeeping industry have been extended a warm welcome to the event.

Key team members from land-based colleges and those who are looking to make a career in greenkeeping are being encouraged to make SAGE 2023 a date for their diaries. The event is set to not only showcase the best new technologies, products and innovations in the grounds maintenance industry, but also to host talks, demonstrations and expert panels which will be discussing and exploring the key themes which are affecting the industry right now.

From fascinating talks and demonstrations, to a Learning Hub and chainsaw national championship, SAGE 2023 is set to be an unmissable event. Held at Three Counties Showground, Malvern on the 19th and 20th of July 2023, SAGE will feature live outdoor demos of the latest machinery, leading industry exhibitors, expert-led summits, live music, entertainment, food vendors, and a sponsored bar.

One of the highlights will be a panel discussion that will be held at the Learning Hub on Wednesday 19th June, where visitors can gain insight from the leading bodies across the industry on their vision for the future and how they can better support land-based colleges. There will also be a drop-in session on Thursday.

Not only that but the rest of the agenda has now been announced, meaning that visitors can plan their perfect day at SAGE. On both days, a schedule of expert-led talks and demonstrations has been planned.



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WWW.SPORTSANDGROUNDS.EVENTS

More details will be released soon, with even more reasons to come to SAGE to be revealed. For more information on attending SAGE 2023, visit <https://sportsandgrounds.events/>.



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At 10 am, market leaders will be sharing their thoughts on the future of chemicals in grounds maintenance, exploring the pros and cons of a zero-chemical future.

Mark Tomlinson, Head of Environmental & Sustainability Stadia Projects at Bio-Circle Surface Technology Ltd will be talking about the importance of washdown systems at 11 am.

At midday, visitors can meet with the experts who have come together to provide support, assistance, and expertise on how your business can get started and progress on your sustainable journey.

At 1.30pm, market-leaders will be sharing their thoughts on electric machinery – whether it's the future and what other options are viable.

Over at the Green Business Expo, at 10am, Alex Pearson from Midlands Net Zero Hub and Dominic Lavelle, Managing Director at Go Green Experts will be discussing whether going green is viable for a business, delving into the details of equipping a business with strategy and practical knowhow on moving forwards.

Join an expert-led panel at 11am which will be talking about creating a successful tender bid, after which Fusion for Business will be discussing managing rising energy costs.

Also at the Green Business Expo, at 2pm, meet a panel of innovators who will be talking about how pioneering methods can challenge the norm by tackling market leaders and traditional methods.

In the Learning Hub, join experts for live workshops, talks and interactive knowledge sharing and competitions, as they delve into the challenges land-based colleges face. On Wednesday there will be a live panel talk and on Thursday an open workshop.

2 EXPO'S 1 EVENT



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PROUDLY BRITISH



THE ROAD TO A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE WITH ICL

PITCHFOCUS - 2023

With sustainability remaining a key focus across all industries, we attended the 2023 ICL Pitch Focus event this May, titled: "The Road To A More Sustainable Future".

The event spanned from May 9-11 and took place at three different venues: Old Trafford (home of Manchester United Football Club), Villa Park (home of Aston Villa Football Club), and Vicarage Road Stadium (Home of Watford Football Club).

IGFH's Bradley Tennant attended the event on May 11, hosted at Vicarage Road Stadium. The day's schedule encompassed talks on sustainable practices by several influential names in the turf industry, alongside a tour of the stadium's pitch with Watford's head groundsman, Scott Tingley.

The day began with a presentation by Dr. Andy Owen, International Technical Manager at ICL, who discussed the threat of global warming and outlined how we can adopt more sustainable practices within the sports turf industry (such as reducing chemical use, using less water, and finding ways to save energy). The key aim of the presentation was to identify how we can meet the needs of today without compromising tomorrow.

Following was a presentation from Sean Loakes, Technical Manager at leading agricultural company Syngenta. Sean dived into the today, tomorrow, and yesterday of turf management, discussing the need for training to improve efficiency and reduce product use, using pollinators on sports grounds, and the importance of innovation, education, and mitigation.

Later, Simon Gumbril of SGL (Stadium Grow Lighting) discussed the use of growing lights on sports turf, and how data and LEDs help us to use energy responsibly. He explained the positive effects of transitioning from old bulbs to LEDs in grow lights, which has already been implemented by various arenas (including Allianz Arena, Friends Arena, and Sydney ANZ Stadium). Simon discussed the developments in grow lighting technology that allows us to better balance light and heat.



"The final talk was led by Vinny Tarbox, Sales Manager at global lawn mower manufacturer Infinicut, who spoke about the company's steps towards sustainability. Vinny discussed Infinicut's future advancements, including using battery-powered equipment, buying locally sourced parts, using non-corrosive cleaners to ensure the longevity of machines, and implementing robotic machinery to autonomize labor-intensive processes.

Thanks to Martyn Parrish at ICL for inviting us to attend the 2023 Pitch Focus Event. Keep an eye out for future events—Pitch Focus is free to attend and is usually held in three venues across the UK.

We've Been Busy In Australia: The National Diesel Dirt and Turf Expo & Greater Western Sydney Careers Market



IGFH was lucky enough to be invited to promote our industry to the public at The National Diesel Dirt and Turf Expo in April this year.

Australia's largest construction industry expo is based in Sydney and takes place annually. The public event allows some of the biggest names in the earthmoving industry to showcase and discuss the latest equipment, technology, and services.

Daryl, one of IGFH's Sydney-based founders, attended the event, working with Turf NSW to showcase the grounds and greenkeeping industries and share our story with new audiences.

We'd like to thank everyone who worked with us to make the event the success it was.

We extend our thanks to Mark and his team from Evergreen Turf NSW for preparing the area, and Turf NSW for organizing the turf—as well as the two farms, Greener Lawn Supplies and All Year Round Turf, for donating the 400 square metres of turf for the stand area.

We had a fantastic time networking with other attendees and entertaining the public with our miniature American football pitch, which kept the kids happy. We're already planning our return to the expo next year.

We also had the privilege to exhibit at the 2023 Greater Western Sydney Careers Market, which was held on 24-25 May at the Penrith Valley Regional Sports Centre.

The National Diesel Dirt and Turf Expo & Greater Western Sydney Careers Market

This high school careers event was attended by around 6000 students and job seekers, and we had plenty of opportunity to discuss the benefits of a greenkeeping career with hundreds of interested students. The event was a success, with close to 200 students registering their interest in our industry.



Huge thanks to the NSW Sports Turf Association for helping out, as well as our members Damien Curtis, Jake DeMarigny, and Darren Turner.

We already have plans in place to exhibit at similar events this year, and we know the importance of showcasing our industry to talented young people who may not have considered a grounds or greenkeeping job. A short conversation can change an individual's thoughts on what we do, and maybe even encourage them to join our industry.



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