Today's world is international in feature and function, much more so than ever before. You hear political candidates from all parties proclaim our need to monitor global affairs and participate in the global economy. TV, radio and newspaper advertisements, placed by airlines and communication companies, offer their services to help us connect with the global marketplace. Audiences world-wide observe such sports competitions as the 2000 Olympic Games via TV broadcasts and catch the latest results over the Internet.

STMA members are going global, too. In early September, two STMA Board members, President-Elect L. Murray Cook, and Secretary Tim Moore, were part of the team in Sydney, Australia, working at Palm Meadows Baseball Park, the Team USA training facility and assisting the Sydney Olympic staff with the preparation of the baseball facilities and fields at Sydney Olympic Park.

While the Olympic preparations were taking place, STMA Executive Director Steve Trusty was in England, attending the IOG's SALTEX 2000. This is the Institute of Groundsmanship's Sports, Amenities & Landscaping Trades Exhibition. SALTEX attracts more than 15,000 attendees each year from "all those responsible for the development and maintenance of outdoor spaces: groundsmen, leisure and parks officers, contractors, landscape architects, play managers, horticulturists and other industry professionals."

Trusty was invited by his counterpart at the IOG, Patrick Gosset, to serve as a stand (exhibit booth) judge and see how they operate their major event. His team member for stand judging was Gordon McKillop, who had taken the position as Chief Executive of the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) only six weeks earlier. This offered another great opportunity to increase the STMA's international connection. STRI has more than 60 employees that are responsible for research, education and consultancy in the sports turf field.

And, keeping in this international mode, two of STMA's featured speakers at the 2001 Conference, Upward and Onward, to be held in Tampa, Fla., on Jan. 17-21, are from the United Kingdom. One of these individuals, Turfgrass Consultant John Souter, of Braco, Perthshire, Scotland, is well known to STMA members and was the recipient of the STMA Harry C. Gill Memorial Award in 1998. He will speak in the Saturday morning session on "New Technologies in Construction & Maintenance of Soccer Pitches."

Our second featured speaker from across the pond is Eddie Seaward, Head Groundsman for The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club Wimbledon. Also during the Saturday morning session, he will provide a behind the scenes view of "The Wimbledon Year."

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