



Summary of discussions about a Scandinavian education programme in golf course and sports turf management

Discussions and a planning meeting about a coordinated Scandinavian education programme within the area of golf course and sports turf management were held at the Department of Soil Sciences, SLU, Uppsala, on 30 November - 1 December 2006.

The participants at the meeting were:

Anne Mette Dahl Jensen	KVL, Denmark
Mats Linde	SLU, Uppsala (organiser)
Gudni Torvaldsson	LBHI, Iceland
Anne-Marte Tronsmo	UMB, Norway
Arne Tronsmo	UMB, Norway

In the first part of the meeting, each participant presented the state of the art in their country concerning the university education system in general, the transformation to a Bologna-type system and education in golf course and turf management in particular.

The Diploma programme (one year at advanced level) at SLU, Uppsala, is the only planned or ongoing study programme at university level in Scandinavia. The preliminary plan for the programme in Sweden is that it will start in January 2008. In Norway, a new form of study programme at advanced level has been introduced, a so-called *Erfaringsmaster* (Applied Diploma). Since it is not necessary to have an academic Bachelor's degree to qualify for this study programme, the concept is very interesting for the type of education under discussion. In Iceland and Denmark, a two-year Master's is the only study programme at advanced level.

We continued the meeting with an open discussion on the aims and content of a possible future Scandinavian education programme. Our list of possible professions for which such an education programme would prepare students included agronomist/advisor in a consultancy firm, salesman/advisor in a commercial company, course manager/head greenkeeper at a large golf resort/country club or further education tutor. The education programme must be very broad, with natural science, economics and social science topics. A more specific list would include (at least) applied economics, personnel management and leadership, business management, communication, systems analysis, environmental law, applied ecology, plant physiology, plant pathology, hydrology and soil science.

Our conclusion from the discussions was that we should continue to collaborate concerning further education in the area of golf course and sports turf management. We should begin by developing joint courses that could be accepted by/included in different national systems and study programmes. The courses should preferably be scheduled with alternating periods of independent study and intense weeks/periods when the participants meet at some location in Scandinavia.

Financial accounts

<u>Explanation</u>	<u>Costs (SEK)</u>
Flight and transfer Iceland – Uppsala (round trip)	3 685
Flight and transfer Copenhagen – Uppsala (round trip)	2 000
Flight and transfer Dijon – Uppsala (round trip)	5 148
Hotel in Uppsala G. Torvaldsson (three nights ¹)	2 789
Hotel in Uppsala A-M Dahl Jensen (one night)	799
Hotel in Uppsala A. Tronsmo (one night)	799
Administration of the meeting (M. Linde)	2 000
Miscellaneous	720
Total cost in SEK	<u>17 940</u>
Total cost in EURO (1 EURO = ~SEK 9.30)	1 930

1. G. T. stayed in Uppsala three nights to get a cheap flight ticket