Windsor is still The Place to be

"Windsor went well, didn’t it?" So said the managing director of a well-known company when departing on the Thursday evening. It certainly summed up the views of many I spoke to, as well as my own. The first two days of the Institute Of Groundsmanship Exhibition at Windsor Racecourse broke all ‘box office’ records, but somehow the place did not seem crowded. The IOG’s timbered pavilion made an impressive centre-piece from which to co-ordinate the whole show and, while emphasis seemed to be given to the Golden Jubilee aspect, I missed the annual presentation ceremony of stand and personal awards, which has been held on the first evening of the show in the past.

By Michael Coffey, Publisher of Greenkeeper

Without doubt, Windsor must be the greatest show on turf and, yet, several companies are thinking of pulling out in view of the cost. It must have pleased most exhibitors that the annual Windsor rainfall came in one morning. Although the ground itself and the emergency arrangements stood up well, Thursday morning was a wash-out.

Buses were much in evidence—the Steetley one was as smart as ever in the company’s livery, Toro Irrigation’s was well supported by the English Bowling Association, while Supaturf’s must have been one of the busiest and with the best gimmick, green peppermint Supaturf rock (made in Blackpool, not Peterborough). A great deal of thought went into stand presentation, although I would like to know how the annual Windsor presentation judges made some of their choices.

Movement round the show is certainly much easier than in previous years and with avenues clearly marked by Rigby Taylor’s striking Mascot signs, any stand was easy to find. Peter Wisbey was there in his capacity as EIGGA chairman. And there was John Campbell, who is known to everyone in the profession, as are Jim Arthur and Dr Peter Hayes, who provided the news story of the week (see page 6). Eddie Park represented his son Nick, whose series of articles in Golf Monthly have done so much to interest the club member in the whys and wherefores of turf care. Nick’s fee from Golf Monthly was presented by Eddie jointly to SIGGA and EIGGA representatives Joe McKeen and Peter Wisbey to further greenkeeper education—a generous gesture which will be applauded by all greenkeepers.

So, a successful time for all, a meeting place for friends from far and wide, for business transactions and even if you do need wellies, we are looking forward to next year!

Greenkeeper is delighted to announce another increase in circulation. After the successful first trial issue of the International Greenkeeper, published in French and German inside September’s Greenkeeper, this excellent publication, edited by Mrs Babette Harradine, is to be combined with our magazine on a quarterly basis and sent to all members of the International Greenkeepers’ Association throughout Europe.