

# Records again broken at Windsor Show

For the third successive year, the Institute of Groundsman's three day exhibition at Windsor was blessed by warm September sunshine and an attendance figure, up once again, on previous records.

According to the IOG's press officer, Richard Frost, counting visitors into the Race Course Show Ground stopped at 11.00 a.m. on the final day, because, despite a reprint of the catalogue overnight all copies sold out and it was decided to allow free entry.

Car parking problems marred what must be one of the best turf exhibitions for the golf course and local authority markets. Visitors were well catered for, but the exhibitors, directed away from the main area were left with a half mile walk, many forced to carry items for their stands.

At the close, once again, the queues of heavy goods vehicles completely blocked the approach roads, because of the one way system over the single track narrow bridge entry and exit to the race course there were inevitable delays and frustrations.

This year it was made far worse because exhibitors could not get out of their park through the nose to tail trucks waiting to remove equipment from the stands. It was over two hours before someone at last made the decision to break the truck line and feed exhibitors cars through the main car park. For some, this was too late and they had the additional frustration of seeing their flight from Heathrow winging its way over Windsor Castle.

The organisation within the ground improves year by year, though it might be time to sectionalise the exhibitors and separate the pure turf and equipment stands from those involved with the children's play equipment. Many greenkeepers, travelling long distances, found they were only able to visit a fraction of the exhibitors in the time available. Part of this problem could be overcome if the distance between stands was reduced.

One of the more popular areas was the demonstration ground and many of the manufacturers and distributors, this year, opted to have their stand alongside.

There was so much intensive work carried out on these few acres it will be the best cultivated piece of ground in Britain.

Sisis, Ransomes, Huxleys, Brouwer, John Deere, Beaver, Toro and others aerated the soil and cut the grass to perfection. The drainage contractors dug holes to the water table in minutes, and Colin Pryce with the Terralift, hydraulically fired fertiliser and polystyrene balls four to five feet into the subsoil.

This is one of the few occasions in the year, when every type of turf machinery can be seen in action in one place and the merits of performance can be compared. Next year the IOG will have 24,000 square metres of demonstration area in four specialist sections including irrigation.

The 1988 Exhibition is expected to be 25% bigger, than even this year, if plans by the organising committee materialise. Exhibitions Chairman, Gerald Snook has said they intend increasing the open stands by 9,500 square metres, 500 square metres on part covered stands and the provision of a third under cover area.

If this is so the car parking problem will be even more acute. Something must be done to help those people who are paying substantial sums in stand fees to ease their access to the ground. It would not be an impossible task to provide a 'Bailey type' footbridge over the feeder stream at the western end of the site for exhibitors and their staff.

Rumours of the sale of the land fronting the main road for housing development have been dispelled and it would seem the site is secure for the IOG at least for the foreseeable future. **FEATURE 2**



Colin Pryce pours a dose of fertiliser in the Terralift's canister before releasing a compressed air charge which will simultaneously shatter the soil in this oak's root zone and carry the fertiliser to the roots.

For further details, contact: Colin Pryce, Piaqua, Crowcroft Road, Nedging Tye, Ipswich, Suffolk IP7 7HR, Tel: 0449 741012

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