

SOUTHPORT '86

Thirteen hours of sunshine — the top figure of the day — gave the Institute of Groundsmanship's first spring exhibition a bright send off.

The two day sports and leisure exhibition at Southport's Victoria Park (13th and 14th May) also brought a pleased response from many of the 100+ exhibitors.

Visitors were largely buyers or specifiers of goods from sports clubs and associations throughout the North. They included managers, groundsmen, greenkeepers and local authority amenity staff, with a series of student groups from horticultural colleges adding an extra dimension to the show.

The huge success of the Institute's Windsor Exhibition in the autumn, which now has an international reputation, is based on more than 40 years' experience. It means that Southport '86 had a lot to live up to in only its first year.

Attendance at the two-day event was 2290 — 850 on the first day and 1440 on the second — a fine achievement by any standards. Such was the success that over a score of exhibitors have already rebooked for 1987.

The dates for the 1987 Southport sports and leisure exhibition have now been confirmed as 12th-13th May 1987. Open stand spaces will be available at £4.50 square metre and part-covered stands at £12.50 square metre. Space application forms are now available from The Institute of Groundsmanship, 19-23 Church Street, The Agora, Wolverton, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. MK12 5LG

BRIGHT FUTURE

Nigel Beckford whose article "Into The Future" appeared in the May issue of Greenkeeper has joined Golf Landscapes Limited, Specialist golf course constructors, as a trainee site supervisor. He was formerly assistant greenkeeper at Belfairs golf course, Southend-on-Sea, and recently was the recipient of EIGGA's top award as most promising young greenkeeper. He begins his career by working on the Company's new 18 hole public golf course at Canvey Island, currently under construction, but will continue his studies at Norwood Hall, Southall on his day release scheme towards his City & Guilds Phase II in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management.

Golf Landscapes Limited, founding members of the British Association of Golf Course Constructors, are working not only at Canvey Island, but also at Ilford, Essex and Farnborough, Hampshire on new constructions, and in America, Portugal, Holland and Greece.

NEW LOOK AT RIGBY TAYLOR

Derek Phillips Chairman and majority shareholder of the Bolton based sports turf supply specialists has retired after nearly thirty years with the Company. His place at the helm has been taken by Bernard Hedley formerly the financial director who has been with Rigby Taylor since 1980. On taking up his appointment Mr Hedley confirmed that the Company would continue with its policy of innovation and forward thinking to ensure it remains in the forefront of the turf industry especially with its own range of Mascot products.

The Company also announced that they have signed an agreement with John Souter of Stirling to distribute their products throughout Scotland.

Finally Richard Lawrence, Rigby Taylor's Marketing Director has left the Company.

A KIND COMMENT

It was gratifying to see the piece on "First British Golf Sprinklers" appearing in April's edition of the Greenkeeper. However, it wasn't very gratifying to see the picture printed upside down! Perhaps you could publish a comment next month correcting this — otherwise your readers may be forgiven for thinking that our pop-ups are Australian sprinklers rather than British. Eileen Hawthorn — Watermation.

SLITTERS ON SHOW

One of the most impressive exhibits at the IcG's Spring Show at Southport was the new range of trailed slitters from Dabro International. The range is compatible with all makes of tractors, each machine features a built-in depth control mechanism — there is a green slitter, an outfield slitter as well as the core tiner.



The Dabro Green Slitter.