

With greenkeepers countrywide praying for rain, it was perhaps out of character that Regional Chairman Gordon Child and members of the South West and South Wales region should pray for sunshine on May 1st, the big day in the calendar when Westurf '91 takes place at Long Ashton GC. Following two brilliantly warm and sunny years, it was disappointing that this third event should herald in such damp and dismal weather, but what Mother Nature failed to provide was more than compensated for by the sort of enthusiasm that is all too plain to see in these laid-back parts, where it takes more than a chill wind to cool spirits.

Growing bigger each year in dealer participation, this year saw some 103 stand spaces occupied, an increase of more than 20 on 1990 and almost double that



of 1989. Whilst National and International manufacturing companies saw it more as an inexpensive shop window – a fine way of showing and demonstrating equipment and of meeting potential buyers, a PR exercise if you like – suppliers with an

established locally based clientele expressed pleasure in writing worthwhile orders and in meeting most of their customers in one fell swoop. Throughout the day spirits remained high; the weather eventually brightened; greenkeeper met greenkeeper to exchange confidences and a good time was had by all. A quizzing of exhibitors by your editor indicated satisfaction with their day and all felt that the event serves to fill a gap – made more noticeable by the move to Peterborough by the IOG – in serving the South West. Indeed, IOG were themselves on parade and appeared suitably impressed. The highly competitive price of stand space is seen as a distinct bonus and all look forward to Westurf '92. Organiser Gordon Child indicated a substantially larger headcount through the gates and the Training Colleges – Sparsholt and Cannington – both seemed swamped with enquiries and looked to be in deep discussion with prospective students whenever I was around.



Westurf

Photographs by DAVID WHITE

'91



People in the pictures: Ivor Scoones with Jonathan Franks (British Seed Houses); the Maxwell Hart team – dressed for spring?; Avoncrop's Julia Sheehan, flying the white flag but not surrendering to the chill winds and left, notable BIGGA personalities