



Wonder of Westurf

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What a great success this show was for Gordon and Marion Child who were organising it for their ninth and last time. Gordon, who relinquished the position of South West and South Wales Regional Administrator at this event, was the instigator of the Westurf Show which, for the area, is the first opportunity in the year for suppliers to demonstrate their new machinery and greenkeeping products and for the greenkeepers, grounds-men and club officials to see what is available to them in every conceivable department.

Early on the 29th, the day before the show, we arrived in a force 8 gale to find the show site looking a bit of a disaster area. The tent poles were up but the marquee covers were fluttering overhead like butterflies with hefty men trying desperately to anchor them down. The M5 and



Thanks very much: Gordon and Marion Child receive tokens of appreciation from Richard Whyman. Above: basking in sunshine on the big day itself

the M25 were partially closed due to IRA threats and therefore lots of major exhibitors were held up. We sat there for some hours praying that the wind would die down and that the motorways would reopen and that the exhibitors

and their products would arrive. On Wednesday morning the sun shone and the wind disappeared – the exhibitors appeared and all was well. In fact it was such a lovely day that two or three faces were changed from white to a delicate pale scarlet by evening!

One exhibitor, who shall remain nameless, was coming from Ireland. With a strong Irish brogue and a lot of "suspect" equipment, he was stranded at Liverpool docks and not allowed off the boat for some long time. However, he made it during the night and was there in place on the Wednesday! There were some 75 exhibitors in all and around a thousand visitors attended.

This event is a wonderful showcase for clubs seeking to purchase machinery and major equipment during their next budget. They can not only see the full range of the latest equipment available but also see power driven machinery working and examine and compare performances and prices (and sometimes get themselves a very attractive show deal as well!) All the major suppliers exhibited. There were on-going demonstrations throughout the show. Long Ashton provided two very well kept practice greens

and a sizable area of fairway for these demonstrations. For any golf club considering a major purchase, this show is a must. There were also exhibitors of every other course requirement such as furniture, irrigation, signs, turf, pesticides, chemicals, accessories, sharpening equipment and seeds. Here you could compare seeds and fertilisers etc and talk in depth to the people who produce them. The people who manufacture these products are experts in their own right and many problems were resolved or at least under deep discussion at this show.

Representatives and information stands were present from the major training colleges in the region, Cannington, Sparsholt, Hartpury and Pencoed, as were the STRI and the IOG. The BIGGA pagoda was honoured with the presence of the Chairman, Patrick Murphy and Executive Director, Neil Thomas. The Captain of Long Ashton, Mr Bill Rowsell, together with Jim Fry, President of the South Coast Section and Patrick Murphy, Chairman of BIGGA, judged the stands for the best covered and best uncovered presentations. Rosettes and rose bowls were presented to OCMIS for the best uncovered and Hartpury College for the best covered stands.

The draw for holiday vouchers worth £200 was won by Andrew Mortimer of Caerphilly.

Richard Whyman, Chairman of the South West and South Wales Region, made a presentation from the region to Gordon and Marion Child in recognition of all the work they had put in over the years and in particular for promoting Westurf and making it such a successful event both for the exhibitors and the visitors.

■ Westurf '98 date for your diary: Wednesday, 29 April 1998.

(mis)adventures of Gordon the Greenkeeper



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