

**Paula Humphries, BIGGA's Regional Administrator for the South West & South Wales, reports back from Westurf99, and looks toward Westurf2000...**

# Going West



Above: Paula Humphries, Westurf organiser

Right: Just one of the many busy stands at this year's event

What a good job we decided to go under cover this year - Long Ashton was closed during the week, and experienced the heaviest rainfall of the year! It is doubtful whether we would have been able to use the venue at all. The Westpoint arena was superb and to those of you who commented that it was a little chilly, I would say that at least you were dry (on the outside if not on the inside!)

Setting up on the Monday went fairly smoothly. The shell scheme was a little late being put up but eventually all was in place and the show kicked off with a cocktail party on Monday evening which was attended by the traders and helpers and we were delighted to welcome National Chairman, Gordon Child and his wife Marion and Neil Thomas, Executive Director.

Show day dawned (for me at 5.00 am!) bright and clear. New to Westurf this year was a programme of seminars on varying aspects of Water Management. The three speakers were Stephen Bernhard of Bernhard & Co., Helen Wakeley of Symbio and Len Dixon of Field Capacity Ltd. The first seminar held at 9.30 am was attended by over 40 delegates. The others had similarly good attendance so the experiment was a success. Our thanks to the three speakers who were excellent.

Another innovation was the entertainment arena. The fabulous Adams Axe Men, a prize winning team from the New Forest, gave two fantastic demonstrations of wood cutting and tree felling which attracted huge audiences and was greatly enjoyed by all. It was a pity the P.A. system was so poor. The witty and informative commentary could not be fully appreciated.



The attendance at the show was excellent with personnel from all fields of the industry and this year we had a registration book so we have a record of visitors. Nobody got past Susie on the registration desk! so when I have time I will be able to compile a database for traders and anyone else who wants it.

The showground looked great with its huge balloon decorations and thanks go to Avoncrop and Tacit for the loan of the posts and chains for the arena. Our grateful thanks also to Martin Petherick who made the bases for the posts. Hospitality drinks and nibbles were available in the BIGGA stand and it was nice to meet a lot of greenkeepers there.

A golf simulator proved a great attraction and the competitions for the longest drive and nearest the pin raised over £70 for charity. The organisers told me that the longest drive was recorded by Peter Lawrence

of East Devon at 323 yards - that's up there with Tiger Woods! The nearest the pin was Ian Chenery from Woodbury. Simon Jefferies golf pro from Okehampton gave advice and tips on swings etc.

Overall it was a great and hugely successful day for the Region and I would like to extend my very grateful thanks to all those who helped on the days of the show, especially my husband who did a great deal behind the scene - and a vacuum cleaner. It was great teamwork.

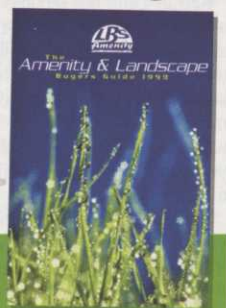
Prize winners: Best presented shell scheme stand - Andrew MacWilliam. Best presented open stand - Kyetec. Crossword - Terry Farkins. Pre-registration draw - J B Bullen.

Westurf 2000 at Westpoint - Wednesday April 12th, 2000

**Put it in your diary now!**

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