

# IOG SALTEX REVIEW 2003

Excellent weather greeted the visitors to Saltex '03 and those who made the trip to Windsor Racecourse were treated to an excellent three days. The BIGGA stand was exceptionally busy with members using the facility to talk with BIGGA staff and prospective members finding out more about the Association and collecting membership forms.

## SPRAYING SUCCESS

Saltex was the venue for the presentation of a free, state-of-the-art 300 litre Gambetti Barre tractor mounted sprayer to Tall Pines Golf Club, near Bristol, winners of the 2003 Blazon "SprayWatch" competition sponsored by GreenLink International.

From a large number of entries nationwide, Tall Pines was the first name to be drawn and BIGGA Chairman, George Brown, in company with Deputy Executive Director, John Pemberton, made the presentation on the Gambetti Barre stand.

Unfortunately, neither the Head Greenkeeper of Tall Pines, nor a member of its management, was able to attend the presentation as the club host an annual charity match that coincided with Saltex. Instead, the Avoncrop Amenity Products representative Neil Westlake, who entered the club's name into the draw, received the sprayer on the club's behalf.

The 2003 Blazon "SprayWatch" promotion celebrated a decade of campaigning for safer spraying techniques to be adopted by the amenity industry and the number of golf clubs incorporating a spray pattern indicator into their spray management programme has increased year on year. In that time ten clubs throughout the UK, from Scotland down to the South West of England, have benefited from a free sprayer.

"The addition of a spray pattern indicator such as Blazon to the spray solution is a simple and economical method of ensuring total accuracy and control of the spraying operation. With a visual indication of the spray pattern, more of the chemical reaches its intended target, less is wasted through excessive overlap and a more professional result will be achieved," said Richard Fry speaking on behalf of the sponsors GreenLink International.



Left to right: John Pemberton, Chris Briggs (Avoncrop), Patrick Dixon (Gambetti Barre), Neil Westlake (Avoncrop) George Brown and Jonathan Harmer.

## 25 YEARS AT SALTEX AND STILL GOING STRONG

Twenty-five consecutive years of a representative attendance was celebrated on the Sherriff Amenity Services stand at this year's Saltex.

Chris Rudkin (on the left), one of the company's 13 amenity specialists, was awarded with a bottle of champagne and a congratulatory handshake from Mark Pyrah for attending his 25th Saltex exhibition as an exhibitor.

Chris, who is a well known and highly regarded representative covering Surrey and the London boroughs stated, "I have enjoyed this year at Saltex as much as my first visit 25 years ago and look forward to many more annual visits in the future".

Presenting Chris with his memento in recognition of this achievement Mark Pyrah, Sherriff's Sales Director stated "This is indeed an occasion and perhaps even a record, highlighting as it does an individual's commitment, consistency and support for what is an essential show date in everyone's calendar."



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The champagne corks popped on the Sisis stand at Saltex as David Luxford's colleagues drank a toast to his 60th birthday.

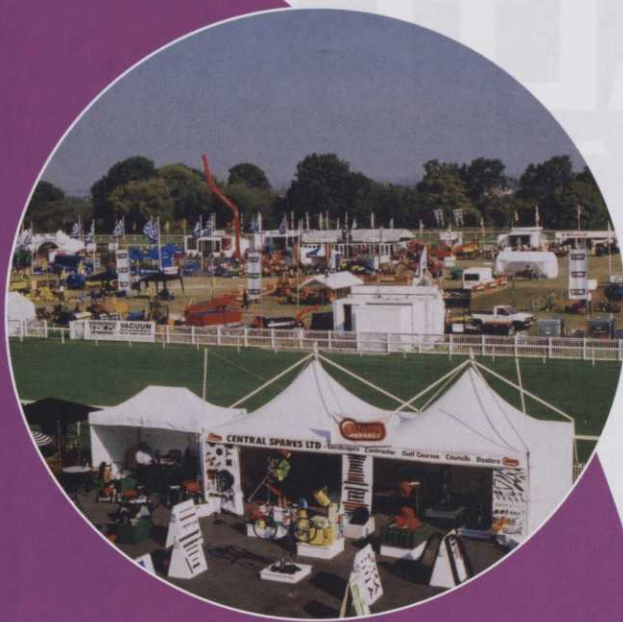
David joined S.E. turf machinery dealer Paice and Sons straight from school and has worked in the turf maintenance industry ever since – and for the last 14 years as S.E. Regional Manager for Sisis.

He is a keen cricketer, still playing for his local team (when they are desperate!)

David demonstrates his dedication to duty every year as both his birthday and his wedding anniversary are during Saltex week.

The surprise party was attended by his Sisis colleagues including joint Managing Directors Roger and William Hargreaves, Keith Vertigan, David Harrison and Lynn Hilton.





## CHRIS IS ON COURSE

Saltex was the venue for presenting the prize of the internationally acclaimed 'OnCourse' golf course management software package to Chris Carpenter MG, Course Manager at Brookmans Park Golf Club, Hatfield, Hertfordshire.

Chris won the prize in the annual Blazon 'SprayWatch' campaign and his club was the second to be drawn from a large number of entries nationwide.

The presentation was made on the Sherriff Amenity Services stand by Sami Collins representing the education and training department of BIGGA in the company of Chairman George Brown and Deputy Executive Director John Pemberton.

Chris Carpenter is one of a select band of turf professionals holding the qualification of Master Greenkeeper which will allow him to gain the maximum benefit from the computer software and the on-site training that accompanies the package.

Speaking on behalf of the sponsors GreenLink International, Richard Fry stated "Education has always been at the forefront of our campaign to achieve increased numbers of end-users including a spray pattern indicator such as Blazon in their spray programmes. Our technical literature, the 18 Ways to Spray leaflet and Spray Watch safety sticker have all contributed to spreading the message. Our approach has met with great success as, year-on-year, more operators adopt this simple and economical method of ensuring total accuracy and a professional approach to the spraying operation.

Picture: Left to right: George Brown, Chris Carpenter, Sami Collins, Mark Pyrah, Sherriffs, John Pemberton and in foreground, Richard Fry, GreenLink.



## JOHNNY "THE BURGER" BECK

Sherriff Amenity Services, Johnny Beck is well known for his superb halfway houses at BIGGA events in the South East of the country but to enable a wider audience to sample his wonderful range of burgers and hot dogs at Saltex he first had to sit a food hygiene exam. No one had any doubt that Johnny would pass with flying colours but next time you bite into one of his rolls you can do so in the full knowledge that he is now "qualified". Johnny, and his colleagues, is pictured right as he faced an enormous queue on the Sherriff Amenity stand.



## NEW BAGMA INITIATIVE

BAGMA, the UK trade association representing the interests of machinery dealers serving the groundcare and land-based industries, launched a unique 'joined-up' approach to groundcare technician training, in order to ensure a sound basis for the education of apprentices.

Under the forthcoming Groundcare Technician Training Scheme (GTTS), 10 colleges and 11 manufacturers have teamed up to provide dedicated resources and machinery nationwide to train technicians for employment with dealers serving in the domestic and professional equipment sectors.

A leaflet detailing the GTTS, which is being co-ordinated by Writtle College, was launched at Saltex. BAGMA regards the Scheme as an essential development in helping dealers attract new entrants into the profession.

"It will provide a platform for a rewarding and valuable career. BAGMA urges dealers to give their full support to the Scheme and their apprentices," said Director General Ian Jones.



## BACK TO NORMAL

Windsor Race Course is set for its first meeting following Saltex, thanks to swift remedial treatment to relieve compaction.

"Airforce", Terrain Aeration's hydraulic terralift machine, swung into action 16 hours after the show officially closed, injecting compressed air and dried, milled seaweed particles into the two course crossing areas which had been covered by aluminium track 14 days previously.

The company, who had been camping out in a caravan during the show, while Airforce remained dormant on their stand, treated the areas, inserting the machine's probe 500 times at two metre spacings before backfilling with Lytag to keep the vertical drainage channels open. The only glitch in the operation occurred when two wayward vehicles, one tractor and one lorry, escaped the barriers and drove over freshly de-compacted ground, dictating a repeat of the aeration process.

The IOG, who take responsibility and cover the cost of restoring the racecourse following Saltex each year, estimate that between 9,000 to 10,000 pedestrians and 600 to 800 vehicles, from cars to articulated lorries, cross each of these tracks during the four-day event.

David MacKinnon, who has been Windsor Race Course Manager for just over three years, says he is happy with what Terrain Aeration has done. "It's highly likely that "Airforce" will be back to repeat the operation next year," he commented.

TURN OVER TO SEE A SELECTION OF NEW PRODUCTS THAT WERE LAUNCHED AT THE SHOW. MORE WILL BE FEATURED IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE...

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