

# Headquarters Report

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

I started work on this column in Jolly Old England, worked on it some more crossing "the pond" on my way home and completed it on a very hot Sunday afternoon in my office. My trip to England was at the invitation of my counterpart at The Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG). Patrick Gossett, IOG's Chief Executive, invited me over to be a stand judge at SALTEX 2000 and also to see first hand what is happening in the turf fields of Great Britain. For those of you that need a brush up on the Queen's English, our word for stand is booth. Some very important things I quickly learned on the trip were to ask for a cloakroom rather than a restroom, a lift instead of the elevator, refer to turf instead of sod, a groundsman rather than sports turf manager. I also found that when I rode in the front seat of a car that the driver sat to my right and drove on what he said was the "right side" of the road. To me, it was the left, I dare not say "wrong". I met some great people that reinforced my contention that those that take care of athletic facilities are some of the most caring and sharing people in the world. I visited with several people that have been trading ideas with Kent Kurtz for years. I talked with one gentleman that used to receive STMA publications on a regular basis and used them in classes he taught because he felt that "those of you in the U.S. were always 10 years ahead of your counterparts in the U.K." I'll see to it that he receives more publications, although he is mostly retired now. My other team member for stand judging was Gordon McKillop who had become the Chief Executive of the Sports Turf Research Institute only 6 weeks previous. STRI has over 60 employees that are responsible for research, education and consultancy in the sports turf field. Some may argue that England is way ahead of the U.S. in this area, and I tend to agree. Stay tuned for more on this subject.

SALTEX is IOG's Sports, Amenities and Landscaping Trades Exhibition. It is held outdoors at the Royal Windsor Race Track and attracts over 15,000 people over 3 days. This year's show was September 5 - 7. Besides over 400 suppliers exhibiting their wares and services on over 55,000 square meters of space, there was a large demonstration area where equipment was shown in action, and in some cases, operated by potential buyers. As STMA continues to grow, I think we can work towards some similar type of event. I picked up several ideas that we might incorporate into our present trade show.

The hospitality was great. Besides seeing SALTEX and many exhibitors (some of whom are already STMA members with space in Tampa and some potential new ones) I received a very special tour. On Friday morning before departing from Heathrow, I got a complete tour of The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club Wimbledon. You will get your own tour of Wimbledon and learn first hand how Head Groundsman, Ed Seaward, prepares for up to 38,000 visitors a day for the fortnight of Wimbledon. Ed's wife, Chris, not only picked me up at my hotel and drove me to Wimbledon, she also took me to the airport. As I've said before, groundspeople are great.

Thank you for letting me be a part of your world - and until next issue, may you make some new friends and share an idea that can help make someone else's job easier.

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