

Derek Walder Appointed 'Mr Saltex'

Derek Walder BEM has been appointed to the role as Site Operations Manager for IOG SALTEX, Europe's most successful event for the grounds care and open space management sector, following a number of years of dividing his time between show organisation and his official responsibilities with the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG). As a result, he has relinquished his Presidency of the IOG.

Derek is well-known throughout the turf care industry after a long career in horticulture and sports turf management, before he 'retired' in 2001.

He has been a member of the IOG since 1963 and has held many IOG offices throughout the years including branch secretary for London South West, secretary of London zone, and assistant general secretary, vice chairman and chairman of the IOG.

Commenting on the development, Derek said: "I have been involved with IOG SALTEX for many years, and seen it continue to thrive under the auspices of the IOG complemented by the sales and marketing skills of our partner, Ithaca Media.

"On-site activities at the Windsor showground demand all-year-round attention to ensure the show remains the market leader, and I had no compunction in accepting this position.

"I look forward to helping to deliver another record-breaking event this year – indeed, show manager Clare Johnson (Tel: 01962 736 989) reports that we are already 90 per cent full."

Geoff Webb, chief executive of show organisers IOG, said: "Derek has for some time been acknowledged as 'Mr SALTEX' and his new role re-affirms this position.

"On behalf of the IOG Board and members, I would like to thank Derek for his dedication and hard work over the years, and I look forward to continue working with him closely in ensuring IOG SALTEX remains the flagship event in our industry."

_ IOG SALTEX 2007 (4-6 September, Windsor Racecourse) will again embrace fine turf and sports surfaces, turf maintenance equipment, children's outdoor play and safety surfacing, landscaping, contractors, commercial vehicles, outdoor leisure and facilities management, as well as software and security equipment. The show is attended by open space management professionals and contractors – from groundsmen and greenkeepers through to play officers, architects, designers and surveyors as well as local authority and outdoor leisure facility managers.

Log onto www.iogsaltex.co.uk or call 020 8232 1600 for more information.