

A CUT ABOVE AVERAGE

Gordon Young reports from Park Royal

RANSOMES "DEMO"

BLUE skies, the sun shining and a light breeze delicately perfumed by the smell of brewing Guinness; just the right kind of day to watch a demonstration of grass-cutting machinery. One of the many given throughout the country by the Demonstration Unit of Messrs. Ransomes Sims & Jefferies Ltd., and held, in this instance, by the courtesy of Messrs. Arthur Guinness Son & Co. at their Park Royal sports ground during the first week of March.

Of course there was very little length to the grass but who could expect fit at this time of the year, after THAT winter? The two able demonstrators must have felt like Yul Brynner's barber looking for something to cut! However, it was a pleasure in itself to see some green turf in good condition and free from snow mould, snow scald, Typhula blight or whatever one's own particular name is for that recent and most unwelcome immigrant to this country.

There was sufficient length of grass to surround the rotary cylinders of the close-cut mowers with a green haze and to give that Spring is here—have you heard the cuckoo?—freshly mown grass smell. One had to imagine the 24-inch wide lanes being shorn in the long grass by the new "MATADOR" fitted with the alternative five-knife cylinder, but one was left in no doubt that shorn they would be, by what the makers claim is "the most versatile medium motor mower on the market". Similarly, one could picture the 27-inch "ROTA-CUTTER" tackling and conquering with one cut tangled grass up to two feet tall.

Among the twelve machines demonstrated, from the 14-inch "SPRITE", with its choice of 2-stroke, 4-stroke or electric motor models, to the 7-ft. "SPORTCUTTER" Triple Gang Mower were such well-known Golf Course favourites as the:—

18-in. "AUTO-CERTES", a machine specially designed for cutting greens, the salient features being 106 cuts per yard for high class finish and power-driven transporting wheels for moving the machine from green to green.

18-in. "TYPHOON MAJOR", a very useful rotary machine, inexpensive to run and handy as a general utility mower for tidying up areas of grass not normally cut.

20-in. "ANTELOPE", an inexpensive, power-driven, side-wheel mower, designed for cutting tees and the backs of bunkers. Ideally suited for mowing banks.

20-in. "MARQUIS", a light and reliable motor mower giving a high standard of finish and particularly useful for cutting tees.

Of novel interest was Ransomes' first battery electric mower, the "MERCURY ELECTRIC Mark 3". No fumes, no noise, no awkward cables, no mechanical knowledge necessary and no electrical danger when cutting wet grass (if you do such a thing!). Very convenient for cutting verges below the windows of the room where the Green Committee is in session. It allows one to hear while working and without appearing to be listening, the kind and generous remarks that are continually being made about the greenkeeper and his devotion to duty.

I cannot finish without mentioning the hospitality and the lavish light (and dark) refreshments dispensed by Messrs. Ransomes in the luxurious Guinness sports pavilion, at the end of the demonstration. Altogether a most instructive and enjoyable afternoon.

I understand that further tours are being organised, covering the whole of England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Eire, so if you have not seen this demonstration, you may still have a chance to do so. It is hoped that you, too, have nearby a suitable sports ground with brewery attached.