

## AT LAST — GROWTH ON THE GREENS

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By Jack Robertson

**T**HE overworked and worried greenkeepers of Britain's inland courses are at long last getting some worth-while assistance from the elements.

The grass ailment which hit greens on almost every course in Britain during the severe winter is finally improving with the help of the rain and sun and the big bare patches are gradually receding. And it seems now that the clubs will not require to put out as much expense as had at one time been feared.

The experts, never having come across this condition before, were for a time baffled as to the cause of the "disease", but all are now convinced that it was the ice lying on the greens for weeks on end which killed the grass.

### No Light

As it was pointed out to me, the ice acted as effectively as if cement slabs had been laid on the greens, cutting out the light to the grass and, more serious, preventing it from breathing.

This is evident, especially in the West of Scotland, from the fact that coast courses, which had comparatively little ice, have got off much more lightly than those farther inland and have suffered very little damage by comparison.

The belated arrival of spring and the cold east winds prevented the temperature from rising high enough to take the chill out of the ground so little progress was made.

Greenkeepers' attempts to help the recovery by seeding failed when the seeds did not have enough warmth to germinate.

Most courses, however, have shown signs of recovery in the past fortnight, but it will take the high courses, which are wide open to the cold wind, much longer than the others.

According to the experts the most practical thing clubs can do now is to avoid using the affected greens—as

Cathkin Braes, Erskine and Dalmahoy have been forced to do—and re-seed.

Indeed Dalmahoy, where the Senior Service tournament will be played again in September, have used temporary greens at every hole on their West course for the past two months and this move has certainly paid off, for the greens are coming on very well.

Some of the worst-hit clubs, however, may have to wait until autumn before falling back on their turf nurseries and then hope for a mild, ice-free winter to give the turf a chance to knit before next season.



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