

## AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION SCHEME HANDED OVER AT HANDSWORTH

The first fully automatic irrigation scheme to be installed on a golf course in the United Kingdom was formally handed over on Monday, 26th July.

During a short ceremony at Handsworth Golf Club, Birmingham, club officials were presented with a brochure to mark the occasion and sprinklers on various greens were demonstrated.

In thanking British Overhead for the brochure, which describes the scheme in detail and includes plans of the layout, Mr Millward referred to the speed with which the scheme had been installed.

Also present at the event were Mr Carl Bretherton, club president, and Mr A. Darbyshire, chairman.



*Sprinklers being demonstrated on the sixth green.*

Issued on behalf of British Overhead Irrigation Ltd., Shepperton, Middlesex, by Agroup Limited, General Buildings, 5 Church Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent (Telephone: Tunbridge Wells 25202/3).

On behalf of British Overhead Irrigation Ltd. of Shepperton, Middlesex, one of the Wright Rain Group of companies, which installed the scheme, the general manager, Mr W. D. Hawthorne, presented the brochure to Mr P. F. Millward, club captain.

The installation will help to solve three problems—shortage of staff, the increasing cost of watering greens . . . and complaints from neighbours.

During the four summer months approximately one-third of the time of

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four men will be saved by its introduction.

The previous method of watering was by 12½ h.p. diesel-driven pump taking water from a stream with rubber hoses and sprinklers which had to be moved manually. An attempt had been made to water the greens during the night to avoid inconveniencing the golfers during the day, but this brought complaints about the noise of the engine.

The system automatically waters the greens according to a pre-determined programme set upon an electric sequence controller in the greenkeeper's office. Provision has been made for the inclusion of tee watering at a later date.

The head greenkeeper can plan a programme which will water all or some of the greens with the amount of water each one requires, and the frequency of watering can be varied from every night to once a week. Operation of the pump is also automatic, although manual operation is available for special requirements. Twelve thousand yards of rigid PVC underground mains and 5,500 yards of electric cable were used for the scheme.

Water is now taken from the edge of a lake on the course, the source of water being higher than the pump, whereas formerly it had to be lifted 6 ft from the stream. This has allowed the use of a 5 h.p. electrically-driven centrifugal flooded suction pump for distributing water to the greens.

Round the perimeter of each green are four "pop-up" sprinklers operating simultaneously through a remotely-controlled valve.

The cylindrical sprinklers are installed in the turf with their flat tops slightly below ground level to allow maintenance operations to be carried out without interference. When water is switched on, pressure raises the sprinklers which each apply water to a pre-determined segment of the green. When the water is turned off, the sprinklers drop back into the ground.

Thus, precise, regular watering will benefit the greens at Handsworth and the staff will be free to attend to other tasks. Watering will take place at night so that club members are not inconvenienced on the course, and the quiet electric pump will not disturb neighbours.

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