

SUMMER RENOVATION FOR WINTER

By D. J. JONES of Hendon Golf Club

Although spring is here at long last, let's not forget winter altogether. All too often in winter are the same old gripes from long-suffering members, eg "Call these winter greens?" and, "How can you hit a ball off these so-and-so tees, they're like mud flats!"

These are just two of the usual complaints, and, sad to say, they are all too often right. Golfers nowadays don't get their golf cheap and consequently they expect top conditions in winter as well as summer. Obviously, conditions can't be the same, but I do feel that a lot more can be done than usually is. That means treating winter greens and tees much the same as summer greens and tees.

Start by picking areas where the winter greens are to be situated, then give the chosen areas a light scarifying. Next, spike with solid tines and follow

this by applying your usual mixture of top dressing at 2-3 lbs per sq yard to even out the area. The next step is to apply a spring/summer fertilizer and to de-worm and carry out selective weeding as necessary throughout the season. Spike as much as conditions and time will allow.

The same method can be adopted for winter tees except that they will require some grass seed as well as the top dressing which might be applied at the rate of 4-5 lbs per sq yard on these areas.

If some of these maintenance jobs are carried out, I am sure that the green committee won't begrudge the money needed for the necessary extra materials and labour when they see what good results will be obtained. And if you find that your efforts *have* paid off, *please* remember to cut the treated areas regularly.



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