

CORRESPONDENCE

Ilkley Golf Club,
Myddleton,
Ilkley,
Yorkshire.

Dear Sir,

With regard to the letter from Mr C. Moore in the October issue.

The problems to which Mr Moore refers, e.g. softness of greens, black slime, excessive fusarium, etc., are not peculiar to golf courses where automatic watering systems have been installed. These conditions arise on any turf where irrigation and other treatments are abused or neglected.

If the application of water, fertilisers, germicides and the use of aeration and scarification are left to the discretion of a trained, intelligent greenkeeper who has the knowledge and also the courage to carry out the treatments he knows are for the benefit of the sward, and ultimately for the good of the players who use it, and not for the whims of a golfing fraternity who expect to pitch a ball on to a green and stop it at all times of the year, who never expect when playing to have to putt over dressings, who view aeration and scarification as just another hazard thought up by a sadistic greenkeeper, usually on ladies' days.

No. Mr Editor, I don't think automatic watering **SHOULD** bring more problems, but undoubtedly will, mostly through ignorance.

I believe most greenkeepers would welcome such an installation but not at the expense of a comprehensive collection of equipment to carry out the more day-to-day tasks of greenkeeping.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

ADRAN ROBERTSHAW.

1 Green Cottage,
Hendon Golf Club,
off Sanders Lane,
London, N.W.7.
28th October 1971.

Dear Sir,

I was surprised to read Mr C. A. Moore's letter in the October journal regarding the problems of pop-up sprinklers. But when he asked if anyone had cracked the problems of soft greens, thatch, black slime and fusarium, he seems to be expressing the opinion that these problems come about only when a pop-up system has been installed.

The amount of water applied to *each* green can be determined by the length of time the section watering that green is set for, and the water coming out of the pop-up is exactly the same as would wet the soil by hand-watering.

Certainly there are occasional drawbacks such as bursts etc., which is only to be expected with so much piping and such a complex system, but with a little experience the burst pipes can easily be repaired by greenstaff. As a matter of interest, Pipecraft, of Shepperton, are making a course of instruction available this winter in ordinary maintenance and simple servicing work.

I presume from Mr Moore's letter that he is not a user of pop-ups. I can assure him that it is very nice going to bed at night safe in the knowledge that one's greens are being watered for one, and that they are receiving the correct amount of water.

Yours truly,

DAVID JONES.