

ready to put out the next night. A system like this can be installed for around £1500, as against an average cost of around £8000 for a fully automatic pop-up system.

### **Fairways watering**

Watering of selected areas of the fairways is now becoming more popular in this country and although on overseas courses pop-up sprinklers are installed to do this job, in this country it is more usual to use an above ground sprinkler.

Again a large output sprinkler is very useful for this purpose, and the most suitable one from the Cameron range is the ZK30WS. This has a cast distance of 75ft. and requires a flow rate of approximately 1000 g.p.h.

# **Water when you want it**

*by*

## **Watermation Limited of Godalming**

Watermation was founded 2 years ago to provide a complete design and installation service for automatic 'pop-up' water systems for all turf areas with the main concentration being the designs for golf green watering. This Company deals with all matters concerning the project from the surveying of the Golf Course, negotiations with electricity and water boards right through to the complete installation. Their technical advice is freely available to all with watering problems. It is very important if your Club is considering improvements to its water system or even the installation of water to the greens for the first time, that such a firm is consulted even if it is only intended to install a manual watering system at this stage. Eventually most clubs will have automatic systems and therefore the pipework network should be installed to meet this future requirement.

Watermation systems for greens watering utilise commercial type 'Pop-up' sprinklers of very robust construction being manufactured from bronze and cast-iron. These sprinklers are mounted flush in the turf around the periphery of the green and spray water on to the green at night time under automatic control from a centrally mounted programmer. This programmer can be erected in any convenient position for the greenkeeper's use and will enable him to set up a watering cycle to completely suit the characteristics of the golf course, it having independent timing from 0-60 minutes for each green. In addition to the automatic control which is operated by a time clock incorporating both a time and calendar wheel, there is a patented rainstat which automatically turns off the sprinkler system when it rains and then permits the controller to commence normal operation when the turf needs water without any resetting.

## **SPORTS TURF RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

The 21st A.G.M. of The Sports Turf Research Institute was held at Bingley on Monday, 24th April under the Chairmanship of Mr. Alan Sowden.

In its reference to research during the past year, the annual report (which was adopted) points out that the Institute is the acknowledged merit testing centre for amenity grass varieties in the U.K., and that currently over 200 varieties are in trials. The flow of new material is all the while increasing. In spite of this, however, and the fact that amenity grasses account for 33% of the value of grass seed used in the U.K., there is still no official recognition of, or support for, this work. Equally, there is increasing awareness on all sides of the need to develop mixtures for hard wear under sports conditions and for low maintenance in general amenity areas. The Institute has plans for extending its work on these aspects and developing extension trials on other areas, but lack of staff and financial resources prevent much of this widely needed research from being undertaken.

The Director also reported that, at the suggestion of seedsmen representing some of the main turfgrass breeders, the Institute is forming a Turfgrass Trials Committee, with strong represen-