The British Golf Greenkeeper
P.V.R. *(Pedestrian Vertirake)*
- for Golf greens, Bowling greens, Cricket pitches and Tennis courts.

**J.V.R. (Junior Vertirake)**
- for Golf course greens, Bowling turf, Fine lawns etc.

**T.V.R. (Tractor Vertirake)**
- for Golf course fairways, Municipal Parks, Sports pitches.

These three machines have been designed to remove all the thatch, thus stimulating recovery and growth of strong healthy grasses. You will find that each machine will clear the difficult, dead, matted, fibrous grass that is so often so difficult to get rid of.

We have a machine for every purpose from the small golf green to the largest Municipal playing fields. One great labour saving device we have fitted on our P.V.R. model is the very large glass fibre collecting box which saves an enormous amount of time and energy that would otherwise be wasted in sweeping up afterwards.

Start your New Year off well by writing for full information on VERTIRAKES to:

**H. PATTISSON & CO. LTD.,**
**STANMORE HILL WORKS, STANMORE,**
**MIDDLESEX.**
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Front Cover Picture
GIANT-VAC MODEL 1595 16 hp TRAIL-VAC
The 16 hp Model 1595 Trail-Vac is the largest in the range of four Giant-Vac Trail-Vacs marketed by Litter Lift in this country. The Model 1595 is of welded steel construction with an integral self-dumping 48 cu ft hopper.

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LATEST COPY DATE: 1st of month prior to insertion.

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The most experienced craftsmen repairers
The nation's finest mower repair department
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T. Parker & Sons (Turf Management) LTD
Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 7NF
Tel: 01-337 7791 — 01-337 0861 (10 lines)

The independent family firm with the personal service
Elsewhere in this issue is a reproduction of a letter published in Golf Illustrated, written by Jonathan Franks of Twyfords Seeds Ltd., urging a 50p levy on all golfers to provide funds to assist in the training and professional education of Greenkeepers and to help the development of the art of greenkeeping. Such efforts from people professionally outside the Association are most welcome and most necessary if an increasing number of greenkeepers are to be attracted to the game and suitably trained in the future. Following the proposal adopted at the Annual General Meeting that all golf clubs in the country should be approached by letter and invited to make an annual contribution to Association funds for the same purpose, perhaps at long last we can see real progress being made to further Greenkeepers and the art of Greenkeeping. Club Secretaries please note.

During a recent visit to Ransome's headquarters at Ipswich I learned that the Grass Machinery division now contributes the largest proportion of revenue of the five operating divisions for the first time in the company's history. The recent decision to discontinue production of combine harvesters means not only will there no longer be any British manufacturer of this type of equipment but that additional manufacturing capacity will be available to increase production of grass machinery.

Although the Association will not be organising a Turfgrass Symposium next year Synchemicals Ltd. are staging a one day seminar entitled "Turf '75" at the University of Reading where four papers will be presented. Further details of these together with dates and times of attendance will be published in a future issue.

At the Annual General Meeting several people asked me if they could look forward to the journal increasing in size similar to Golf Illustrated as the Association grew in numbers. The answer is No because the other publications covering the sport and recreational field are the same size as The Greenkeeper and our advertisers are prevented from the necessity of having material prepared especially for us, which they would have to do if we changed our format.
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Better greens and aprons in less time

58" riding gang mower with three 21" cutters. One operator can cut 18 greens of up to 7,500 sq. ft. each in less than four hours.
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- Immediate raising of height by further 3/16" for tackling aprons
- Fine cutting (144 cuts per yard) with optimum grass collection in wet conditions
- Terra-turf tyres leave no marks
- 7 mph transport between greens reduces wasted travelling time
- Positive hydraulic drive to cutters and traction wheels
- 12 hp engine with electric starting.

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- thatching reel
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- rear roller cleaner kit

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Sole distributor for TORO in U.K. and Channel Islands.
Why Hire?

E. J. Huxley. Huxleys Garden Machinery, Staines and Alresford.

We recently invited Huxleys Garden Machinery to contribute a short article on the hiring side of their business. What follows is their response.

I feel I cannot open this article in a better way than by quoting from the front cover of my firm's Hire Brochure: "... obviously if you can find a use for a machine during most months of the year it will pay you to buy ... in this Brochure we have listed some machines which you may find more economical to hire from us (without operator) for various reasons—high capital cost—limited use—high maintenance costs". This was the theme on the front cover of the first Hire Brochure we produced, in December 1970, and the message remains the same on the cover of our latest issue which lists over 50 different pieces of equipment. Our Hire fleet now numbers some 200 machines (we operate 7 Ryan Greensaires, plus a standby machine, for example).

During the latter part of 1970 we were looking for some means of expanding our business which for years had been a specialist one, concentrating mainly on sales and service to the professional users, such as Golf Clubs, Sports Clubs, Local Authorities and Estates. We had two businesses established in good areas—Middlesex and Hampshire. The tendency amongst most of our competitors seemed to be to look for something to manufacture or import; somehow this did not seem to fit in with the way we were going. We decided that the short-term hire of specialist equipment had great possibilities provided it was done properly. It is now apparent that we took the right decision because the hire side of our business has progressed over the last three years in a very satisfactory way: what about the advantages to the customer?

Nowadays the purchase of expensive machinery must be justified: even for so-called 'wealthy' Clubs it hardly makes sense to lay out a large sum on the purchase of a piece of equipment which will only be used for a week or two each year. The expense is not confined to the original purchase—other factors such as storage space, depreciation and maintenance must also be taken into account. No Club could afford to keep the large range of equipment which we offer for hire. It is pleasing to us to realise that in our small way we are contributing to improvements in the condition of many Golf Courses and Sports Grounds. Our turf maintenance equipment, for instance, is in great demand in the Autumn and Spring and Clubs are able to make great improvements in the quality of their playing surfaces by hiring machines from us for use by their own skilled staff—machines which would certainly be beyond the reach of most Clubs to purchase. We do not hire to Contractors, incidentally; it is a condition that our machines must only be used by the hirer or his employees. We offer to instruct the operator in use and maintenance: indeed with certain

November
machines we insist that this is done.

There is a limit on the distance we travel; all our charges are inclusive of collection and delivery within 30 miles of Staines or Alresford and we do go up to 50 miles at an extra charge. All our equipment is maintained in tip-top condition (we always start with new machines) and machines are serviced in our workshops after every hire. In this way breakdowns are reduced to a minimum. Generally we hire by the week although some machines are available for a minimum of two days. Medium and long term hires can be negotiated in advance at special rates. We have tried to make our terms and conditions as simple as possible ... e.g. on the subject of liability we say only “the hirer’s liability includes responsibility for loss or damage caused by fire, theft, neglect or misuse, but the hirer is not responsible for normal wear and tear”.

Our hire section is now in its fourth year and in that time we have learned a lot. We have made mistakes, of course, but hiring is now an established part of the business and it has, I think, made my firm quite well-known in the South East of England. I think I can claim without boasting that we are providing a valuable service to the customer.

---

NEW PRODUCTS

SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) Limited, announce the introduction of a new tine.

This tine is for the treatment of golf fairways, and similar areas where treatment is required, either to relieve extreme compaction or to introduce suitable dressings. Penetration to a depth of 4" is possible.

These tines are in the form of an open sided rectangular section, narrower at the base than at the end fitted to the machine, so that clean ejection of the soil extracted is positive at all times.

The tines have been tested under varying conditions and good results have been obtained.

The tines can be fitted to existing and new SISIS machines of the general purpose type, whether these are the tractor mounted, Aeromain or towed models. They will also fit the SISIS Auto-Outfield Spiker.

A further feature is that the soil removed is generally not in a hard core, as with other types of hollow coring tines, but is loose and readily broken down by dragmat, flat harrow or brush to disperse it about the ground which has been treated.
THE ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

Results of the Annual Tournament held at the Isle of Purbeck Golf Club, Studland, Swanage, Dorset on 30th September, 1st and 2nd October, 1974.

The S.T.R.I. Cup—18 holes Stableford

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Prize Description</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>S.T.R.I. Cup and Travel Bag</td>
<td>M. Owen</td>
<td>35 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Hargreaves Cup &amp; Golf Bag</td>
<td>R. W. Lance</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Bath Towel</td>
<td>B. F. Mott</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Bottle Whiskey</td>
<td>G. Payne</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Vegetable Dish</td>
<td>B. E. Payne</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Compact &amp; 2 Pkts. P/Cards</td>
<td>D. Roberts</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“News of the World” Cup—36 holes Scratch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Prize Description</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Transistor Radio</td>
<td>E. Walsh</td>
<td>109 Crs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Clock</td>
<td>S. Dagger</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jubilee Cup Inter-Section—36 holes Medal

Three Tankards & Cuff Links

N. W. Section 326

“Coming of Age” Cup (60 yrs. and over) —18 holes Medal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Prize Description</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Maxwell Hart Trophy &amp; Barometer</td>
<td>P. Whitehead</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Travelling Rug</td>
<td>R. Lewis</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Bottle Whiskey</td>
<td>W. Summer</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Senior Division—36 holes Medal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Prize Description</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Ransomes Cup &amp; Wrist Watch</td>
<td>G. Payne</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>“Golf Illustrated” Cup Sheets etc.</td>
<td>J. Robinson</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>“Universal” Cup and Clock</td>
<td>G. Woodward</td>
<td>105½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Table Lighter</td>
<td>F. Ainsworth</td>
<td>105½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Kitchen Set</td>
<td>D. Roberts</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Wallet</td>
<td>D. H. Major</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Tankard</td>
<td>R. S. Howlett</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>Hand Towels</td>
<td>R. W. Lance</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>½ Doz. Golf Balls</td>
<td>R. H. Plain</td>
<td>108½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>Sherry Glasses</td>
<td>E. R. West</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td>Thermos Flask</td>
<td>B. E. Payne</td>
<td>109½</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Junior Division (12 to 24)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Prize Description</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>“Pattisson” Trophy &amp; Wrist Watch</td>
<td>A. Martin</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>President’s Cup, Sheets etc.</td>
<td>T. Davaccia</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>“Mays” Cup &amp; Toilet Case</td>
<td>T. Patchin</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Clock</td>
<td>R. Peters</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Edging Shears</td>
<td>H. McAddey</td>
<td>108½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Kitchen Carvers</td>
<td>J. Sirviss</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Tankard</td>
<td>C. J. Rogerson</td>
<td>110½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>Hand Towels</td>
<td>J. E. Cryer</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>½ Doz. Golf Balls</td>
<td>J. Scott</td>
<td>112½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>Sherry Glasses</td>
<td>E. R. James</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td>Thermos Flask</td>
<td>A. Boraston</td>
<td>114½</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SITUATIONS VACANT

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(HERTFORDSHIRE)
TECHNICAL SERVICES
DEPARTMENT
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Applications giving full details of age, qualifications, experience, past and present appointments including current salary together with names and addresses of two referees to reach the undersigned by 21.11.74.

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Director of Technical Services

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Maxstoke
Coleshill
Nr. Birmingham B46 2RD

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Howden Park,
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Ashby Decoy,
Burringham Road,
Scunthorpe,
South Humberside.

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The British Golf Greenkeeper
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1st Prize Allan Taylor Cup & Hedge Trimmer ... T. Patchin 71
2nd , , Verdone Cup and Travel Bag ... J. C. Newman 71
3rd , , Golf Bag ... ... ... ... ... S. Dagger 72
4th , , Bath Towel ... ... ... ... ... D. H. Major 72
5th , , Vegetable Dish ... ... ... ... ... R. Peters 72
6th , , Compact & 2 Pks. P/Cards ... ... ... J. Robinson 72

Highest Nett SENIOR Score Bottle Drambuie I. Scoones
Highest JUNIOR , , Bottle Champagne E. C. M. Brown

We are indebted to the following who have kindly contributed to our Prize Fund.

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J. Hamilton Stutt, Esq.
Gordon Wright, Esq.
"The News of the World"
The Sports Turf Research Institute
The Professional Golfers’ Association
The Golf Ball Manufacturers Conference
British Leyland (Austin-Morris) Ltd., "Golf Illustrated"
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B.G.G.A. (South Coast Section)

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November
With pleasure announce that they hold the greatest concentration of lawn mower spares and lawn mower engine spares in the country

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A built in winch ensure positive traction even in bad conditions. Transportation and work in confined areas is easy because Scoop Trenchers are small.

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Their initial cost can be saved in only 2,000 yards of work.

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Annual Report 1974

Administration

This year has been one of several additional activities and interest and we have been most fortunate in having Mr. Ivor Scoones as our Chairman; who has undoubtedly proved a very efficient Officer, and we would like to express our sincere thanks to him for the successful way he has handled our business.

We have to succeed him, Mr. E. R. James of the South Coast Section and we feel sure from the efforts Mr. James has already made in developing our new Section, he will undoubtedly prove a worthy successor to Mr. Scoones.

One of the major events of the year was the increased membership fees. The object of this increase was to improve the finances of Head Office funds and this has undoubtedly been accomplished; happily we are glad to say, without any diminishing of membership.

The Annual Draw was held as in previous years with an increased charge for tickets. This proved a good move, also, the receipts were nearly 100% up on previous years, which again was a satisfactory effort for our finances.

Once again we would like to express our sincere thanks to the R & A for again providing free passes to some of our members to attend the Open Championship, a privilege much appreciated by those who were able to make the trip.

The Wage Scale recommendations were again reviewed by the Executive Committee last March and further figures were proposed and given as much publicity as was possible. We feel sure that once again these proposals have been beneficial to a great number of our members; also we think that many Golf Club Secretaries are looking for guidance in this respect.

We are most happy to advise our members that our Association was invited to join the Golf Development Council, and I need hardly say, that your Executive Committee were delighted to accept this invitation.

Our representation on the Turfgrass Advisory Committee has been changed slightly owing to the resignation of Mr. Carrick, and we would like to express our appreciation to him for his efforts in this field. To succeed him we are very pleased to include the name to Mr. E. Walsh of the North-West Section who is now representing the Association on this Committee in conjunction with Mr. A. Robertshaw.

The latest figures by the Joint Council of Apprentices show that this scheme is still progressing. The latest figures were:—398 issued, 284 registered, and 177 completed. Our thanks are once again due to the Officers of the Council for the continued success of the Scheme.

Membership

The figures produced by the Sections for the year-ending April 1974 show a total of 1,028, which we feel is most satisfactory, particularly in view of the increased membership fees already mentioned. This figure is approximately a 40 increase on last year.
Annual Tournament

The 56th Annual Tournament was held at Cleveland Golf Club, Somerset and once again it proved to be a very happy and interesting event. With good weather and a good attendance, and a delightful course, we feel sure that all those who took part had a very enjoyable visit to Somerset. We much appreciated the courtesy and kindness of all the officials and staff at Cleveland for their unstinting efforts to make our visit so pleasant and we would again express our appreciation of all the Trade associations who helped so generously, to make our prize table a worthy exhibit, and the representatives and friends who gave so much practical help.

International Match

A new advent in our programme this year was an International Match which was made possible by the courtesy and efforts of Messrs. Ransomes Sims & Jefferies. It was through their efforts this International match was arranged in conjunction with the Pro Am Tournament which they normally hold each year, and invitations were sent to ourselves and the Scottish Association to provide a team of four, to represent England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Invitations were also send to a Continental team, the U.S.A., Canada and Japan. This was felt to be a splendid occasion to meet Greenkeepers from all parts of the world and thanks are again due to Ransomes Sims & Jefferies for arrangements made for Dinner and entertainment after the match. Some very pleasant associations were made with representatives from Canada, U.S.A., and the Continent, as well as Great Britain. Unfortunately, Japan were unable to arrange a team to reach us in time for the fixture, but we received expressions of appreciation from them together with a Samurai Head-dress as a token of friendship. The Americans were also

---

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Don't take our word for it. Simply cast your eye over the Atco Vari-Gang Mk II and look at these outstanding features—

**Flexibility**
Whether a single unit or towed triple is required, higher multiples or even a mounted gang mower, the Atco Vari-Gang Mk II can fulfil the need perfectly.

**Simplicity**
is the keynote – both of ganging and maintenance. Cutter change for example is but a moment's work with a choice of 5 or 8 bladed heavy duty cutting cylinders.

**Close mowing without scalping**
A 15" wheel base ensures that turf undulations can be closely followed with the minimum risk of scalping, however severe they may be.

**Finally – Wise Investment**
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TELEPHONE: 021 772 2524, 2551, 3892
happy to provide us with a memento of a Hole Cutter in brass, with suitable inscription.

**Symposium**

In conjunction with Tournament, Mr. F. W. Hawtree was instrumental in organising the First British Turfgrass Symposium which took place at Ipswich on the 4th October 1973, and was certainly an occasion for the B.G.G.A. The point when an association comes together with other delegates to talk about its work rather than its purposes is an important one, and reflects not only enthusiasm but responsibility.

The Symposium was the first of its kind; the attendance figure of 200 was therefore a most encouraging start. The breakdown of attendance figures are as follows:

- From Golf Clubs: 101 (50%)
- From Firms: 66 (33%)
- From Local and Central Government: 7 (4%)
- From Associations and Institutes: 11 (6%)
- From Abroad: 14 (7%)

The number of Golf Clubs represented was 68.

On the day of the Symposium a postcard with space for percentage scoring and general comments was issued to each representative. 50% of the respondents suggested that the future location should be in the Midlands. Suggestions for future Symposium themes were fungal diseases, machinery, chemicals, turfgrass varieties, training and turfgrass management. All but one said they would attend future Symposia. Here in this sample at least, was enthusiasm and conviction of the need to hold future Symposia.

**Sections**

Once again our thanks are due to the officers and Committees who give...
S. H. GOSS & CO.
WEED CONTROL
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Selective or Total Weed Control
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FOR THE MAN WHO TAKES PRIDE IN HIS TURF

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EASTERN CULTIVATED TURF FARMS LTD.
Wholesale British Growers
Grower of A-34 Turf.
Cultivated Kentucky Blue Grass.

KENTUCKY BLUE GRASS
* Consistent quality
* Quick recovery after injury
* Ideal for Golf Tees
* Competitive price

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Cranley Gardens,
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Telephone: 01-883-5880

SPORTS SECTION IRRIGATION CO.
Company are proud to announce their appointment as Official Installation Contractors for Buckner Pop-up Sprinklers for the West Country, the Midlands and Cheshire.

All enquiries to:—
Sports Ground Irrigation Co.
112 St. Mary's Road,
Mkt. Harborough,
Leics.
LE16 7DX.
so much of their time to assist the Sections in their local activities and we are sure that members find local news, which we receive from these Section Secretaries for inclusion in their Journal, to be of the greatest interest.

The British Golf Greenkeeper

Our Journal is continuing to make progress and the editing staff have much appreciated the additional news which has been forthcoming for inclusion in the Journal and also for the collaboration of Section Secretaries in assisting to maintain the mailing list, whereby our members have not been disappointed to any extent in the non-receipt of the Journal.

Benevolent Fund

The Benevolent Fund has this year paid a total of £100 to dependants of deceased members since our last report.

F. G. Hawtree Memorial Fund

There was only one application during the year for the assistance of this fund to attend a course of instruction, but from recent enquiries, the fund will undoubtedly be put to greater use in the coming year.

S.T.R.I.

Once again we would like to express our thanks to the S.T.R.I. for their continued advice and assistance to members when they could be of help.

In Memoriam

We record with sorrow the death of the following members, announced in the British Golf Greenkeeper:

J. L. WHITE—East Midland.
TOM LLOYD—Welsh.
Wm. KINSEY—Late Pres. of N.W. Section.
A. STEPHENS—Midland Section.
C. BRASSINGTON—N.W. Section.
J. WALLIS-ARTHUS — Southern Section.
J. NESS—Southern Section.

R. C. CRAIG
AND CO. LTD.

SPECIALISTS IN THE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF ALL TYPES OF MOWERS
* Agents for: RANSOMES SIMS & JEFFERIES LTD.
* LLOYDS & CO. LTD.
WEBBS LAWN MOWERS
* Distributors: DENNIS BROS. LTD.

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We will gladly call on you to advise on your grass cutting equipment or arrange demonstrations. Ring us now

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BY OUR SPECIALISED MACHINES CAN TRANSFORM

WET GREENS
AND FAIRWAYS

DEEP AERATION OF GREENS
BY SUB-AIR MACHINE
AT ANY TIME OF YEAR
NO SURFACE DAMAGE

Very moderate charges include all transport and an experienced operator

We are unaware of any other machine which penetrates to seven inches yet keeps the greens undamaged and in play

Cambridge Soil Services Limited
Girton Road, Cambridge
Tel. 76002
Specialists in Science Based Drainage

November
Severe Spring Drought puts Playing Surfaces under Heavy Pressure

TAKE TURF ACTION NOW!

Just how could you combat the effects of the long, dry period that we had this Spring—the effects on turf in some cases have been pretty disastrous. Ransomes would like everyone to benefit from their experience and to help you make the best out of what you have. Not only now, but the year through, on a management basis.

Let’s tackle each of the major problems that can affect your turf so seriously:

1. Soil Structure

Good growth depends on the soil being in good physical condition, with plenty of space in the soil for air, water and fertilisers to get down to the grass roots. The big enemy of this ideal condition is compaction—pressure from any source, tractor or footfall, can effectively seal the surface to prevent the life-savers getting down to the roots. The farmer ploughs to cure this problem but the Golf Greenkeeper needs a less drastic remedy. Aerifying tools provide that solution. The unique action of Ransomes-Hahn Aerifying with specially designed ‘spoons’ ensures that the soil will be opened up and the soil structure maintained at its peak.

2. Thatch

Not all the grass blades stand up to be cut when you’re mowing. And all mowers cut on a horizontal plane, so what happens to the blades that are lying flat on the ground? They form ‘grain’, uncut blades that will remain flat until they die after about a month and become part of the ‘thatch’. This thatch forms a roof over the soil that stops water and air penetrating, and, as it usually lays in one direction, it can have a very adverse effect on golf greens. And subsequently, on your putting! So how do we cope with this mattress of grass? Simple really, we just use a mower that cuts vertically instead of horizontally, the Ransomes-Hahn ‘Verti-Cut’.

3. Top Dressing

It is the organic matter that we add—especially the organic material in the grass plant, that gives soils stability. The structure can, of course, be improved with materials like sand, humus and peat moss, depending on local conditions. This top dressing must be worked thoroughly into the surface. Surface thatch accumulation must be removed by Ransomes-Hahn ‘Verticutting’ before top dressing is attempted and then top dressing penetration to the soil below is effected by the Ransomes-Hahn ‘Power Drag’. Repeated Ransomes-Hahn Aerification with its unique cultivating action is the best means of changing soil texture in the top 3 or 4 inches of the soil profile, allowing for the area to remain in use at all times. The action of the uniquely designed ‘spoons’ in removing cores of soil is the finest way of aerifying, and patented ‘Flexi-press’ springs fitted over each spoon prevent turf tearing.

RANSOMES SYSTEMS TO THE RESCUE

One of the prime defences against any sort of trouble is to know the enemy. Turf care is no exception. Weather can be very unpredictable. This year, a very dry Spring caused no end of problems, so we must make the best of the condition prevailing. Ransomes knowledge of turf care goes a long way beyond mowing and their complete range of turf maintenance equipment is designed to ensure that your grass areas are as good as they possibly can be.
The easy way to get the better of playing fields

For greens matting or mild scarification of playing areas, the Ransomes Hahn PD-2 power Drag really covers the ground. One man covers 9'6" at one pass, the 3.H.P. engine making easy work of a task that could otherwise be a chore. For narrow areas the two wing mats are removable. The Power Drag's unique swirling action really gets top dressing down through the grass to the soil, where it's needed. It is also invaluable for hard playing areas. When you've finished, the Power Drag folds up quickly taking up minimum space for transport or storage. This superbly practical turf maintenance tool is waiting to be demonstrated to you. A call to your Ransomes dealer is all that's needed.

Check these features
One man mats 9'1" swath.
Self transportable
Folds quickly for storage
Drag mats in extra-strong galvanised flexible ribbon steel.

RANSOMES

Ransomes-Hahn PD-2 Power Drag
...and a complete range of turf improving equipment
LETTERS

'Reprinted from the October 24th issue of Golf Illustrated'

Editor,
Golf Illustrated,
8 Stratton Street,
London. W1X 6AT.

Dear Sir,

In recent months there has been a considerable amount of correspondence in various golfing magazines regarding the serious shortage and the status of Greenkeepers in this country. The situation has been brought to a head simply because we are now building more golf courses per annum than ever before and many of these new clubs are finding it almost impossible to obtain experienced staff to take over from the contractors once the course has been seeded.

Fortunately for the Greenkeeper, this has meant that clubs are now being forced to raise the salaries of their greens staff to a more realistic level, rather than rely on the old agricultural standard "rates of pay which makes little or no allowance for the genuine skills of the experienced Greenkeeper.

Surely the time has come when some positive action should be taken by the Golf Course Development Corporation to train and encourage more Greenkeepers into the industry.

In America there are a number of Universities where a young Greenkeeper can go on a two or three year course where he is taught by experienced staff the skills of the profession. Such a course is financed from a central fund to which all golf clubs in the States contribute. If the Greenkeeper leaves with a Certificate of Competance, he knows he can obtain a worthwhile job and after a further three or four years of practical experience he is likely to be offered the position of Golf Superintendent which carries a deserved status together with a good salary.

Such a scheme costs money but with over 1700 Golf Clubs in the U.K., with an average Membership of 300 per club, surely no golfer would object to a 50p levy being built into his annual club subscription which could go towards a training scheme for Greenkeepers. Such a scheme would raise over £250,000 per annum which would enable the Council to approach more than one University or Horticultural Training College to set up a proper two-year training course for Greenkeepers which would be to the mutual benefit of all those interested in golf.

Yours faithfully,
Jonathan Franks

33 Knowle Drive,
Exwick,
Exeter
Devon, EX4 2DF.
7.10.74

Dear Sir,

I feel I must write and say how much I agree with Mr. Mawdeleys' letter in the September Greenkeeper, as we here in the South West are in a similar position.

I would like to see a Greenkeepers' Union. Now this may cause a stir, but we are responsible people who would not treat a union as a chance to strike at any trivial occurrence, (we know who would have to put the

The British Golf Greenkeeper
course to rights afterwards) but we could use the union to negotiate a national status for Greenkeepers and Assistants. This would cover wages, training, restrooms, toilet and washing facilities (often neglected by employers) and pension schemes etc.

The union would increase the membership of the B.G.G.A. by leaps and bounds with obvious benefits not only to the B.G.G.A. but to training and stimulation of standards and recruitment generally.

Thank you for your time.

Yours faithfully,

B. Pile
(Greenkeeper)

---

**NEWS**

A new, simple to operate trencher having a digging capacity of up to 8" wide and up to 3 ft. deep is introduced by **Trenchex of Uttoxeter**.

The 10 + 2 is powered by a 10 H.P. Kohler air cooled engine which delivers equal torque to both wheels for efficient drive and trenching. With the transmission in low range the right digging speed through the 4 speed transaxle can be matched exactly to soil conditions. Electric start adds safety and easy starting even in cold weather. Shock load protection is provided through a slipping belt.

All controls are grouped continuously together at the rear of the machine, the digging boom is raised and lowered with an easy to operate crank handle. At less than 36" wide the 10 + 2 can travel almost anywhere.

The chain and teeth are common to other Davis trenchers.

Delivery is from stock at Uttoxeter.

A new product for the treatment of fungal diseases is announced by Duphar-Midox.

It is Daconil 2787 Flowable—a liquid formulation of the product which has been available up to now as a 75 per cent wettable powder.

Main benefits of the liquid formulation are claimed to be:

* Greater efficiency due to the speeding power.
* Less visible deposit.

Daconil 2787 covers a range of fungal problems over a variety of crops and turf.

Final drainage improvements to Poulth Wood Golf Course, Tonbridge have recently been completed. The course was built from land which was 90% wooded three years ago, and the drainage then installed on all fairways consisted of PVC coiled drains alongside each fairway and the fairway mole-ploughed to create waterways to these mains. This has worked quite well on most fairways, but nos. 10, 16 and 17 have been presenting bad drainage problems, so Mr Humphries, the Parks and Cemetery's superintendent of Tonbridge and Malling District Council decided to make improvements. He chose WAVIN-FLOW pipes from Trenching Plastics Ltd., of Colne Road, Coggeshall, Colchester, Essex in 50mm and 70mm sizes. 5,000 ft of 50mm and an equivalent amount of 70mm Wavinflow was used.

Two men, using a Ditch Witch put in the drains in 45 hours, including backfilling with ½" pea, gravel topping off the last 1½" with sand and soil mix. The average run length of these laterals was 40 yards.

Mr Humphries stated that the drainage on fairways 10, 16 and 17 is now 100% efficient.
Special Occasions

Nov. 5 South Coast Section 1st Winter Lecture—Alresford G.C. Time 7 p.m. Talk arranged T. Parker. Topic: Sisis Equipment.

6 Southern Section Lecture—Whitbreads Social Club. Time 6.30 p.m.

18 North-West Section 1st Winter Lecture—G. Vaughan. Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies. Swinton Park G.C. Time 7.30 p.m.

Dec. 3 South Coast Section Film “Grasses”—J. H. Franks Twyford Seeds. Alresford G.C. Time 7 p.m.

4 Southern Section Lecture—Whitbreads Social Club. Time 6.30 p.m.

9 North-West Section Lecture—H. Pattisson & Co. Swinton Park G.C. Time 7.30 p.m.

1975


8 Southern Section Lecture—Whitbreads Social Club.

Feb. 4 Midlands Section Lecture—Mommersteeg Int. Kings Norton. Time 2 p.m.

SOUTH COAST SECTION

President: Mr. J. H. Fry
Secretary: Mrs. J. Stimson,
27 Charlieu Avenue,
Calne, Wiltshire. SN11 0LD.
Chairman: Mr. E. R. James

Mr. J. H. Franks, Sports Turf Manager of Twyford Seeds Limited will be giving a talk illustrated by a film on the Barenbrug range of grasses on Tuesday, 3rd December, 1974 at Alresford Golf Club at 7 p.m. All members and guests are invited to attend.

We welcome to the Section the following new members and hope their association with us will be a long and happy one.

L. M. Mileham and R. L. Shakeshaft (Vice-Presidents).
Tim Mortimer J. T. Lowe (Longham) Limited (Hon. Member).
R. Varlow (Lee on the Solent G.C.).
R. S. Howlett (Northbourne G.C.) (Transfer).
I. P. Rickham (Ferndown G.C.).
N. M. Stimson, Secretary.

The British Golf Greenkeeper
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Prizes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Gross</td>
<td>G. Woodward</td>
<td>37 + 81 = 118</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Nett</td>
<td>A. Jamieson</td>
<td>35 1/2 + 70 = 105 1/2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Nett</td>
<td>V. Smith</td>
<td>36 + 70 = 106</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Nett</td>
<td>A. Kite</td>
<td>35 1/2 + 74 = 109 1/2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Nett</td>
<td>R. Goodwin</td>
<td>38 + 72 = 110</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Nett</td>
<td>A. Cutler</td>
<td>32 1/2 + 78 = 110 1/2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th Nett</td>
<td>T. Morris</td>
<td>42 1/2 + 69 = 111 1/2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th Nett</td>
<td>T. Cutler</td>
<td>37 + 77 = 114</td>
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<td>8th Nett</td>
<td>T. Jones</td>
<td>38 + 77 = 115</td>
<td></td>
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<td>9th Nett</td>
<td>G. Hart</td>
<td>38 + 77 = 115</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th Nett</td>
<td>A. Boraston</td>
<td>37 1/2 + 78 = 115 1/2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th Nett</td>
<td>R. Chandler</td>
<td>37 + 79 = 116</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12th Nett</td>
<td>W. Marnock</td>
<td>36 + 81 = 117</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th Nett</td>
<td>R. Smith</td>
<td>35 1/2 + 82 = 117 1/2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th Nett</td>
<td>C. Frost</td>
<td>36 + 82 = 118</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th Nett</td>
<td>D. Haynes</td>
<td>40 1/2 + 79 = 119 1/2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th Nett</td>
<td>G. Scrutton</td>
<td>44 + 76 = 120</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th Nett</td>
<td>B. F. Ashby</td>
<td>36 + 84 = 120</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th Nett</td>
<td>R. Pullen</td>
<td>37 1/2 + 83 = 120 1/2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annual Autumn Golf Tournament

The Annual Autumn Golf Tournament was held at Chilwell Manor Golf Club on Wednesday 18th September 1974. There was a very good entry. Our thanks to the Captain and committee for allowing us the courtesy of the course, to the outside staff for an excellent course and to the inside staff for a lovely meal. Our thanks also to Mrs. Darby and Mrs. Mott for the cards and raffle, to Mr. W. Cole and Mr. R. Willars for the starting, to Mr. G. Darby for the cards. Also to Mr. & Mrs. I. Toon for the buying of the prizes. Our thanks to Tillcon Ltd. Bentley Ltd. Cannock Fertilisers. Mr. Bird. Mr. A. Thornton. The Captain of Chilwell. Sutton and Sons. H. Pattinson & Co. for the prizes.

The winners were as follows:—

Greenkeepers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Nett</th>
<th>HDC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>D. Warrington</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>D. Jack</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>B. Mott</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>F. Frost</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>G. Dunckley</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>G. Darby</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>A. Shaw</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>J. Goddard</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>M. Lake</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>J. King</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vice President

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Nett</th>
<th>HDC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>P. Kelham</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>T. Dauccia</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visitors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Nett</th>
<th>HDC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>A. Morris</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>C. Warrington</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Owing to a regrettable oversight the following item was omitted from the Annual General Meeting Report in the September edition of the journal.

The Midland Section would like to express their gratitude to the retiring auditors, Eric Ballinger and Ken Sargeson, who have generously given their time and effort to our Section for so long.

Autumn Tournament

The Autumn Tournament was held at the Handsworth Golf Club on Wednesday 18th September. Scores and Prize Winners over 27 holes are given on the following page.

The prizes were presented by the Captain of the Handsworth Golf Club, Mr. Alan Spalding, who welcomed the Midland Greenkeepers to Handsworth and hoped everyone had enjoyed the day.

Our Chairman, V. Smith thanked Mr. Spalding and the members of the Club for allowing our members the courtesy of the course and Club house for the day. He told the Captain and members of the Club how delighted the Greenkeepers were with the splendid display of Stuart Crystal glass which the Handsworth G.C. had donated as prizes. He thanked the Steward and Stewardess for the meals and service and Peter Whyatt and Bill Payne who helped so much with the paper-work and Score cards. He paid tribute to the rest of the green staff who, with himself, had got the course into such fine condition. We are indebted to the following Prize donors:—
Winter Educational Meetings

January: — A Forum will take place at the Edgbaston Golf Club on 7th January 1975 commencing at 2.00 p.m. A Panel of experienced Greenkeepers and Trades representatives will answer your questions.

February: — A Lecture will take place at the Kings Norton Golf Club on 4th February commencing at 2.00 p.m. The subject of the lecture being "The modern cultivars of grass seed for Golf Courses." The speaker will be from Mommersteeg International.

Members of the Section would be well advised to attend these meetings as I am sure you will find them most beneficial.

A. Kite, Secretary.

SOUTHERN SECTION

Chairman:  
F. W. FORD  
(South Herts)

Secretary:  
F. W. FORD, ESQ.,  
68 Salcombe Gardens,  
Mill Hill, NW7  
Tel: 959-2847

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to Members of the British Golf Greenkeepers Association everywhere.

Autumn Tournament

A warm welcome was extended to all at the Burnham Beeches G.C. on the occasion of our 1974 Autumn Meeting. Fine golfing weather and a course in first-class condition, thanks to Brian Payne and a Steward, who worked wonders with 112 to cater for, all contributed towards making our day a day to remember.

Other contributions came from David and John who organised the cards and raffle etc., their much valued services were never more appreciated.

Our thanks also to Robert H. Andrews for adding two glass tankards towards the prize-giving and to Maxwell Hart and Huxleys Garden Machinery for bottles of scotch and the Benevolent Fund Raffle.

The prizes were presented by the Captain of the club, Mr. Glyn-Jones and the day concluded with splendid comedy entertainment by Ronnie Twist.

New Members

A warm welcome to the following new members whose names are listed below:—

M. F. JOHNSON (Surbiton), A. J. BAKER (Dereham) and G. F. HAYES (Sth. Herts).

Obituary

Members will be sorry to learn that Jimmy Ness passed away in hospital on Saturday 7th September. Jim, a Southern Section Committee man for many years, was known, respected and liked by members in all Sections of the B.G.G.A., and he will be greatly missed.

Special tribute was paid to him at the Croydon Crematorium service at which the Southern Section was represented by David Craig, George Hitchcock and George Brown. Our deepest sympathy has been expressed by letter to Mrs. M. Ness and the following received:—

"Dear Mr. Ford,

Will you please convey my sincere thanks to the members of the Southern Section of the B.G.G.A. for the beautiful wreath for Jim, sent on their behalf.

How he loved to attend the meetings and to meet all his friends. He used to say he always found something new to be learned about greenkeeping. Dave Craig told me that a tribute was to be paid to his memory after the prize-giving, and it gives his brother, sister and myself great comfort to know he had earned the respect of his fellow greenkeepers".

November
Tournament Results

Best Morning Mr. J. Farrington & A. P. Viney (Frilford Hth) 40 points

Afternoon M. B. Piggott & A. D. Piggott (Henley) 36

36 Aggregate

1st A. A. Collis & A. L. Waring (Sonning) 81
2nd M. D. Piggott & A. J. Hanan (Henley) 77
3rd M. B. Newcombe & M. St. John (Woodcote) 76
4th J. C. Newman & J. Reeves (Downshire) 75

1975 Activities

JANUARY 8th Lecture Whitbreads 6.30 p.m.
FEBRUARY 5th " " "
MARCH 5th ANNUAL DINNER Walton Heath.
" 21st ANNUAL DINNER South Herts.
MAY 14th Spring Tournament Venue to be arranged.
JUNE 11th A.G.M. Walton Heath.
JULY Midland v. Southern Match Venue to be arranged.
SEPT. 9th Autumn Tournament
OCTOBER 8th Secretaries Match

Golf course watering problems solved!
with CAMERON IRRIGATION

No-one knows more about golf course irrigation than Cameron. Look at these two great sprinkler systems you can choose from.

CAMERON - FIRST IN POP-UP SPRINKLERS

With Cameron Automatic Pop-Up Sprinklers plus the Cameron Electronic Control Panel, you can water your course any time you like, even apply fertiliser and disperse dew – automatically! Save labour, cut costs!

GEKA QUICK RELEASE HOSE COUPLINGS. Made in Brass. Save time, money, labour.
PLASTIC PIPE & FITTINGS. Complete range available.
TRICOFLEX HOSE. The bright yellow lightweight, reinforced plastic hose built to last. Always supple; non-kinking.
FREE ADVICE. Contact us when you have an irrigation problem. Any time.

CAMERON Puts WATER TO WORK

CAMERON IRRIGATION CO. LTD., Harwood Industrial Estate, Littlehampton, Sussex. Telephone: Littlehampton 3985 (5 lines)
FYLKING TURF GRASS

mightiest blade growing

FYLKING SMOOTH STALK MEADOW GRASS

'FROM QUALITY CONSCIOUS SEED DISTRIBUTORS'

The Champion, a hardy Viking blade, originating in Svalof, Sweden, Fylking Smooth Stalked Meadow Grass excels on every count.

✓ DISEASE RESISTANCE  ✓ LOW CUTTING HEIGHT TOLERANCE
✓ WEAR TOLERANCE     ✓ RAPID ESTABLISHMENT
✓ CERTIFIED SEED QUALITY ✓ BRITISH TESTED
NEW! This Toro 'pop-up' sprinkler disappears below ground after watering. Its fully retracting head protects against damage by mowers or vandals...

Now you see it... Now you don't!

The 18th at 5:30 am!

(It could be St. Andrews, Troon, Sunningdale or your club...)

Toro 'pop-up' sprinklers water greens, tees and fairways through the night, automatically. Day time stoppages are eliminated, courses play consistently and of equal importance, greenkeepers can concentrate on other more demanding work around the course. Consider these benefits then ask Wright Rain to design a Toro 'pop-up' scheme for your club! Write for details and the name of your nearest appointed installer now...