

## Company profile

## No. 5 : Ransomes

AS MANY members of the B.G.G.A. will know, Ransomes have given considerable support to the Association over a great many years. Not only are they the largest supporter of the B.G.G. through their advertising but they have always been prepared to offer their own staff, in working hours, to assist in B.G.G.A. functions. This article will give readers a good idea of the size and scope of Ransomes.

WHEREVER golf is played the name of Ransomes is known. There must be very few golf courses in the world that do not use one or many machines from Ransomes range of professional grass machinery.

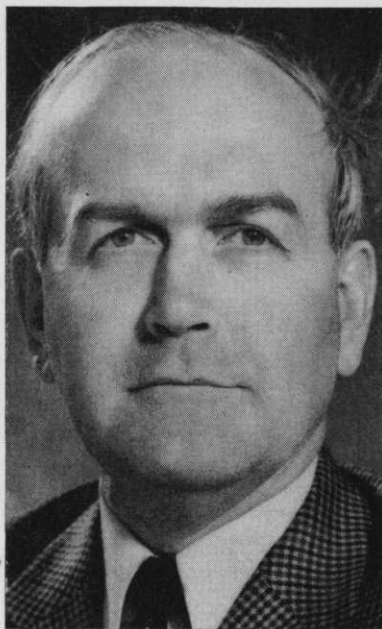
Founded in 1789 by an iron-founder, Ransomes made the world's first lawn mower, Buddings Patent, in 1832, and the Ipswich based company has been in the forefront of grass machinery development ever since.

They produced the first petrol lawn mower in 1902 and the first mains-operated lawn mower in 1926. Since then the emphasis has shifted from the domestic lawn mower to the professional grass cutting machine.

An important recent development has been the introduction of hydraulically operated mowers. Here again Ransomes were pioneers. The Hydraulic 5/7 Power Gang, introduced in 1968, was the world's first hydraulically operated gang mower, to be followed in 1973 by the launch of the Motor 5/3, the world's most advanced grass cutting machine.

Today Ransomes offer machines for all types of grass cutting—from the smallest garden to the largest airfield, from the roughest verge or orchard to the smoothest golf green.

Golf course equipment may be regarded as the company's speciality, however. The Auto-Certes, available in 18 and 20 inch versions, is a specialist golf greens mower, with a ten-knife



**GUY Catchpole, General Marketing Manager, Ransomes Grass Machinery Division.**

reel for a superb finish.

A range of gang mowers are available for golf course applications. Sport-cutter units, coupled in groups of one, three, five, seven or nine to give a cutting width of up to 20' 6" are for mowing fairways where regular cutting is practised and a good finish essential.

Magna units, available in the same widths, are for cutting the rougher areas. Hydraulic Power 5/7 Gang Mk. 2

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**RANSOMES Hydraulic 5/7 Power Gang Mark II—becoming increasingly popular on the golf course.**

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will cut up to ten acres per hour at 7 m.p.h. With full hydraulic power there is no need to wait for good weather for gang mowing.

All the cutting units are driven by hydraulic power, with forward and reverse drive, and hydraulic power lifts in the unit in and out of work. This machine is becoming increasingly popular on the golf course, both in Britain and the U.S.A. as its advantages and benefits become better known.

Ransomes markets the Ransomes-Hahn range of golf course equipment. The Tournament Triplex greens management system is well established in Britain with over 400 machines in operation with golf clubs of all sizes. The one man machine gives 67" of cutting width with special greens reels, tee reels, verticut reels and vibra spikers. Brushes and combs and a useful gravity-dump trailer complete the range of accessories for the machine which has become known as a time and money

saver, while maintaining the highest possible standards of greens management.

Ransomes-Hahn also offers a range of turf maintenance machinery. The TM80 and 140 Aerifiers are ideally suited to the turf maintenance requirements of fairways. Designed for mounting on tractors with standard three point linkage, either model can be fitted with a choice of tines to aerify, spike or slice, to improve root structure and drainage and help fine turf withstand the rigours of year round play.

The PD-2 Power Drag is a unique self-propelled three-gang drag unit for fast matting of golf greens. The range also includes pedestrian operated self-propelled vertifiers, aerifiers and verticutters for the fine turf areas of the golf course.

Finally Ransomes offers a range of golf course accessories, manufactured in Scotland, the home of golf, and sup-

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plied by Ransomes Grass Machinery (Scotland) Ltd.

Ransomes is a large company, employing some 3,000 people in the U.K. and making a wide range of farm machinery and electric industrial trucks in addition to its annual £7 million turnover in grass machinery.

Because its resources are large it can offer sales and service facilities second to none. A national network of distributors staffed by personnel who have received product and service training at the company's Ipswich headquarters offer totally reliable sales advice and after-sales service, including a comprehensive spare parts facility.

Training courses are also held at Ipswich, in a purpose-built conference block, for operators of Ransomes equipment. These courses enable the operator to fully understand, and so get the best out of sophisticated machines like the Tournament Triplex, enabling him

to achieve optimum performance, allowing effective maintenance to be done at the golf club, cutting maintenance costs and delays.

The grass machinery marketing division is headed by executive director Phil Johnson. General marketing manager Guy Catchpole is assisted by sales manager John Wilson, and recently appointed marketing manager Brian Kitchener who controls the service departments.

Under John Wilson, four area managers act as the link between the company and its distributors. They are Bill Beveridge, Scotland; Glyn Vaughn, North of England and North Wales; Bill Payne, West of England, South Wales and the Midlands; and Ted Reilly, Southern and South East England.

These men are all keen golfers who understand the special requirements and problems of the greenkeeper. They are not only well known to B.G.G.A. members as Ransomes but also for their support of regional B.G.G.A. activities.

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