

IN EARLIER ISSUES we announced a scheme, sponsored by Ransomes, inviting articles from members of the Association on certain subjects pertinent to the good running of a golf course.

The six subjects selected were:

1. Advantages or Disadvantages of the use of winter greens.
2. The need and advantages of auri-fying fairways.
3. Bunker renovation.
4. Reducing the fertiliser bill by extending some roughs and carries.

5. Raising the standard of the tee areas to that of the approaches.
6. Are triple greens mowers bringing signs of extra wear on greens as forecast when they were introduced to the world golf market. Have you found any additional programme has been necessary to combat any ill effects they may have created?

The first winning entry, which will earn the author £10 was submitted by Mr. A. Price of Carmarthen G.C. and deals with subject number six. We publish Mr. Price's article below.

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## EFFECT OF TRIPLE GREENS MOWERS

THIS IS MY 4th year of Ransome Hahn Greens Maintenance and contrary to the forecasts of doom by alleged experts that the weight of the machine, the treaded steering wheels, the wide bald driving wheels, and the 67" cut would be detrimental to the upkeep of fine putting surfaces.

My greens have never been in better condition, as regards grass content, grass coverage, freedom from thatch, rapid drainage and true putting surfaces.

This can be verified by Dr. Stewart of Aberystwyth University who paid the course a visit a fortnight ago to test random spots on selected greens for root depth, thatch and top dressing penetration.

The Ransome Hahn Triplex as all Greenkeepers know can be used for scarifying (Verticut Reels), aerating (Vibro Spiker Reels). And if the reels are used judiciously and intelligently by experienced Greenkeepers who understand their particular greens requirements taking into consideration

grass species and severity of thatch good results can be anticipated.

My methods are these, in March or April according to when growth commences, I set the Verticuts at "zero" (level with bottom of front and rear rollers) and cut all greens transversely. This may seem drastic treatment judging by the amount of material removed and bare appearance of the greens, but opens up the surface preparatory to Fertiliser treatment (Chipmans S.T.F.M.C.A. No. 1) and immediate top dressing of Top soil, sand and peat passed through an 1/8" screen at a rate of 2lbs. per sq. yd. applied by the old 36" Sisis with brush attachment. Monthly for April, May and June I reset the Verticuts to 1/8" (1/16" lower than the greens reels) and verticut in two directions. This July my greens reels are up to 5/16" and my verticuts are set at 1/4" (due to drought conditions).

I also "Vibro Spike" monthly, but personally would like to see them penetrate a little deeper. To compen-

sate for this I use the Patisson Aerator fitted with the "Root Pruning" tines prior to the 5 weekly cycle of Top Dressing and "Fertiliser" treatment. All greens are hollow tined in October, Top Dressed 4 lbs. sq. yd. Carmarthen G.C. has no water laid on for the greens, and after one of the hottest and driest periods for decades, the greens are excellent apart from the old hole sites of the past 3 weeks.

In my opinion the deterioration of top class greens over the past 10 years is not due to the Multicut mower as Gary Player calls them and which Brian Barnes blames. It is caused by the much abused Pop Up sprinkler and water systems, in other words greens are being over watered and grass species are being adversely affected as regards quality and texture.

To put it bluntly the deterioration of the Greens on the top courses can be "blamed" directly on the "Tournament Professionals" and the "Green Committees" who have pampered and pandered to the "Professionals" (Gary Player, Brian Barnes) to name only two of thousands of Pros. and given them greens resembling puddings so that they measure the distance of ball to flag, select the

correct iron and drop and stop the ball dead on the spot and mark their little white cards.

Golf was intended to include the skill of estimating distance, the art of running the ball up to the green, and above all man to man match play.

Perhaps I should add that I've no experience of the "Toro", "Jacobsen" or any of the other Triplex Mowers which would probably be capable of maintaining the greens almost as well as the "Ransome Hahn Triplex".

*Subject No. 5*

*Raising Tee Standards to that of Approaches*

This seems to me to be begging a question. My Tees and Approaches are cut at 5/16" with the Ransome Hahn Utility Reels. Tees fertilized at half the rate of the Greens. Top Dressed at twice the rate with a sandier compost. Slit tined with the Greens and Verticut. Surrounds and Approaches of Greens the same treatment as Greens.

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