

MOORTOWN TO BUILD NEW HOLES

Moortown Golf Club, the course which has staged the first tournament of the season - The Car Care - for the past two years, has been granted planning permission to construct two new fairways, tees and greens, in scrub type woodland within the boundaries of the course.

Because of the growth of housing surrounding the course, mishit shots have become a potential danger to residents, particularly at the par three, 12th hole, where a serious accident was averted by inches when a ball off the tee went through the open window of a parked car. As a result the club moved the tee forward shortening the hole by 40 yards to a mere pitch and putt.

Earlier plans to lay out two new holes at the Championship Moortown Golf Club, venue of the Car Care Tournament, were deferred by the Planning Committee of Leeds City Council, because the scheme would involve clearing a number of trees bordering the course.

A report from the City Council Planning Committee said the ecological advisory unit had been consulted on the value of the woodland and their report stated the basin peat deposit at Alwoodley Moss was the only known example in West Yorkshire. The woodland was said to be of moderate value but was important in aesthetic and landscape terms and provided a local wildlife habitat.

The Committee Chairman Councillor Nanette Sloan said she could not see any circumstances in which anyone would be allowed to clear a large number of trees without first having some idea of a replanting scheme.

Moortown hosted the Ryder Cup in 1929 when Britain won by six matches to four under the captaincy of George Duncan. The pictures of that event on the walls of the nineteenth show Moortown as a golf course almost without trees - in fact a moorland course. The trees, mainly self-seeded birch and hawthorn have grown because of the shelter given by the encroaching houses.

Moortown adjoined two other famous courses, Moor Allerton and Sandmoor.

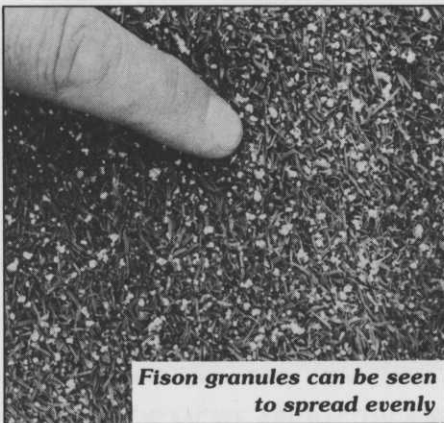
Moor Allerton sold their entire course some fifteen years ago for housing, and Sandmoor their opening holes. Because of the danger of stray balls near to the adjacent houses the club have decided to develop the two new holes, to maintain Moortown as one of the leading Championship courses in the north.

Work will start immediately to plans drawn up by Donald Steel of Cotton, Pennink, Steel and Partners and it is hoped to have the new holes playable in 1987.



Pictured on a golf course fairway is Ransomes new Mounted 214 Verticut which has a working width of 7ft. and is suitable for use with tractors of 40hp and above.

Fisons have also marketed a new range of turf nutrition entitled the Greensmaster range using a new process which incorporates vermiculite as a density adjuster. The granules are of a size and colour that makes mechanical spreading easier and can be seen on the turf before absorption begins. Fisons made their announcement at Wentworth where the greens have been fertilised to reach peak condition for the Suntory World Matchplay Tournament.



Fison granules can be seen to spread evenly

SAI Horticulture, part of Scottish Agriculture Industries a subsidiary of ICI also announced a massive expansion with a packing and production plant to be centred at Howden in Yorkshire. This Edinburgh company have set their sights on a significant share of the England and Wales turf fertiliser market with their range of Longlife products. Five fertilisers contain a new ingredient - Didin, developed to regulate the availability of nitrogen to the turf. There is no flush of growth as nitrogen is taken up by the grasses, but the improved colour and growth response is achieved over several months.

Ransomes stand was again one of the most spectacular and a central meeting place for greenkeepers. New equipment included the seven unit hydraulic 465TG for golf courses with a cutting width of over 15ft. Designed for the club with large fairways there are many greenkeepers who would have liked this machine on the course this summer. The company also exhibited a new Verticut 214 suitable for a use with a 40hp tractor and above. The machine has a working width of 7ft. which by cutting the lateral surface growth and controlling the build up of thatch, the younger grasses can become more vigorous.

The tractor stands created considerable interest particularly the compacts of Lely Iseki, Kubota, Ford, Massey Ferguson, Yamaha and Hinimoto.

Two items that caught the editor's eye as simple but very practical were a swivel for attaching the green's flag to the pole so that the flag did not wrap itself around the pin in windy weather or tear when constantly handled by golfers as they removed the stick for putting. The bright idea came from Patissons and is likely to be on sale later in an improved form.

A great idea for protecting young seedling trees was seen on the Union Hall Nursery stand. The tree is planted inside a 4ft corrugated polypropylene square tube with the base just below the soil surface. The tree is forced towards the light and branches as it emerges. Damage from rabbits and golfers is avoided and in tests conducted by the Forestry Commission growth rates increased six fold, stems thickened considerably and trees of eight inches high at planting established quickly avoiding the additional costs of whips.