

on each piece of equipment before they operate it. The head mechanic is responsible for training the equipment operator to properly check all oil and fluid levels, along with the correct starting and

transporting procedures. The assistant superintendent is then responsible for teaching the safe operation of the machine out on the course. He is with the equipment hands-on to ensure that the

job is done correctly. He then follows the equipment operator out onto the course to show him/her the correct mowing procedure.

Is It Maintenance Or Repair?

BY ROY WILSHIRE, CGCS

Grasslands Golf and Country Club

Most of our budgets have a line item called M&R Equipment. The question is, which of those two letters do we rely upon the most — M or R? At the Grasslands, we are trying to use the M for maintenance more than R for repair. We are accomplishing this only after more than three years of adjusting schedules and simplifying our equipment purchases to best match the equipment that is already here. In simplifying our equipment, we are purchasing more items with the same engines, similar hydraulic sys-

tems and equipment that has proven itself in the field. In utilizing this system, we are reducing the need for unnecessary parts inventory, which is time consuming to count and reorder when needed, thus putting the labor time in the shop versus out of the shop. We are also finding that there are less in-the-field repairs now than in previous years.

This system is working because the shop foreman and his assistant are more able to schedule their work, rather than take the next one in line. And if something does go down repairs are more easily taken care of. Let's not fool ourselves! We still have our days when it's, "Take the next number, and we'll be with you in a minute." In addition to operating under less stress, it allows the em-

ployee in the shop more time to educate himself by reading the articles in the trade magazine and attending seminars. I'm very fortunate in having a very skilled shop foreman with a good background (thanks, Bobby Ellis.). His persistence, my willingness to allow him to establish the programs and utilize a computer program for equipment are paying great dividends for us at the Grasslands.

So, do you replace the grease zerk or the bearing? Change belts in the shop when they're cracked or after their broken in the field? These are just a couple of examples of how maintenance versus repair can assist you in being more productive and cost effective. And once it's in effect, you'll find that it's much easier to use the M rather than the R.

Non-Stop Mechanics - Better than an apple a day!

BY CHUCK GAST, CGCS

Superintendent

AND BILL ELLMAN

*Chief Mechanic
Jupiter Hills C.C.*

Key components of a successful golf course operation involve careful coordination of a myriad of programs relating to cultivation, fertilization, irrigation, regulation and all other sorts of "-ations." However, even with all these aspects in their proper place, basic, yet technical turfgrass mowing operations are the core of a sound golf course maintenance operation for quality playing conditions.

Just as important as having the appropriate equipment to complete specific turfgrass mowing operations, proper equipment maintenance on a routine

basis is essential to maintain desired mowing quality with optimum efficiency. To help us in achieving this goal at the 36-hole Jupiter Hills Club our staff has worked to establish a mechanics program with specific duties and responsibilities to each of three mechanics. We have incorporated rotational scheduling to ensure a mechanic is on duty no less than eight hours a day, seven days a week.

The mechanics staff at Jupiter Hills consists of a chief mechanic and two assistant mechanics, each with specific areas of responsibility. The chief mechanic oversees all operations in the shop area including maintaining parts inventory and prioritizing specific equipment maintenance relative to scheduled golf course operations. Correcting emergency breakdowns and general troubleshooting of less-than-cooperative equipment is also the responsibility of the chief mechanic. Primarily the chief mechanic maintains a work schedule of Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., while also

filling in on weekends depending on workload and assistant mechanics' scheduling.

As for the two assistant mechanics, one is primarily responsible for routine daily maintenance that involves a thorough check of all greens mowers following each mowing operation. Roller performance, motor and clutch operation, and reel-to-bedknife adjustments are maintained on all greens mowers on a daily basis. Attention to tires, batteries, fluid levels and servicing of air filters, as well as other aspects of daily maintenance of various other equipment is also handled by this assistant mechanic.

The workweek of this mechanic is generally Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. With the majority of the maintenance crew clocking out daily at 3:00 p.m., the extra hour at the end of the day allows this mechanic the opportunity to check out all equipment and perform all necessary set-up procedures for the following day as necessary.