

TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

Help the Greenkeeper!

One of the big firms in horticultural sundries has started a "Help the gardener" scheme which might be worth a trial by some of those supplying equipment to golf courses.

There is an astounding range of spades and forks for example in any comprehensive gardening catalogue and one of them is presumably best for one job and one person. By paying a deposit, a customer can have his choice delivered and try it out under practical conditions.

When it comes to the bigger machines used on golf courses, most firms will arrange a demonstration on the site, and this is a wise precaution whatever is in view. Often the choice will be narrowed down to a firm with which the greenkeeper has dealt for many years. There is much to be said for quick personal service in spares and repairs and old established firms have built up a reputation for reliability which inspires confidence whatever the machine. But who would like to say which is the best of the thirty odd rotary mowers which befuddle the market? And what greenkeeper has time to arrange even a dozen demonstrations? The answer should be a week's trial use after he has narrowed down his choice to the machines that he thinks will give him best service and results. A good machine will sell itself once the experienced handler has made it do the job he wants.

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We have now added another form of transport round a golf course to our collection.

Royal Birkdale's Head Greenkeeper, D. Pate, drove us round in the rain the other day in the armoured car which was bought for the Open Championship last year. This choice had nothing to do with the character of the event but was determined by an attractive price and the fact that it would go anywhere. To judge from the ascents which it took in its stride, it would even go into orbit very willingly.

Other favourites in our collection are:—Bentley—the most comfortable; helicopter—the most noisy; and mule—the most frustrating, especially on dog-legs. Although we have waited patiently by several 'buggies', we have never yet been offered a lift. Meanwhile, our usual and possibly best vehicle is still Shanks' pony.