

GRUBBING BUNKERS

by S. J. PAUL

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IN the past, most greenkeepers and their staff have had the laborious task of keeping bunkers in order by grubbing them by hand. This job is usually done by using draw-back grubbers, a back-aching job taking up a lot of time.

I find that when a man starts in the morning to grub bunkers he does the first few well, but as the day goes on, the work being so laborious, the last few bunkers are not done so well. The result is that before long the whole operation has to start again.

I would like to pass on a tip which saves both time and our backs.

Machines are doing more and more jobs on the course and I can recommend another one called The Rotavator. As you know this machine has been used for years by market gardeners and horticulturists.

There are several types but the one I prefer has its rotavating tines on an extended arm at the front. This type is called the Versatiller Mk. IV. When in use one can grub a bunker in a matter of minutes, and the extended arm enables the operator to do the banks of the bunker with ease. The machine is small and light and can be pulled from bunker to bunker as easily as a caddy car.

If the operation is properly organised two men can comfortably grub and level off with a rake all the bunkers on an 18-hole course in two days. Those who are plagued with weeds in their bunkers will find that regular use of this machine will keep them at bay.

The saving of time and labour makes the Versatiller a good investment for any club.

It can also be put to a few other uses on the course. When relaying a green it can be used to break up the soil below the turf instead of digging by hand and when riddling compost it can be used to break up the compost like a compost-shredder.

SITUATIONS VACANT

ASSISTANT HEAD GREENKEEPER. Applications are invited for the above position. Age preferred 25/30. Living accommodation available on Club premises. The successful applicant must be able to furnish two satisfactory references as to health and ability. Apply in writing, stating salary required, to The Secretary, Ifield Golf and Country Club, Crawley, Sussex.

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER required at Purley Downs Golf Club, 106 Purley Downs Road, Purley. £15-£17 per week, according to experience. Apply: G. Watt, Head Greenkeeper. Tel. 01-756 8347.

HEAD GREENKEEPER REQUIRED. Experienced in all aspects of course work and machinery. Salary up to £1,000 per annum. Apply to: The Secretary, Lytham Green Drive Golf Club, Ltd., Ballam Road, Lytham St Annes, Lancs.

GREENKEEPER REQUIRED FOR Harpenden Common Golf Club. Good wages in accordance with experience. Accommodation provided for first-class man. Apply to Secretary. Telephone: Harpenden 2856.

FOR HIRE

AVAILABLE FOR HIRE, WITH or without operator, Ryan turf cutters, Ryan Ren-O-Thin rotorakes, Ryan Greensaire aerators, Sisis heavy-duty spikers, Howard rotavators, excavating and drainage machinery. Coswells, Agricultural and Sportsground Contractors, Crosston Road, Farington, Leyland, Lancs. Telephone: Leyland 21243.

EDITOR MOWING—

My moss is now ready for a top over and I have been down to the stable to see my old favourites.

There is a piece out of the cover of the Flymo and I doubt whether the engine will do for another season. Rotary mowers have to rev so hard. I shall go on to the professional model because this machine is still ideal for sliding under shrubs, and cleaning up round paving stones sunk in the lawn.

The Victa Consul 2 will certainly do another year. I like the air-intake up on the handle out of dust's way, and the

general air of sound engineering. In Australia, where it comes from, most ironmongers have spare parts for it in plastic bags hanging on a display stand. I expect to get two seasons at least before I have to think about an overhaul and I ask and get a lot from it.

The Toro "21" Greensmaster is rather noisy for the garden though the visible oil reserve and plug for washing out the grass hood with the hose are useful for the amateur. Getting rid of the cut grass is the important thing for rotaries.

The Ransomes Antelope gives my moss about as good a "polish" as I am ever likely to need, cuts short or longish, wet or dry, and the blades on its cylinder never seem to mind the odd stone. I also prefer it for mowing fir cones because it stops turning. The rotaries whang them out in all directions and can be painful.

Incidentally do not study the sort of rotary mowing advertising which shows a young lady in sandals operating the machine with a delicate touch. She should be wearing boots with steel toe-caps if she values her toes more than her appearance.

Another season of piling back the cuttings, shaving, and similar abuses should reduce the grass to the stage where I can master it with an occasional snip with the scissors. Until then, grease up, fill up, wind up and let's hope the boys will be home for the week-ends to do the job for me.



FOR HIRE

SISIS AUTOTURFMAN Aerator for hire, £25 per week — Do it yourself. J. B. Burnell, 2 Clarence Road, Eaglescliffe, Stockton on Tees.
