



FIRST INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS & SUPERINTENDENTS TOURNAMENT

| TEAM | 1 ST ROUND | | 2 ND ROUND | | TOTAL POINTS SCORED | POSITION |
|------------|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------|
| | HOLE | POINTS SCORED | HOLE | POINTS SCORED | | |
| CANADA | 12 | 14 | 11 | 11 | 36 | 2 |
| IRE | 12 | 11 | 11 | 42 | 81 | 4 |
| ENGLAND | 16 | 19 | 16 | 41 | 72 | 5 |
| EUROPE | 13 | 13 | 16 | 37 | 75 | 7 |
| N. IRELAND | 16 | 11 | 11 | 41 | 79 | 6 |
| SCOTLAND | 13 | 11 | 11 | 49 | 86 | 1 |
| U.S.A. | 16 | 18 | 11 | 46 | 81 | 3 |
| WALES | 15 | 17 | 11 | 30 | 76 | 8 |



INTRODUCTION TO AUTOMATIC WATERING

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Watermation

It is reputed that an expert on the care and maintenance of sports turf, when asked the question "How do you make grass grow?" replied, "wet it?". Appreciating that there are other factors governing the growing of grass, let us consider the need for water. It is a fact that to survive, any crop requires water in varying degrees in order that it may feed.

Accepting therefore that water is required, and on highly cultivated areas in quantities greater than those obtained from natural rainfall, there exists a need to water artificially.

Why therefore automatic watering?

To consider the advantages it is necessary to appreciate the water requirements of the area to be watered. These requirements will not only be dependent upon the nature of the soil but also on the climatic conditions which vary day to day as well as the natural contours of the ground.

How much ?

Taking these factors into account the amount of water to be applied weekly to maintain an average root depth of 9" on a golf green can vary from as much as 1" on a light sandy soil in a moderate climate to as little as $\frac{1}{2}$ " or less on a heavy soil. In hot climates these figures are increased whilst in a cold climate they decrease. Whilst charts are available in differing forms which will act as a guide, these do not take into account the construc-

tion of the area to be irrigated, i.e. drainage arrangements, and thus to a greater or lesser extent the precipitation required is a matter of trial and error. Taking all these factors into account and bearing in mind that each green may have a different drainage factor it is only with experience that the Greenkeeper will know how much water has to be applied to any particular green.

Having established that the application of water is a fairly precise exercise let us consider the alternatives to automatic watering.

Manual problems

Assuming water mains have been laid to each green, watering is accomplished by either portable sprinklers or by a man with a hose spraying the area almost ad lib. Taking the former, these are usually of the single or twin nozzle impact type and due to their relatively poor performance require moving two or more times in order to cover the whole area. Due to the increase in the popularity of golf, courses are now heavily played which of course means that when a golfer approaches a green that is being watered and the sprinkler is unattended, he will either move the sprinkler so that it does not interfere with his game, or turn it off altogether. More often than not on leaving the green the golfer forgets to replace or turn the sprinkler on again

Two Firsts in 1973

*Ransomes International Golf Tournament and the B.G.G.A.
First British Turfgrass Symposium.*

*Our pictures recall some of the highlights and personalities of these two
important events at Ipswich last October.*