

The British Golf Greenkeeper



No. 370

March 1976 15p

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The British Golf Greenkeeper

CONTENTS

	Page
A TRIP TO LUXEMBOURG	5
EAST MIDLANDS SECTION VISIT TO RANSOMES	7
AUTOMATIC WATERING	9
WHAT ABOUT WOMANPOWER	11
REPORT ON THE STANDING CONFERENCE FOR GOLF GREENKEEPING	15
DIARY DATES	15
NEWS	17
SECTION NEWS	21

Front Cover Picture

This month's front cover depicts the Burford Bridge Hotel at Dorking, Surrey, site for this year's BGGGA Symposium to be held on Tuesday 7th October. Further details will be announced later but meanwhile make a note in your diary. This is *your* symposium and needs *your* support.

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A Trip to Luxembourg

R. TEMPEST
TREASURE, SOUTHERN SECTION
B.G.G.A.

MORRIS Owen is quite well known within the Southern Section, having served a few years as Head Greenkeeper at Roehampton Country Club.

Almost a year ago now, he and his family moved to the Luxembourg Golf and Country Club. At the time it probably seemed like a precarious venture, but I am sure Morris will be the first to admit it was a shrewd move.

Hence, this July, I had a kind invitation to go and play in the Luxembourg Open. I decided to take my car, therefore being more mobile and with a possible chance of doing some sight-seeing. In six short hours from Calais, I had drove the 320 miles. On arriving at the club, I was suitably impressed with the majestic Club House, but rather less impressed with the unofficial traffic warden who happened to be Morris stripped to the waist directing traffic into the club car park.

After a very hearty greeting, he slipped on his shirt and said "Let's get down to business". Seated in the bar I got a rather splendid view of the 18th hole. The whole of the course is magnificently lined with Pine trees and Silver Birch. Even though at the time the temperature was over 90 degrees, the fairways and greens looked very lush indeed.

The reception we received in the Club House can only be described as very warm. There were golfers of all nationalities but everybody seemed, I must say, extremely friendly.

Finishing up the meal we had just eaten. Morris said he would show us around the course and machine sheds. It was rather more than I bargained for. On opening up the shed door, there

stood two Renault cars, one of which seemed almost new. (For running about the course, Morris declared). It took about ¾ hour to get round.

Like most courses if you hit the ball straight you will be O.K., but if you went off line there was no way out of the trees. Discussing improvements which he had made on the course and those that were going to be made, left one with the impression that when it reaches its full potential it will be one of the best clubs in Europe.

The following day we had a practice round and made up a four ball and one of the chaps was a South African Seniors Champion, who had the cheek to keep apologising for hitting the ball 250 yards down the middle. He put together a very fine round to finish on a one under par seventy. Needless to say, if this is what I was going to be up against, I hoped the food was good.

So with this lesson in golf, we were now ready for the main event, Morris who at that time was moaning about knocking the ball round in level par (he doesn't change).

The draw in the first round turned out rather unfortunate, as I was going to play their new Club Champion. Morris also came up against a very good golfer, which he sorted out five and four. Nothing to report on my game (only the food was good). Now that I had time to relax I had a chance to see some of the lovely vineyards that divide Luxembourg from Germany.

Meanwhile, back on the ranch, Morris had come up against a German International who was about to relieve him of his pension three and two, but I must say he did the B.G.G.A. proud.

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I was also very impressed with the way he was treated within the club. They had a very high regard for the immense improvement the course had shown in the short while he had been there, and consequently they showed their appreciation in £. s. d. (Francs).

Morris had some photographs of the course on his arrival. The fairways couldn't be seen for worm casts and also the greens looked as if they had been cut with gang mowers because of a lack of any Greenkeeping knowledge. Needless to say these things were put right almost immediately by Morris.

In a very short while I was driving through France on my way home again, but hadn't come back completely empty handed, because along with the presents I was fetching back I also had an invitation to pass on to the B.G.G.A. that if enough people were interested the Club would be available for a tournament, to take the line of either an ordinary Greenkeeper's Tournament or of a match against the Luxembourg Club. Note: If anybody is interested in this venture, please contact me and we will see what can be done.

Back on the Greenkeeping side, to

give you some idea of the comprehensive list of equipment Morris has at his disposal.

1 Ransomes Hahn with attachments;
1 Cushman with spikes, top spreader, sprayer, drag mat; 1 Greensaire; 1 Turf cutter; 1 Ryan Greensweep; 1 Ryan Rakemaster; 6 20" Auto certes, 1 Cyclone spreader; 1 Ford 2000 tractor; 1 Ford 3000 tractor with hydraulic loader; 2 Tractors; 2 Sets Ransomes sports gang mowers; 1 Tractor mounted sprayer; 1 Ransomes-Hahn TM-140 Fairway Airiator; 1 Fairway Sweeper; 1 4 Ton trailer (tipping); 2 2 Ton trailers; 1 Parkerette handsweeper; 1 Ransomes Flailmower; 2 Jacobsens flailmower; 1 Junior motor triple; 1 Truckster; 2 Flymo's; 1 Ransomes Commando; 1 Jacobsens Apache; 1 Patterson Riddle; 5 Barrows; 1 Power Saw; 2 Power Hedge trimmers; 1 Fairway Harrow chain; 1 Snowplough. Budget for one year for machinery approx; £4,000.

Finally, I'd like to thank Morris's wife, Joan for looking after us so well and congratulate Morris on winning our annual tournament at Walsall



The party from the East Midlands section of the B.G.G.A. which recently toured Ransomes factory at Ipswich. Mr. Roy Bailey, sales director of Leicester Horticultural Engineering, distributors of Ransomes professional grass machinery, who is president of the Section is second from the right of the picture.

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Automatic Watering

by Walter Heeles

BACK in 1970 at Oakdale Golf Club we were having to come to terms with thorny problems of how to apply sufficient water to the Greens to maintain optimum condition without disrupting our summer work schedule, without disrupting play and without littering the picturesque course with portable sprinklers, hoses etc.

The obvious answer was to instal pop-up sprinklers, but, as with many clubs, the prospect of sudden heavy capital expenditure did not appeal, so it was decided to carry out the work in stages, on a 'do it yourself' basis where possible.

In this, the Club was fortunate in a number of respects—the existing pump and pipe work system could be readily converted for use with pop-ups—they had an enthusiastic and hard working green staff, and a long established firm of irrigation contractors was based in nearby Ripon. This company supplied both technical advice and all necessary materials to the golf club when we installed the manually-operated pop-up sprinklers on one trial green in 1971.

From then, over the next three years, the programme developed with the club purchasing equipment as finance and circumstances allowed, until every green was watered by manually operated pop-ups.

An arrangement was made with the irrigation contractors to hire a mole plough with operators on an hourly basis, which kept everybody happy, and was used to partially instal some of the greens, and to replace some of the existing mains pipe which was not considered suitable.

The final phase was completed, involving the automation of the complete system by installing low voltage cable, electric solenoid valves, control panel, and improving the pump installation a good deal of which was again done with the benefit of advice as needed from the Ripon.

The resulting automatic system has brought the club fully up to date in terms of greens watering, and has proved a useful exercise in co-operation between contractor and client, good relations having been happily maintained, despite occasional problems caused by such factors as rocky conditions on the course. I and my staff have learnt a considerable amount about the practicalities of watering installations and maintenance and (who Knows?) perhaps more of this type of venture will be seen in time to come.

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What about womanpower?

WHAT with the recent legislative ruling on equal opportunities in industry for women, and the labour shortage in our trade, one wonders if there isn't a place on the greenkeeping scene for women.

This is not quite so daft as it might sound for in North America the girls are already making an impression in this very area.

Below are one or two accounts received from that part of the world and indicate that greencraft is not strictly a male preserve.

GLORIA: Fox Lake C.C. Supt. Ray Schei.

Gloria, a nineteen year old high school graduate was looking for outdoor work when she was hired. She is now one of five female crew members at Fox Lake. The girls work forty hours a week including the weekend. If they work Saturday one week then they alternate and work Sunday the next week. Gloria is a full-time year-round employee. In the summer she has sprayed greens, done sodding jobs and shovelled up sand in the bunkers. During the winter she washes the equipment with a hot water pressure cleaner, and has been grinding the bedknives. This past week Gloria attended the Toro Service Clinic held at Itasca C.C. Last summer while wearing a halter neck and short shorts to work in, she was 'propositioned' by a foursome of golfers and has since changed her dress habits. Speaking of dress, during the winter, Gloria dresses up one day a week complete with lipstick, and does secretarial work, payroll, etc. in the office.

MARY BETH: Marriott Inn Resort. Supt. Joseph Grenko.

9 Mary Beth is a college student with a farm background. The Superintendent was attracted to her when she worked as a waitress in the clubhouse. In 1974 Mary Beth operated a nine-gang fairway unit. Joe Grenko's appraisal, 'The best damn tractor driver I've ever seen. No skidding, and no banged up trees.

She was a natural'. For the 1975 season Grenko has hired five girls — so far. They will start Monday, March 17th and work 'year-round'. Joe expects half his crew to be women. The women will be supplied with Marriott uniforms which they must wear. A seven day week prevails and Grenko expects his women to do all the mowing, plus be available for night work making artificial snow, and snow removal jobs in the winter. Grenko is convinced women labour is the direction to look, and prays his 1975 crew will provide more girls like Mary Beth.

CLAUDETTE: Silver Lake G.C. Supt. Dudley Smith.

Claudette is a housewife and mother desiring to supplement the family income, but the idea of outside work 'turned her on'. She is also an ecology nut. Claudette collects mushrooms, berries and asparagus while out mowing. She has a pet crow at home and talks to the squirrels and ducks on the golf course. Claudette can handle any of our mowing jobs and usually does the fungicide applications. She 'begs off' when aquatic weed killers are applied — they harm the fish — or when arsenicals are used for Poa annua control — you are killing the birds. She wears shorts when it's hot but normally it's levis and a purple sweatshirt. The girls have an extra set of clothes in case they are caught in a thundershower. This past season the girls did all the aerifying, verticcutting and cleanup chores on all the greens and tees. Claudette and the other girls steamcleaned the dirty equipment when we dismantled it this winter and they did an excellent job painting the flagpoles, ball washers and tee benches. Women are naturally neater and they don't spill paint.

The women employees at Silver Lake have only worked Spring and Fall. They report in the morning after their children are on the school bus and leave at 3.30 p.m. to resume their motherly

duties. The women do not work on weekends or on school holidays. Since I have adequate schoolboy help during the summer months, the women fill the labour shortage that exists in early Spring and again in the Autumn. Working only six hours a day fits nicely into their home schedule as well. The women eat their sandwiches at the barn with the male employees but usually they are watching their diets and settle

for an apple or a can of beer. They use the same washroom we use but lock themselves in for privacy, they also keep the 'john' much cleaner than we did.

Transcribed from the Foreground: journal of the Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents' Association.

Food for thought gentlemen:
March isn't a bad time of year to review
FUTURE STAFFING REQUIREMENTS.

OUR THANKS TO THE NORTHERN SECTION FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION

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Construction of the new golf course in Washington is due to commence in the late Spring/early Summer of 1976.

The Corporation wishes to recruit an experienced Head Greenkeeper who will be responsible for course upkeep and maintenance once the course construction is complete.

The appointment will, however, be made in the near future to allow the Greenkeeper to act as Course Construction Supervisor and Adviser during the period of course construction.

The construction will be largely undertaken by contractors although certain aspects may be carried out by in-house labour. In the latter event the person appointed will be expected to organise, direct and supervise the work of this small labour force.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced Greenkeepers for the post described.

The salary will be by negotiation.

Generous fringe benefits are available including a free life assurance scheme. Resettlement grants, lodging allowance and assistance with removal expenses are payable in approved cases. Housing accommodation for rent may be available.

Application forms are available from the Administrative Officer, Washington Development Corporation, Usworth Hall, Stephenson, District 12, Washington, Tyne and Wear, NE37 3HS, (Tel: Washington 463591), and should be returned by 25th March, 1976.

W. S. Holley,
General Manager.

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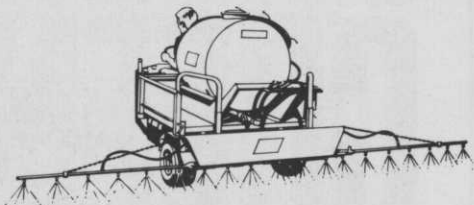


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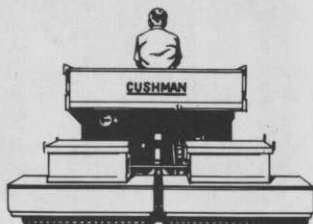
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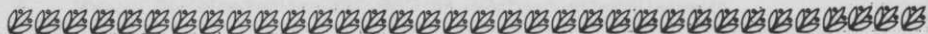
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Hon. Secretary's Report of the Progress of the Standing Conference for Golf Greenkeeping.

The First Annual General Meeting of the Standing Conference for Golf Greenkeeping was held at the Sports Council Offices, 70, Brompton Road, London on December 10th, 1975.

It will be remembered that the Golf Development Council called together the Organisations interested in Golf Greenkeeping problems and following a few meetings The Standing Conference for Golf Greenkeeping was formed.

The following organisations form the Conference:

The English, Scottish, Welsh & Irish Golf Unions.

The British & Scottish Greenkeepers' Association.

The Association of Golf Club Secretaries.

The Golf Development Council.

The Aspects of the Conference were as follows:

(1) To initiate, improve and promote the education and training of Golf Greenkeepers.

(2) To act as a link between bodies having similar aspects.

(3) To collaborate with educational and scientific establishments.

(4) To receive, hold and disperse monies in the pursuit of these objects.

Although the organisation is still in its infancy a considerable amount of progress has been made.

1. Agreement has been reached regarding the training of golf greenkeepers.

2. A Training Co-ordinator has been appointed. We can congratulate ourselves in finding someone with such drive and enthusiasm. Since taking up his appointment in August 1975 he has already covered a great deal of ground, and is now implementing recommendations that have been adopted.

None of the progress made could be possible without the support of the various bodies.

By now the Training Co-ordinator, Mr. G.R. Richards and Mrs. Richards

will be nearing the end of their mammoth task of visiting the Sections to outline the roll of the Standing Conference on the training and education of trainee greenkeepers, and the relationship between the Head Greenkeeper and the Training Colleges that is required if the scheme is going to succeed.

It is in the interest of Greenkeepers that the best of training is given as this should surely lead to a better working knowledge, thus, the ultimate end must be a better status, better conditions and better kept golf courses.

Looking to the future it is hoped that within the next two years the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association will be in the position to carry out the running of this scheme.

DIARY DATES—

Mar. 26	Southern Section Annual Dinner Walton Heath.
Apr. 2	Midland Section Dinner Dance, Elms Hotel, Aldridge.
Apr. 6	Winter Lecture, Alresford G.C. Mr. Jack Roffey.
Apr. 7	Welsh Section, Spring Meeting, Radyr G.C.
Apr. 27	N.W. Section Sisis Tournament, Macclesfield G.C., 12.30.
May 11	Southern Section Spring Tournament, Little Aston G.C.
May 17	N.W. Section. Spring Tournament. 8.15.
June 15	Welsh Section. Summer Meeting, Southerndown G.C.
Aug. 16/ 17/18	Southern Section, Annual Tournament, Walton
Sep. 21	Autumn Meeting. Swansea Bay G.C.
Sep. 22	Southern Section. Autumn Tournament, Berkshire.
Oct. 8	B.G.G.A. International Tournament, Walton Heath.
Oct. 12	Southern Section. Greenkeepers v. Secretaries. West Byfleet.

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NEWS

BGGA GROUP VISITS TORO HQ COMPLEX

THE new headquarters' complex of Toro (U.K.) Sales and Service at Faverdale Industrial Estate, Darlington, held an "at home" in December for 31 members of the North West Section of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association.

It was the first organised visit to the new 25,000 sq. ft. Toro office, workshop, warehouse and assembly headquarters in the United Kingdom.

The visitors were impressed with the workshop facilities and inspected the warehouse area covering more than 19,000 sq. ft. and the assembly area where a wide range of Toro equipment is prepared before delivery to golf course and other institutional and domestic customers.

The day was spent in extended discussion between the visitors and the Toro staff on selection of correct equipment for grasscutting tasks, and operating and maintenance problems.

B.G.G.A. VISIT RANSOMES

RECENT visitors to Ransomes, Ipswich headquarters were a party from the East Midlands section of the British Golf Greenkeepers Association.

The visit included a tour of the factory so that greenkeepers could see the care that goes into the manufacture of Ransomes world famous range of professional grass machinery.

It was arranged through Ransomes Leicestershire distributors, the Leicester Horticultural Engineering Co. Ltd.

Mr. Roy Bailey, Sales Director of L.H.E. is President of the East Midlands section of the B.G.G.A.

NEW ULTRA-STRONG GARDEN HOSE

A NEW ultra-strong garden hose — about eight times stronger than conventional plastic hose — is being supplied by Garden Appliances with its complete range of Melnor Travelling Lawn Sprinklers.

The company has found that the new hose is highly acceptable to groundsmen working in parks, bowling greens, lawn tennis courts, cricket grounds and golf courses.

Another attraction for professional gardeners and park keepers is the lightness and flexibility of the new hosing, which makes it especially easy to handle even at low temperatures — an important requirement when in frequent use.

Called ELLBRAID, the hose is available in 50 ft. to 300 ft. lengths in three bore sizes: ½", ¾" and 1".

Guaranteed for 10 years against faulty manufacture, the hose is made from three layers: high quality PVC inner tube reinforced with high-tensile polyester fibre and then coated on the outside with a transparent PVC so as to resist abrasion. The outer PVC layer is an attractive red for easy site identification.

Garden Appliances Ltd., Thame Park Industrial Estate, Chinnor Road, Thame, Oxon. Tel: 084421 3551.

TWO NEW VICE-PRESIDENTS FOR B.G.G.A.

GUY Catchpole, general marketing manager and John Wilson, sales manager of Ransomes Grass Machinery Division have recently been elected Vice-Presidents of the British Golf Greenkeepers Association.

Both men have been involved in many major projects organised in conjunction with the Association. This has included the first International Golf Greenkeepers and Superintendents Tournament in 1973, which was spon-



Guy Catchpole (left) General Marketing Manager and John Wilson (Sales Manager) Ransomes Grass Machinery division, who have recently been made Vice-Presidents of the B.G.G.A.



B.G.G.A. Group visits Toro H.Q. Complex

sored by Ransomes, and also the First British Turfgrass Symposium.

They are now assisting the executive of the B.G.G.A. with the planning of the Second International Golf Tournament and Turf Symposium, to be held at Walton Heath Golf Club in October, 1976.

The proposed training programme being planned by Mr. & Mrs. G. Richards of the Standing Conference for Golf Greenkeeping is also something in which Ransomes are interesting themselves as a means of providing training for golf club staff on every aspect of greenkeeping and in particular, the maintenance and full utilisation of mechanised equipment.

TORO IRRIGATION

IN a statement issued from Ringwood by Wright Rain Limited, pioneers of large-scale sprinkler irrigation in this country, it is announced that Wright Rain have relinquished their U.K. distributorship of Toro irrigation equipment. Commenting on the decision, Mr. Barney Toulson, Sales Manager said, "The majority of our business has al-

ways been in agricultural irrigation in which our experience is probably second to none. This change will enable us to concentrate all of our efforts into that sector of the market".

The Toro International Sales Company of Riverside, California are, as from January 1st this year, marketing and distributing their irrigation equipment from a base in Southern England.

Speaking of the change, Mr. Philip York, European Sales Manager, Toro said, "Although we are assuming the responsibilities for marketing our own products which are designed primarily for irrigating golf courses, sports grounds including all weather pitches, parkland and large gardens, we shall continue to sell through the existing dealer-installer network established under Wright Rain".

The network comprises Wright Rain Limited (Swainsthorpe branch) near Norwich, Pipecraft Limited of Cambridge, J. Wallis-Titt and Company Limited, Warminster, Wilts., E.A. Yates & Sons (Sandbach) Limited, Wakefield and J.R. Stutt Limited, Paisley, Scotland. Toro's U.K. office address is P.O. Box 2, Ringwood, Hampshire.

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required for

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CHAMPIONSHIP LINKS, 36 HOLES WITH
A 9-HOLE PITCH & PUTT COURSE

Suitable Management & Technical
abilities will be rewarded with excellent
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modern bungalow, free of rent and
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PORTRUSH, CO. ANTRIM, NORTHERN IRELAND



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The Ransomes-Hahn Tournament Triplex is a remarkable machine — so remarkable that we call it the world's first Greens Management System. The Tournament Triplex is a 12hp vehicle with hydrostatic drive, which powers four separate turf maintaining operations. Each conversion, from superb greensmowing to utility mowing, to Verti-Cutting, to spiking takes less than a minute — and no spanner! **Greens Units** A full 67" cut. Each 23", nine-bladed cylinder can be lifted individually.

Utility Units Heavy-duty cutting cylinders and bottom blades for approach and tee mowing. Grass catchers provided with all units.

Verti-cut Units Patented twin offset blades remove 'thatch', keep greens

in play even in difficult conditions.

Vibra-Spiker Now spiking takes even less time than greensmowing. High-frequency vibration penetrates to a depth of 1½" with a minimum of compaction. The combination of this unique quick-change unit feature, full 67" swath for every operation, variable-speed units and individual unit lifts make the Tournament Triplex an investment which no club can ignore. Your local Distributor is keen to impress you with a demonstration. Give him a call.

See your Ransomes Distributor or write direct to:
Ransomes Sims & Jefferies Ltd., Ipswich

Ransomes-Hahn Tournament Triplex

Buy or ask for Leasing details





SECTION NEWS

A nationwide round-up of news from the branches

Northern Section

Chairman:

J. SCOTT

Wetherby Golf Club

Hon. Secretary:

W. HEELES

7 Tentergate Close,
Knaresborough, Yorks.

Tel: K'boro 3851

A DRY March and a dry May portend a wholesome summer if there be a showery April between.

Change of Address

A letter recently received tells us that Mr. Stanley Smith now lives at 133 Moorside Gardens, Ovender, Halifax.

Mr. Smith, a former Head Greenkeeper of Alwoodley Golf Club, retired several years ago and by custom is a NORTHERN SECTION Life Member.

The big one

The biggest one-day pro-am event in the U.K. this year will be the Jimmy Tarbuck Classic.

Moor Allerton G.C., Leeds will be the venue and the purse will be a cool ten grand.

Provincial News

Entries for this year's Open at Royal Birkdale are expected to be at record levels; this is even in the face of a 20 per cent increase in the registration fee.

The R. & A. are ready to cope with this. Four courses — Southport and Ainsdale, West Lancashire, Hesketh and Hillside will be used for the qualifying rounds. Should the number of entries 600, at least one other qualifying competition will be held ahead of those already planned.

Green side up!

Congratulations to Adrian Robertshaw and his team on their successful completion of Ilkley's new fifth green.

Built to a specification conforming to modern-day thinking, construction took place during a spell which was reported to have been the driest month period on record for 120 years, in that area.

No sooner had the finishing touches been made than the River Wharfe, notorious for rising quickly, burst its banks in parts and altered the complexion of one of the green's remodelled bunkers.

Mr. Robertshaw kept a careful record of all man-hours spent on this project and would be willing to assist any greenkeeper attempting to estimate for similar work.

It's a date

Dates which could be considered interesting during 1976 include the 21st International Drainage Event, scheduled for May 13th. This will be staged at Rectory Farm, Marston Trussell, near Market Harborough. On show will be equipment of all description concerned with drainage, ditching and hedging.

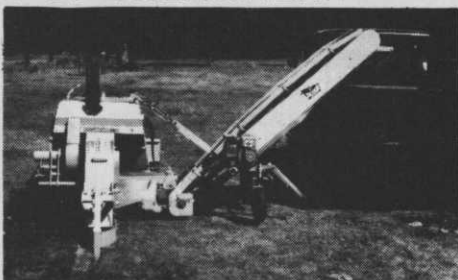
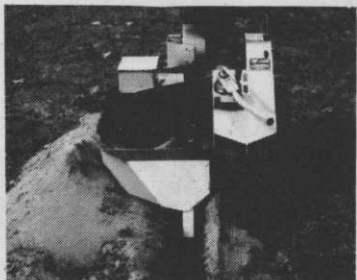
Then there's the Yorkshire Show at Harrogate, July 13th — 15th.

In September from the 7th to the 9th, the Institute of Groundsmanship holds its 31st International Exhibition at Motspur Park, New Malden, Surrey. If you have not yet been to this spectacle of colour and technical innovation, think about it; interest your club: get your chairman to go with you.

Cab happy

An important point worth taking

DRAIN or IRRIGATE WITH A SCOOP TRENCHER



Whether draining or irrigating your costs and reinstatement must be kept to a minimum.

Because our machines are simple to operate and leave grassed areas virtually undamaged they are popular with clubs who like to D.I.Y.

Special soil conveyors and sand slitting booms are available for both our rubber tyred and tracked machines. We also operate a Self Drive Hire Scheme throughout the country.

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notice of is the fact that by September 1st, 1977, all tractors must be fitted with approved safety cabs or frames. This means that tractors supplied before September 1st, 1970, not yet having a cab or frame fitted should be equipped before 1977.

From June 1st 1976 all new tractors must be fitted with a so-called Q-cab. Q stand for quiet and means that the in-cab noise should conform to a level not higher than 90 decibels.

Noise can easily damage the sensitive human ear. It is said that to be subjected to 105 dBA for fifteen minutes daily can permanently affect hearing. No doubt most of you do have ear muffs or ear plugs. If not seriously consider investing. Write to the secretary for further details if in doubt.

Those dates again:

September 1st 1970 — All new tractors supplied after this date had to be fitted with an approved safety cab.

From June 1st 1976 — All new tractors must have a Q-cab with an in-cab noise rating not exceeding 90 dBA.

September 1st 1977 — is the deadline by which all tractors must have some sort of approved safety cab or roll-bar fitted.

Prices for these items range from about £100 for a basic roll-bar to around £800 for a Q-cab. Of course tinted glass and quadro-sound would run a little extra still!

Down the wheeltappers!

A topic rarely touched on in these pages is the activities of, and time given up by members of your committee.

Although the job of a Northern Section Committee Man could hardly be described as onerous, it is nevertheless demanding to the point that decisions must be made with other people in mind.

During 1975 Committee members met a total of eight times to discuss and process Section business.

A committee such as this should not be regarded as a closed-shop. All members should be aware that they are free to put forward ideas which they think

would be of benefit to the majority.

While you lot have been up to your eyes in drains or slogging behind dumb machines one chap at least has been enjoying himself.

Richard Dodd, a Northern Section Honorary Vice President, has recently been to far-off Tobago, an island in the Caribbean. Richard is golfing correspondent for a leading Yorkshire newspaper and in the line of duty accompanied nearly 90 amateurs plus a line-up of international tournament professionals to take part in the fourth annual Mount Irvine Bay Hotel Pro-Am.

In an 18-hole pro-am on January 14th, Richard partnered Peter Latchmansingh of Trinidad, and finished second to Scotland's John McTear, Curtis Cup player Julia Greenhalgh, and two other amateurs. The big 54 hole pro-am in which Martin Foster of Bradford was Richard's partner ended less spectacularly. They said it was the

A lot is said about Northerners being backwards at coming forwards. Amongst Northern Section members we have golfers, philosophers, journalists, ornithologists, antiquarists, even green-keepers. To this impressive list of disciplines must now be added that of inventor.

To our notice comes the news that Mr. Alan Mountain of that well-known Yorkshire firm, William Mountain and Son, has turned his hand to making machinery.

So far in existence is a motorised rotary sifter and an adjustable angle-dozer for use currently on a Hayter Condor.

The rotary riddle is likely to be of use to golf and sports clubs and horticulturists because of its design and size. No price details are yet available.

Mounted on a welded square-section steel frame the sieve resembles a concrete-mixer drum. Material requiring grading is put in through the front loading hole. The fines fall through the mesh on to the floor, or into a barrow. Stones and trash etc. are removed through a door in the low rear part of the drum when it is not in motion.

Fertilisers, Grass Seeds, Dressings,
Weedkillers, Maintenance
Equipment etc.

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Golf Courses,
Sports Grounds,
Parks Dept. amenity areas.

For many years this space has been reserved for an advertisement by R. C. CRAIG, & CO. LTD.

PATISSONS are proud to announce that David Craig has agreed to join their marketing enterprise, from January in the new year. David will be one of a team of specialists covering the whole of England, Scotland and Wales.

David Craig, who is a Vice President of the British Golf Green Keepers Association has for many years been well known to Green Keepers and Club secretaries in the South, is a valuable asset to Patissons, he will be able to offer that little extra "Ground" knowledge when promoting our wide range of equipment.

Patissons are once again leading the field, by offering personal service—from a specialist—with immediate delivery of many items straight from the companies vehicle.

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Brentwood, Essex
Telephone: Brentwood 216107

The machine looks as though it could fill a gap between hand riddling, or sc screening, and the more expensive types of rotary sifter, thus making one-man operation more practicable.

Powered either by a 4 HP, 4-stroke petrol engine, or optional electric motor the transmission from power unit to drum is by way of vee belt. Three mesh sizes are available; 5, 6 and 10 mm.

Already the machine has been tried by several clubs in the district, including Strensall, York; Bradford and West Bowling.

Donald Roberts, Head Greenkeeper at West Bowling Golf Club states that it is "A very good machine if used correctly". "Can easily be used by one man".

For further details write to:

W. Mountain & Son Ltd.,
Jackson Lane Works,
Bank Avenue,
Morley, Leeds, LS27 9JE.

We learn that a honorary member Mr. J.R. Escritt, M.Sc., Director of the Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, has recently had a spell in hospital. Reports on Mr. Escritt's condition are favourable and indicate that little time will be lost before he resumes work.

Kindest regards to you Mr. Escritt from the Northern Section. We hope that your treatment has been successful and that your progress will be sustained. The mystery of what goes into compiling your weather forecast was revealed at Moor Allerton G.C., 29:1:76, 8.00 p.m. Thirty five members listened to Mr. Tyldesley, from Harrogate, a Meteorological Officer attached to the Ministry of Agriculture explain in expert fashion how weather data is obtained and collated for use by growers, mariners, aviators, and of course Burt Ford and Co.

The whole process is universal. Those charts you see with lines, numbers and symbols on are the product of information received from observers, balloons, aeroplanes, ocean ships and satellites.

Apparently the time it takes from receiving information to it being read over the radio can take as little as one hour. Mr. Tyldesley used slides to illustrate his talk, and very ably answered questions that were put to him afterwards.

Many thanks Mr. Tyldesley for providing us with a first-class evening.

The raffle with books as prizes realised four pounds for the benevolent fund: thank you gentlemen.

Should any of you wish to know the weather forecast for your area at any time you should ring the Regional Met. Office, Bawtry. Tel. No. 0302/710474.

An instant forecast can be used for the Leeds, Bradford and Huddersfield areas by dialling 98091.

Moving experience

Knaresborough Golf Club is moving out lock stock and barrel over the fence, to accommodate the sand and gravel people.

Head Greenkeeper Tony Baxby tells us that work on a new course will begin early 1976 and will be laid out on a site adjacent to the present one. Mineral extraction is not due to start until 1981.

Bicycle clip

Starbeck entrepreneur, David Ward, keeps a beautiful course. So much so, it not only attracts golfers but guys on scramble bikes too! The other week Dave played host to two chaps on bikes plus three cop cars — straight up! He reckoned the cars made more mess than the bikes, which were wheeling their way through and around bunkers. Needless to say, they were charged with grievous bunkerly harm!

Out of gear

An old friend to many, Mr. Jeffrey Mawson, has had a tough time lately, having spent three weeks in hospital. Luckily though, Mr. Mawson informs us that he is making steady progress towards recovery. He also tells us that come April '76, he will have clocked thirty years as Head Greenkeeper to



RANSOMES

Hitch up to our fast, new, Mounted Hydraulic 3

Ransomes progressive policy in powered gang mowing takes a further masterful step forward with the new Mounted Hydraulic 3.

It's the really quick answer for cutting most grass areas - especially where they are separated.

The 3 hydraulically power driven cutting units are put into or out of work - by a single lever operated from the tractor seat. When mowing is completed the units are raised for transport, as a continuous action, therefore time spent between each grass area is minimal.

The finish is exactly as required - a wide range of cuts per metre see to that. If the tractor is needed for other tasks, disconnecting the Mounted Hydraulic 3 takes only a few minutes.

The new Mounted Hydraulic 3 has a definite place in your mowing programme. Find out the full story now.

Outstanding features

Compact, light but robust, all-welded construction.

Quick attachment-detachment from tractor, just a few minutes

Fixed head, six knife cutting units as standard or alternative floating head, eight knife cutting units for golf course fairways

Cutting width of 2.14 metres (7ft)

Transport width of 2.39 metres (7ft 10ins)

Height of cut range: 13mm to 90mm (½in to 3½ins)

Quick fix mounting for Ford, Massey-Ferguson and other tractors

See your Ransomes distributor or write direct to:-
Ransomes Sims & Jefferies Ltd., Ipswich.

Mounted Hydraulic 3

Buy or ask for Leasing details



Scarcroft Golf Club.

Kindest regards Jeff from the Section. We hope that your future is bright.

Union

Congratulations to Mrl Ralph Emsley and his bride Anne on the occasion of their marriage on November 22nd.

Ralph has been in the turf business some time now and is currently Head Greenkeeper at Lightcliffe G.C.

Education

Only nineteen head greenkeepers responded to an opportunity to listen to and air their opinions to Mr. G. Richards at Moor Allerton G.C., December 17th.

Mr. Richards, as everyone is aware, is Training Co-ordinator appointed by the Standing Conference for Golf Greenkeeping. His brief on December 17th was to spell out what is currently afoot in the light of formal education for trainee greenkeepers and time-served men alike.

To say that the proposed system starts from scratch and is something new to our profession, the prospect is quite impressive.

In an attempt to ease the present unemployment situation the Government is allocating £90,000 to help the Agricultural Training Board set up a scheme to train school leavers who wish to adopt farming as a career.

This scheme is open only to those leaving school between July and December '75 and will be available to these people up to March 31st, 1976.

Employers supporting the new venture will receive grants of up to £220 for each entrant trainee. The training period, consisting of on-job, off-job tuition, is expected to be about eighteen months.

Training will be conducted in modular fashion, each module leading to a proficiency test. It is hoped that two such modules will be completed by the trainee in the eighteen month period.

A point of irony in the agribusiness is that in this time of statutory wage restraint the farm workers' basic rate has

risen by an extra £6 a week to an average of around £49. This is the largest single pay award ever achieved by farmers. Eventual cost to the economy - £75 million.

Southern Section

Chairman:
D. S. GOULD
Langley Park G.C.

Hon. Secretary:
MRS. D. MAJOR
36 Tynedale Road,
Strood Green, Brockham,
Surrey.
Betchworth 2190

THE Annual Dinner will be held at Walton Heath G.C. on 26th March, 1976., at 6.30 p.m. Tickets, priced £4 each can be obtained from the Hon. Sec.

Please note that the Autumn Tournament will take place on August 16th, 17th and 18th and not as previously stated.

December lecture

EYES down, ears akimbo for a brief report on an interesting lecture given by Mr. Palmer (Supaturf), entitled, 'Turface and the Golf Course'. Turface is a calcined mineral aggregate, calcined to a minimum temperature of 1,200 fahrenheit.

The product could be used to its best advantage in the construction of Golf Greens, or tees, to assist in a speedier journey of water from surface to drainage system, while at the same time absorbing considerable amounts of water and nutrition provided by fertilizing for later use.

There are no hard and fast rules regarding the amount of Turface which should be in the mixture, but it is said to be around 10% to 30% by volume, according to the day content. Turface has apparently been through many tests to insure that its crumbly structure, (no offence), will not break down into its basic form, which is clay, and all tests have proved satisfactory. Its use is not restricted to only construction, but can be used following spiking and hollow-tine forking.

For those who think Turface would



RANSOMES

Smoothie

To see the 10-blade cutting cylinder of the Auto-Certes whirring smoothly across a golf green is the surest way of appreciating what a truly splendid piece of machinery this famous mower is. And the finish rolling out behind the two-part landroll is a delight to anyone who really cares for fine turf. For a superb finish to golf greens, cricket squares and bowling greens Ransomes Auto-Certes is unsurpassable. Your local distributor would like you to see it for yourself. Contact him now.

20' Auto Certes

Check these features

Separate landroll and reel clutches allow precision control. NEW high speed gearing on 20' Auto-Certes ensures a smooth 135 cuts per yard.

NEW airflow grassbox ensures full capacity filling, reduces emptying time.

10-knife steel cutting cylinder

Single-point height-of-cut from 1" to 1/4" at a microscopic 1/64" at a time.

Power-driven transport wheels mean quiet and easy site-to-site transportation.

Brush and comb set optional extra for turf grooming.

See your Ransomes Distributor or write direct to:
Ransomes Sims & Jefferies Ltd., Ipswich

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eventually sink too far below their green to do the surface drainage any good; wrong! It remains stable because of its angular shape, and on the "face" of it seems to have some promising possibilities. Not that this is a new product, it has been used extensively in the U.S.A. for around eighteen years. More information will gladly be provided by Supaturf Products Ltd.

Anyone having any comments on the 'troublesome three', namely, Irrigation, Triplex mowers and Greens Committee Chairman, (not always in that order) please send them in, your views would be appreciated. The address to send them to is: David Jones (Head Greenkeeper), c/o West Essex Golf Club, Bury Road, Chingford, London, E.4.

Diary Dates

Friday 26th March – Southern Section Annual Dinner.

Tuesday 11th May – Spring Tournament at Romford G.C. (Gidea Park). (Entries close April 16th, to Derek Gould advise handicap).

Wednesday 9th June – Annual General Meeting at Fullwell G.C.

Thursday 15th July – Southern v. Midlands at South Herts G.C.

16th, 17th, 18th August – Annual Tournament at Walton Heath G.C.

New Members

A warm welcome to:—

Bryan James Wheeler-Holohan, West Kent Golf Club.

Guy Stewart Fry, West Kent Golf Club.

Reggie Moss, West Kent Golf Club.

Stuart Leonard Grace, West Kent Golf Club.

Lawrence Cornelius, West Kent Golf Club.

Geoffrey Smith, Verulam Golf Club.

Thomas Edward Spong, Harewood Downs Golf Club.

G.M. Cashman, Banstead Downs Golf Club.

B. Wright, Subiton Golf Club.

C.B. Ellis, Turf Maintenance.

E. Atkinson, Darenth Valley Golf Club.

Our final Winter lecture evening will be Tuesday, 6th April, at Alresford Golf Club, when we will be entertained by Mr. Jack Roffey on his return from the World Bowls Tournament held at Johannesburg.

We welcome to the Section Mr. M.D. Webb of Alton Golf Club and hope his association with us will be a long and happy one.

Midlands Section

Chairman:

V. W. SMITH

Hon. Secretary:

A. KITE

5, Lillington Close,
Sutton Coldfield,
West Midlands.

MEMBERS of all the sections will be saddened to hear of the death of Ernie Bembow in December, '75. Ernie was one of the most popular and respected members of the Midland Section, young and old members alike will remember him with affection.

Ernie spent 40 years of his working life serving Handsworth G.C. as Head Greenkeeper. Amongst his many golfing attributes were his winning of the News of the World Trophy twice at the National Tournament, playing for England against Scotland before the war, becoming a scratch golfer and consistently winning the trophy's played for in the Midland Section. Ernie served the Midland Section for many years as a committee member. I am sure that you will join me in offering our sympathy to his wife, son and daughter.

Members of the Midland Section would like to offer their condolences to Mr. Bretherton whose wife passed away in December.

SPRING TOURNAMENT

The spring tournament will be held at the Little Aston G.C. (Roman Road, Little Aston Park), on Tuesday 11th May, '76, entries to play in this event

BenSun

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Formally known as Warren's A-34

A Smooth Stalked Meadowgrass!

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- Highly disease resistant.
- Thrives in open sunlight and varying soil conditions.
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- Produces a dense green sward of turf.

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WORKING HEAD GREENKEEPER

Experienced person required to replace present Head Greenkeeper who is retiring after 40 years service.

The Club has 27 holes with automatic watering and modern ride-on machinery.

A modern three bedroomed semi-detached house is available on the course. Salary by negotiation according to qualifications and experience.

Applicants should apply stating age and giving fullest details of previous appointments to:-

**Secretary/Manager,
Ipswich Golf Club,
Purdis Heath,
Ipswich.**

should be received by me no later than the 25th April, '76. Once again I must remind you that it is most important that your entries are received by the said closing date as the Club's involved need to know the numbers to be catered for.

DINNER DANCE '76

The annual Dinner Dance is to be held once again at the Elms Hotel, Aldridge, Staffs, on the evening of Friday 2nd April, '76. The price of tickets is £3.75 each, these can be obtained from all Officers and Committee members. The greenkeepers who attended this function last year will confirm what a splendid evening this was, so let's please have a few more of you taking an interest and turning out this year.

South Coast Section

Chairman:
E. R. JAMES

Hon. Secretary:
MRS. J. STIMSON
North Wilts, G.C.
Devizes.

It was pleasing to see some new faces at our first lecture evening of 1976. The topic was "Toro Machinery" and we were fortunate to have as our guest speaker, Mr. Ron Huntley, the Toro Regional Manager. Ron gave us a very interesting and informative talk on current Toro machinery and emphasised his remarks with many detailed slides. After a short break, Tim Mortimer of J.T. Lowe (Longham) Ltd. presented a Toro film showing the exciting 1974 Masters Tournament at Augusta. Thank you Gentlemen for a very enjoyable evening, and our thanks too to the Directors of J.T. Lowe (Longham) Ltd. for the free refreshments.

North-West Section

Chairman and Hon. Secretary:
H. M. WALSH
34 Kingsfold Close,
Broughton,
Bolton, Lancs.

THE Sisis Tournament for North West Greenkeepers will be played over the

Macclesfield Golf Club's course on Tuesday, the 27th of April, 1976, and will be held on similar lines to last year's tournament 18 holes Stableford. Tee off times from 12.30. Will all members taking part please let me have their entry, and time they wish to start, as soon as possible.

Spring Tournament

Please let me have your entry and time of starting for this event also as soon as possible, May 17th, times from 8.15 a.m.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are due on the 1st of May when the new rates will apply, as follows: Head Greenkeeper, £5, First Assistant £4, Assistant £3, Vice-Presidents and Honorary Members £3.

Mr. Janovskis, our Treasurer, informs me that there are some members who are in arrears for 1975. Please note.

Lectures

Our thanks to Mr. L. Hewitt of 'Atcos' Longton Branch for the very interesting talk which he gave on the importance of correct setting of the cylinder and bottom blades of all grass cutting machinery, also for the refreshments provided, both liquid and solid.

East Midland Section

President:
R. BAILEY
147 Mere Road,
Wigston Magna,
Leics.

Hon. Secretary:
S. FRETTER
4 Queens Drive,
Leicester Forest East,
Leics.

A lecture was held at Leicestershire Golf Club on December 2nd, 1975, given by Sports Turf Research Institute. There was a very good attendance. Our thanks to Leicestershire Golf Club for allowing us to hold our lecture there.

A Quiz was held at the Three Nuns Hotel on January 6th, 1976. There was a very good attendance. Quiz Master was our President, Mr. R. Bailey.

Annual Spring Tournament will be held at Rothley Park Golf Club on May 26th, 1976.



RANSOMES

The broad view

Ransomes reputation for gang mowers needs no elaboration here, we're among professionals. Two types of gang unit are available, the Sportcutter for a finish perfect for golf courses and parks, and the Magna, where finish is not the prime factor, and grass up to 8" high can be dealt with. These quick-coupling units can be used in gangs of 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, to cover a wide application of cutting tasks. Sportcutter and Magna units can also be built into a mounted 3-unit mower for use with standard tractor 3-point linkage, cutting 7 ft. wide. Your local distributor has the full story, which he'll be happy to tell you.

Check these features

NEW heavy rear rolls for even faster, smoother cutting.

Universal framework eliminates build-up of grass cuttings.

Hardened steel gears for positive drive.

Quickly removable cylinder for rapid mid-season grinding.

Width of cut from 2ft. 6in. to 20ft. 6in.

Now reduced number of lubrication points.

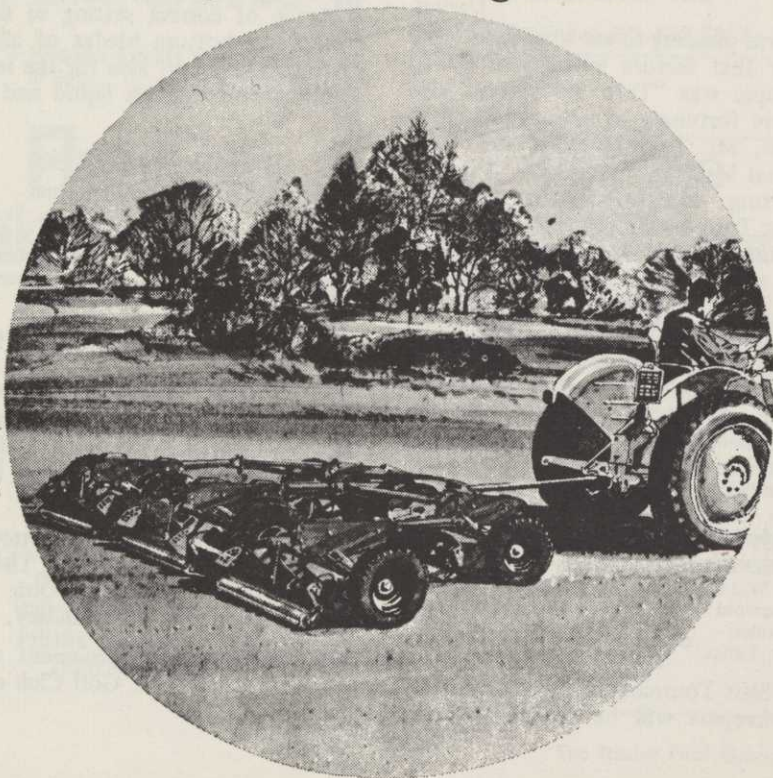
Improved bottom blade to cylinder adjustment.

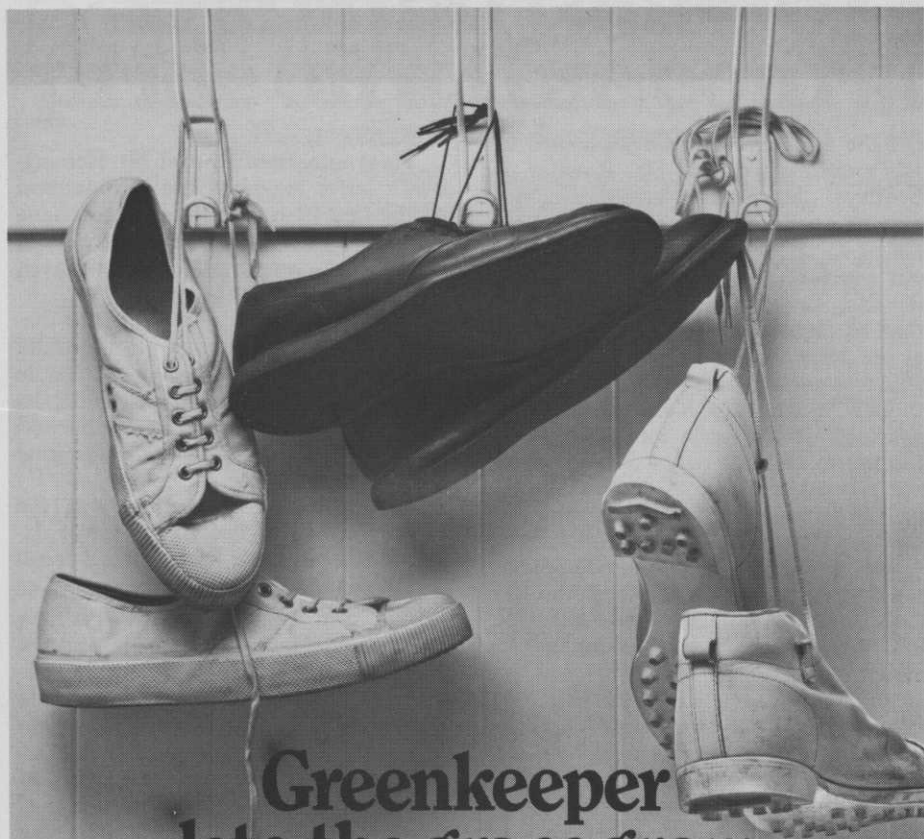
Incorporates positive engage-disengage clutch mechanism.

See your Ransomes Distributor or write direct to:
Ransomes Sims & Jefferies Ltd., Ipswich

Trailed Gang Mowers

Buy or ask for Leasing details





Greenkeeper lets the grass grow under their feet all year.

Greenkeeper® 1 and 2.

Whatever the wear and tear on your fine turf, Greenkeeper 1 and Greenkeeper 2 provide the ideal treatment, with fast action and long-lasting effects.

Greenkeeper 1 and Greenkeeper 2 are part of the unique Hi-lite range of products. They are lightweight, so there's less to carry around, and flow smoothly and evenly. They also reduce the danger of scorching.

Greenkeeper 1 contains the correct balance of nutrients for Autumn and Winter application; Greenkeeper 2 for Spring and Summer.

Both are suitable for all types of fine turf and encourage your grass without causing excessive growth at the end of the season.

Conveniently packed in 62½lb. poly-bags, they are ideal for both indoor and outdoor storage.

Greenkeeper 1 and Greenkeeper 2. The ideal treatment for your fine turf — all year round.

 **FISONS**
Fisons Agrochemical Division

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Sheffield Section

President:

S. K. ARNOLD

Hon. Secretary:

B. V. LAX
153 Kilton Road,
Worksop, Notts.

ON the 6th November we welcomed to our monthly meeting, Mr. Rossiter of Bentleys. Mr. Rossiter came along and gave us a very interesting afternoon. He talked about trees and shrubs for use on our courses. I would like to thank Mr. Rossiter for his talk, also for the way that he stepped in at the last moment, as we were unable to get the speaker who was due to come along.

The Sports Turf Research Institute provided us with our speaker for our December meeting, when Mr. Boocock came along and gave an interesting talk on the subject of "Golf Green and Tee Construction".

We played our Annual match against the Northern Section at Moor Allerton Golf Club on the 27th November, 1975. The fixture was late because of an earlier fixture clash.

About 33 members travelled to Leeds to find the weather very rough, and playing round this really tough course proved to be hard work indeed. We may have found the golf hard going but we were very pleased with the result of the match. Sheffield once again retained the Slater Trophy, winning by 4 matches to 1, with one game halved.

We also played an 18 hole Stapleford competition which was won by Alan Spencer of Lindrick G.C.

I would like to thank the Northern Section for their hospitality, and the warm welcome we were given.

All members will I am sure join me in offering congratulations to our Hon. Secretary and Treasurer Walter Heeles and his good lady on celebrating their Silver Wedding Anniversary on March 26th. Well done Walter and well done Mrs. H.

LETTERS

Dear Sirs,

I was interested to read Mr. Hemingway's letter regarding the introduction of the first hydraulically operated Gang Mower. I would accept that we were in this respect, very much neck and neck with our friends Patissons.

We were actively promoting our machines during the summer of 1968 and took out our first patent on hydraulic drive for gang mowing machines on the 27th January, 1964. This was followed by preliminary work on hydraulic gang mowing during 1965.

One point of amusement was the Hydraulic 5/7 Power Gang Mower demonstration in Hyde Park where I recall Mr. Hemingway being present. Ken Buckeldee, our Product Training Manager, welcomed everyone over the loud speakers to the Ransomes demonstration, to which a lady sitting on a nearby seat (she had obviously overimbibed) shouted out "Why don't you shut up" to the amusement of everyone present. Ken Buckeldee of course was unperturbed, although we felt for the first time in his life, a little startled.

We now of course have made many hundreds of Hydraulic 5/7 Gang Mowers and not only are they in use in volume in the U.K., many thousands of pounds have been made for Ransomes and the country in exporting them to all parts of the world, including the U.S.A.

Yours faithfully,

F.G. Catchpole.

General Marketing Manager
Grass Machinery Division.

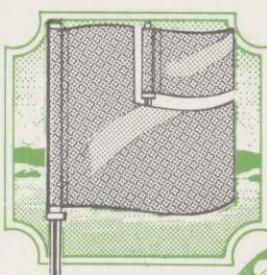
The final touch of pride on a fine course

Ransomes Golf Accessories



Flag Poles

Extra strong with tubular sleeve to allow flag to swivel freely. No pulling or fraying in high winds.

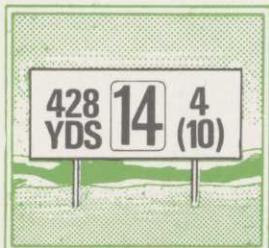


Quick Change Flags

For use with the Ransomes flag poles, simply unscrew top of pole and slip on the flag.

Tee Plaques

Crisp, clear lettering on sparkling white 'vistolite' background.



Large Tee Markers

Tough and long lasting with non-fade bright colours.



Direction and Rule Signs

Easy read black letters on brilliant white 'vistolite' background.



Putting Green Markers

Rust proof and guaranteed to last, in 'vistolite' and high strength aluminium. Ejector marker fitted with non stoop ball pick up.

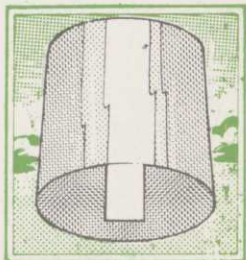


Individual Club Designs

Personalised flags cost very little more than plain ones. Contact us for details.

Putting Cups

Non corrosive heavy duty galvanised steel cups. Keeps pole rigid even in high winds.



RANSOMES

Ransomes Grass Machinery
(Scotland) Limited

St. Ninians Road, Corstorphine,
Edinburgh EH12 8AN. Tel. 031-334 2261.



RANSOMES

Ransomes Spares are where you want them

Ransomes have more distributors nationally than any other manufacturer.

Each distributor has a large holding of essential parts.

Ransomes Genuine Parts are engineered to fit your machine perfectly.

Parts availability is assured – Ransomes have traded since 1789 so you know that they're here today – and here tomorrow.

