

IN EARLIER ISSUES we announced a scheme, sponsored by Ransomes, inviting articles from members of the Association on certain subjects pertinent to the good running of a golf course.

The six subjects selected were:

1. Advantages or Disadvantages of the use of winter greens.
2. The need and advantages of auri-fying fairways.
3. Bunker renovation.
4. Reducing the fertiliser bill by extending some roughs and carries.

5. Raising the standard of the tee areas to that of the approaches.
6. Are triple greens mowers bringing signs of extra wear on greens as forecast when they were introduced to the world golf market. Have you found any additional programme has been necessary to combat any ill effects they may have created?

The first winning entry, which will earn the author £10 was submitted by Mr. A. Price of Carmarthen G.C. and deals with subject number six. We publish Mr. Price's article below.

EFFECT OF TRIPLE GREENS MOWERS

THIS IS MY 4th year of Ransome Hahn Greens Maintenance and contrary to the forecasts of doom by alleged experts that the weight of the machine, the treaded steering wheels, the wide bald driving wheels, and the 67" cut would be detrimental to the upkeep of fine putting surfaces.

My greens have never been in better condition, as regards grass content, grass coverage, freedom from thatch, rapid drainage and true putting surfaces.

This can be verified by Dr. Stewart of Aberystwyth University who paid the course a visit a fortnight ago to test random spots on selected greens for root depth, thatch and top dressing penetration.

The Ransome Hahn Triplex as all Greenkeepers know can be used for scarifying (Verticut Reels), aerating (Vibro Spiker Reels). And if the reels are used judiciously and intelligently by experienced Greenkeepers who understand their particular greens requirements taking into consideration

grass species and severity of thatch good results can be anticipated.

My methods are these, in March or April according to when growth commences, I set the Verticuts at "zero" (level with bottom of front and rear rollers) and cut all greens transversely. This may seem drastic treatment judging by the amount of material removed and bare appearance of the greens, but opens up the surface preparatory to Fertiliser treatment (Chipmans S.T.F.M.C.A. No. 1) and immediate top dressing of Top soil, sand and peat passed through an 1/8" screen at a rate of 2lbs. per sq. yd. applied by the old 36" Sisis with brush attachment. Monthly for April, May and June I reset the Verticuts to 1/8" (1/16" lower than the greens reels) and verticut in two directions. This July my greens reels are up to 5/16" and my verticuts are set at 1/4" (due to drought conditions).

I also "Vibro Spike" monthly, but personally would like to see them penetrate a little deeper. To compen-