

The Hydraulic is kept simple

THE latest addition to Ransomes range of professional grass machinery, the Mounted Hydraulic 3, was seen in public for the first time at the Institute of Groundsmanship International Exhibition, Motspur Park 1975.

It is expected to be used by golf clubs for fairways and semi-rough areas.

Drive to the cutting cylinders is through the self-contained hydraulic system within the machine, which is simply controlled by a single lever behind the operator which selects forward drive, neutral and reverse. Reverse drive is an important feature, used for cleaning choked cutting cylinders and for back lapping to keep a keen cutting edge.

The hydraulically driven cutting cylinders offer a wide range of cuts per metre to suit different cutting conditions. The same complete cutting unit is used as on the highly successful Hydraulic Power 5/7 Mk II and Motor 5/3.

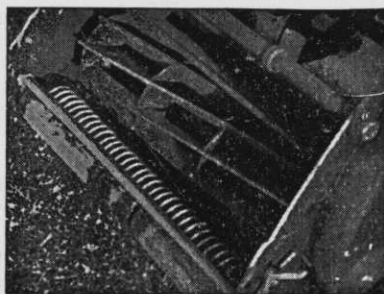
The Mounted Hydraulic 3 is suitable for use with Ford 3000, and Massey Ferguson 2135 trailers. It takes under ten minutes to mount or dismount the outfit from the tractor so the tractor can easily be released for other operations when required.

To ensure operating costs are kept to a minimum the design of the machine has been kept simple, and where possible components and assemblies already used in other models, particularly the Hydraulic 5/7 and Motor 5/3, have been incorporated. In this way the initial cost of the machine has been kept down and distributors and customers will benefit from not having to hold large stocks of new spare parts.

Listed today at £1,125, the first production quantities of the Mounted Hydraulic 3 will be available for delivery in June/July 1976.

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NEWS

TWYFORD SEEDS LTD., of Banbury, Oxfordshire, have stated that they are prepared to give a lecture and film show on grass breeding at branch meetings of The Greenkeepers' Association. The film is very interesting and shows how the Dutch plant breeders set about breeding new varieties and we suggest that branch secretaries contact Twyford Seeds direct.

CHIPMAN LTD. announce that following commencement of excavation at the Baseball Ground on April 29th some 4,000-tons of the existing playing area have been removed, an intensified and scientifically calculated underground drainage system and specially selected sand topping has been installed. This involved the placement, spreading and consolidation of over 6,500-tons of various sands designed to produce the required degree of hydraulic conductivity, together with the installation of a fully automated pop-up "Toro" irrigation system. Overseeding with Scottish Agricul-

tural Industries T.F.3 Turf Seed following incorporation of a special blend of N.P.K. fertilisers was completed on June 7th.

Despite one of the driest Summers for many years, root establishment by the end of July was 6" in depth with an excellent level of germination of all grass species. This progress was aided by the application of I.C.I. slow release nitrogen in the form of "Gold-N".

The Baseball Ground has been specifically designed to achieve a predetermined level of surface water drainage. By implementing the recommendations of Dr. V. I. Stewart and Dr. W. Adams of the Soil Science Unit, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, an improving establishment of the turf is already present after three months and this progress should continue. Chipman will monitor the turf's future nutrient requirements and maintenance programmes in order to ensure that this highly permeable pitch provides the playing conditions demanded by a highly professional team.

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Long, hard look at turf

Extracts from a paper entitled "Composition and Nourishment of Amenity Swards" delivered by Robert W. Palin, Technical Director, Suttons Seeds Ltd., London Road, Reading, at a Seminar, "Turf 75", held at Reading University.

I HAVE already commented upon the fact that there is probably more general leisure time than ever before for most of the populace. There is also more sport being played and it is not unreasonable to suppose that most given areas of sports turf are required to accommodate more and more facilities each year, which must involve the available turf in excessive wear and tear. So much so, in fact, that one is now being asked to advise on the construction and maintenance of "all weather surfaces" for winter games, and synthetic or simulated grass for both lawns and games areas.

Before we find ourselves in the position of having decisions made for us in regard to what sort of grasses we require, let us take a long hard look at the grass swards with which we are involved and ask ourselves a few pertinent questions:

1. What sort of playing surface do I need?

2. How long is it expected to last?
3. How much will I have to spend in general maintenance?

Those three will do to begin with and in themselves each hide a string of related questions. Let us take them one by one . . .

What sort of Playing Surface do I Need?

- (a) If I have a general sports complex in my care I cannot answer this question in a few words—each sport to be catered for will dictate the surface needed.
- (b) If I have a Golf Course—the greens, approaches, tees, semi-rough, rough and fairways will all proclaim their special needs.
- (c) The local park will demand purely aesthetic turf, that to take wear and tear despite "Please Keep off the Grass" notices and that to stand up to the "rough and tumble" of children's play.

Despite the varied peculiar demands of each sport there are, of course, certain **basic** requirements which are indeed the same in 1975 as they were in 1875, or even in 1775!!

- (i) There must be a blending of compatible plants.
- (ii) These plants must grow in harmony producing a dense covering to the earth's surface.
- (iii) The complete plant must not only

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cover the surface but ramify the soil.

- (iv) The herbage must be able to survive defoliation to a greater or lesser degree.
- (v) The plants must be sufficiently robust as to withstand the vagaries of climate and the superficial damage of usage.
- (vi) As far as possible the same plants should be of botanically perennial classification and of evergreen habit.

In the United Kingdom seldom do we find a single species—or rather single cultivar grass sward capable of providing and/or withstanding the foregoing formidable list. Mostly the natural turf of the mountain hills, the downs, the sea marshes is made up of both tufted and creeping sorts—remember my earlier quotation in regard to *FESTUCA OVINA TENUIFOLIA* . . .

“Although most useful in mixture with other grasses, a homogenous turf cannot be obtained from Fine Leaved

Sheep's Fescue alone as its habit is to grow in dense tufts which have an antipathy to each other.”

This emphasises the need for more than one grass in the composition of turf—add a Creeping Fescue—add a Creeping *Agrostis* and you have the **natural** blend of both creeping and tufted sorts. It would indeed be a tragedy were we to go forward into 1975 and beyond, misguided in the belief that the turf needed in these Islands is that from far across the sea and of a single type—creeping either by means of stolons or rhizomes—we could so easily be misled—have indeed in comparatively recent times **been** misled, albeit domestically, in the unwarranted and unsatisfactory use of *AGROSTIS stolonifera*—a cultivar of which, according to some reports, was “a chance mutation as a result of the Atom Bomb”. Such grasses have their place in the order of things and in certain locations are the natural answer to man's need of sporting turf. In our

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climate other grasses are in all respects more suitable.

There must indeed be a blending of compatible plants—an assortment of the botanically creeping and tufted sorts.

Plants can only grow in harmony if they are suited the one to the other and again I would hark back to my earlier quotation and refer to TRIFOLIUM REPENS PERENNE (Perennial White Clover) . . .

“ . . . it may become too abundant, and seed should be sown with discretion.”

Not only should the choice of subject be made with extreme care but so should the amount by weight of seed employed for each species and/or cultivar be decided upon with the utmost prudence. Too much AGROSTIS, too much LOLIUM or the converse in each case can only lead to an unharmonious blend—a poor unnatural sward which will be an inadequate cover to the earth.

The complete plant must not only cover the surface, but ramify the soil—why so?

I have purposely chosen the words “complete plant” for there are always those who seem to believe that the grass plant is unique in that it may be utterly defoliated and yet happily survive—as evidenced by the “Brown Wicket Brigade” amongst our cricketering friends. Truly some few—but very few—grasses may survive such brutality — perhaps these really do scream in protest—they would certainly have their entitlement so to do—but even these cannot survive constant and prolonged defoliation.

● Mr Palin's analysis will be concluded in a future issue



HISTORY was made on September 12th when the first public house in the U.K. featuring the noble art of Greenkeeping was opened. Owned by brewers Greene King, the pub, appropriately named “The Greenkeeper”, was built as the entrance to Thorpe Wood Golf Course, the only municipal course in Peterborough, 1½ miles west of the city on the new A.47 road. In case you don't identify yourself with the character depicted, the artist was a lady, her model unknown. Will the offending greenkeeper please stand up. Our thanks are due to Mr. F. E. Sismey, Head Greenkeeper at Peterborough Milton G.C., for this information.



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Diary dates

- Oct. 20 N.W. Section, Lecture by Joseph Metcalfs Ltd., Swinton Park G.C., 7.30 p.m.
- Nov. 3 North West Section, Talk by Mommersteeg Seeds, Swinton Park G.C., 7.30 p.m.
- Nov. 5 Southern Section, Suttons Seeds, 6.30 p.m.
- Nov. 15 East Midlands Section, Annual Dinner/Dance, Shakespeare Inn, Leicester.
- Nov. 27 Northern Section, Lecture by S.A.I. Horticulture Ltd., Moor Allerton G.C., 7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m.
- Dec. 2 South Coast Section, Lecture by Mr. J. Bradbury of Mommersteeg International, Alresford G.C., 7 p.m.
- Dec. 3 Southern Section, Ransomes, 6.30 p.m.
- Dec. 4 N.W. Section, Visit to Toro.
- Dec. 4 Sheffield Section, Talk by Mr. D. F. Boocock of the S.T.R.I., Abbeydale G.C., 2.30 p.m.
- Dec. 12 Northern Section, Annual Dinner, Oakdale G.C.
- Jan. 12 N.W. Section, Lecture by Mr. T. L. Hewett, Atco Ltd.
- Jan. 29 Northern Section, Lecture by Mr. Tyldesley, a Meteorological Officer, Moor Allerton G.C.

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SECTION NEWS



Sheffield Section

President:
S. K. ARNOLD

Hon. Secretary:
B. V. LAX
153 Kilton Road,
Worksop, Notts.

AT Dore & Totley Golf Club on September 15th, we played our new Autumn Tournament. It was a new competition for us, played for the first time this year. The Trophy and prizes for this annual competition were very kindly provided by one of our local machinery specialists, Messrs. Machin and Hartwell of Eastwood, Nottingham. Mr. G. Machin, one of the firm's directors, came along and spent the afternoon with us, and afterwards he presented the Trophy and prizes to the winners.

It was the first time most of those present had visited Dore & Totley, and on behalf of all those present I would like to thank the captain and committee for the use of the course which was in fine condition. Thanks also to Ron Whitehead and his staff.

After we had eaten what must be one of the best meals this section has ever had at a golf club, the prize winners who were, 1st P. Walshaw (Silkstone G.C.), 2nd A. Goldthorpe, 3rd R. Brailsford (Worksop G.C.), 4th P. Quartermaine (Worksop G.C.), were presented

with their prizes by Mr. Machin.

I would just like to say a special thanks to Mr. Norman Spencer, who helped with the cards, etc., not only at this competition but also at our others this year.

It was very good to have with us at Dore & Totley one of our Hon. Life Members, Mr. Percy Booker, who was a very active member of this section in the past. Nice to see you, Percy.

Next winter meeting at Abbeydale G.C., December 4th at 2.30 p.m. Mr. D. F. Boocock, S.T.R.I., will talk on the subject of Modern Golf Green and Tee Construction.

Southern Section

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

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

OUR congratulations go to John Nudds of Gerrards Cross Golf Club and member of this section on winning the Evening News Weekend Golfers Tournament at West Byfleet on September 24th by defeating 16-year-old Middx. Colt Neil Curtis at the 19th. This section was also represented by Don Major, Betchworth Park Golf Club, who reached the last eight.

We welcome to this section the following new members. F. G. Catchpole and J. F. R. Wilson as Vice-Presidents, and H. Millington, D. R. Fisher (R.A.F. Marnham), W. H. Millen (Tenterton), A. R. Honess (Chestfield), H. W. Cave (Wyke Green), M. P. Fitzsimmons (Beckenham Place Park Municipal), L. J. Neale (Surbiton G.C.) and Mr. A. R. Holt.

A good day's outing with a game of golf was enjoyed by members of this section at Foxhills Golf Club, at the invitation of Huxleys. -A special thank

you to George Nurton for all he did to make the day such a success and also to John Campbell for the state of the new course.

The Southern Section Annual Autumn Tournament was held at Walton Heath Golf Club on Tuesday, September 9th, and a most enjoyable day was had by all. The usual wonderful hospitality was given by Walton Heath Club.

Our new Chairman, Mr. Dereck Gould, introduced Mr. Jock Glass who in turn gave thanks to Walton Heath for the excellent food and the ever good state of the course, thanks to good "old Fred" Dulake and his staff.

The prizes were presented by the Vice-Captain of Walton Heath, Mr. Holloway. Mr. J. McClune gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the guests.

A presentation by Mr. David Craig on behalf of the Southern Section Greenkeepers was made to Mr. Phil Marshall on his retirement, and goes with our sincere thanks for 43 years of hard work he has put into this Section.

The raffle was well supported, the proceeds of which went in aid of the Benevolent Fund.

Afterwards the Artisan Section of Walton Heath opened their Clubhouse to finish the day, for which we express our thanks.

Prize winners were as follows: 1st, D. H. Major and D. Allen with 80 points; 2nd, W. Cavanagh and —, Warner, 79 points; 3rd, A. E. Watson and J. McClune, 78 points; 4th, C. W. Maston and A. G. Fathers, 77 points; 5th, B. Plain and R. Chase, 77 points; 6th, D. R. Johnston and B. Mitchell, 76 points; 7th, J. C. Newman and J. Reeves, 74 points; 8th, W. F. Machin and J. Chrisell, 74 points.

South Coast Section

Chairman:
E. R. JAMES

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

ON behalf of those Head Greenkeepers who accepted the kind invitation

of Mr. E. J. Huxley to play a round of golf on the new Chertsey Course at Foxhills Golf Club on Thursday, August 28th, I would like to say a big thank you for a marvellous time. "Chertsey" proved to be a testing course, both in skill and stamina as the weather was extremely hot, but I am glad to report that all the players managed to survive, thanks to the most welcome liquid refreshments provided at the 1st and 10th tees!

Our second winter lecture will be held on Tuesday, December 2nd, 1975, at Alresford Golf Club at 7 p.m. The speaker will be Mr. Jim Bradbury of Mommersteeg International and his topic will be "Modern Grasses for Sport".

Another event to be held in December will be our second Christmas Dinner Dance and my Committe and I hope it will be a repeat of last year's gay evening. Tickets are limited so please make sure you have returned your invitation reply slips.

We are pleased to welcome two new members: Mr. R. D. J. Bradfield of North Wilts. G.C. and Mr. R. Shepherd of Dunwood Manor G.C., and we hope their association with us will be a long and happy one.

North-West Section

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

THE complete list of speakers for this winter's series of talks is as follows: October 20th, Mr. B. Metcalf, Joseph Metcalf Ltd.; November 3rd, Jim Bradbury of Mommersteeg Seeds; January 12th, T. L. Hewett of Atcos, Longton Service Branch; February 16th, Open Debate of Members; March 8th, R. Young of Chipmans Ltd.; December 4th, trip to Toros at Darlington. All these talks will be at Swinton Park Golf Club, 7.30 p.m., on the given dates due to the kindness of the Captain and