

NEWS

New sprayer

A NEW sprayer was introduced by Allman Patents Ltd. at Motspur Park. It is the Multispray knapsack sprayer.

The 3.8 gallon tank is made from reinforced polypropylene which does not corrode. The simple pump gives 75 p.s.i. pressure provided by the action of two arms situated for protection in deep grooves incorporated in the design of the tank.

A large, fine mesh filler strainer is easy to clean. No tools are required—the pump is fixed by a wingnut and the ball valve is removable by hand. There are no springs and oil or grease are not required.

Measuring 8½" x 17" x 22½", the sprayer has a low centre of gravity and is specially shaped for operator comfort. Price will be £32 plus V.A.T., carriage paid.

Turf matting

AQUAFEED weather resistant nylon matting is set in the surface of the soil, loose or sandy ground is stabilized, and in addition protected from erosion.

The matting permits free entry and circulation of oxygen, and this assures the pre-requisite for healthy plant growth and good grass coverage. Turf may even be pre-grown in the matting, for these reasons **Earth Anchor Matting** is extremely useful in the laying down of sports and playing fields. Amongst other things, the matting's porosity promotes surface drainage and drying, and in addition, serious harm to turf is prevented, scuffing and traffic damage recovering quickly. Complete details may be obtained from Amberol Limited, Railway Wharf, Derby Road, Belper, Derbyshire.

Open day

A SUCCESSFUL Open Day was held at Twyford Seeds Ltd., Adderbury, Banbury, Oxfordshire, recently when nearly 400 guests inspected their extensive amenity grass plant breeding station and trial grounds. Many greenkeepers attended from all parts of the country and considerable interest was shown in the new ryegrass called MANHATTAN which has achieved consistently good results over the last three years at the Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley. MANHATTAN was also sown round the Twyford trial golf green, where it looked very strong.

MANHATTAN is particularly hard wearing and is said to have a very low cutting requirement. It is rapid in establishment and forms a good ground cover for golf fairways and tees.

[Turn to Page 22]

COMPLETE IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

TORO SPRINKLERS

Expertly Designed
Quickly Installed
Easily Maintained

by **PIPECRAFT LIMITED**

or **DO-IT-YOURSELF**

with Pipecraft 'know-how', design, equipment and special machines with skilled operators, **YOU** can install your own system economically.

Details from:

PIPECRAFT LIMITED
BROAD LANE,
COTTENHAM CB4 4SW.
Tel: COTTENHAM 50808

[News from Page 21]

The golf green which has been down for three years was quartered and sown with four different fine turf mixtures. Twyford's PENNCROSS was particularly outstanding in one quarter, having a close knit sward of fine grasses and a root growth of over 4" in depth.

It was announced by Mr. Jonathan Franks, the Sports Turf Manager, that Twyford's had been awarded the contract for the supply of grass seed and pre-seeding fertilizer for the new 36-hole Belfry championship and executive course which is being constructed at Sutton Coldfield, where PENNCROSS is sown on the greens and MANHATTAN perennial ryegrass on the tees and fairways.

Golfing talk

EYRE Methuen Ltd. have just published "How to Talk Golf" at £1.75 which in the Foreword they describe

as the first attempt to include in the form of a glossary both the standard terminology and the jargon of the game. Written by David Langdon the book is liberally illustrated by his excellent cartoons.

Under "Greenkeeper" we find the following explanation: "The bronzed, muscular factotum responsible for the daily state of the entire course. Usually to be seen motoring round the fairways on a tractor apparently aimlessly, in all weathers, or at rest in his hut scanning the "Greenkeepers Wanted" column in "Golf Weekly" to check on current pay scales being offered in the trade. Often a man of infinite charm, with an affable manner and a plus-two handicap. Always a good captive audience for a boring shot-by-shot account of your round of golf when it is difficult to detect the glazed expression in his eyes, narrowed to slits by long exposure to the elements".



electric, telephone, and signal cables,
water, gas, and oil pipes,
sportsfield, and parks drainage

it's easier & cheaper with a SCOOP TRENCHER

Scoop Trenchers dig trenches 4, 6, and 8 inches wide, and up to 39 inches deep automatically in any soil condition at speeds of up to 100 yards per hour.

A built in winch ensure positive traction even in bad conditions. Transportation and work in confined areas is easy because Scoop Trenchers are small.

The digging chains have a breaking strain of 21 tons so Scoop Trenchers are robust too.

Their initial cost can be saved in only 2,000 yards of work.



Send NOW for full details of machine, and hire rates to:-

A. F. TRENCHERS LTD.

Gosbecks Road, Colchester. Telephone 44411

Company profile

No. 5 : Ransomes

AS MANY members of the B.G.G.A. will know, Ransomes have given considerable support to the Association over a great many years. Not only are they the largest supporter of the B.G.G. through their advertising but they have always been prepared to offer their own staff, in working hours, to assist in B.G.G.A. functions. This article will give readers a good idea of the size and scope of Ransomes.

WHEREVER golf is played the name of Ransomes is known. There must be very few golf courses in the world that do not use one or many machines from Ransomes range of professional grass machinery.

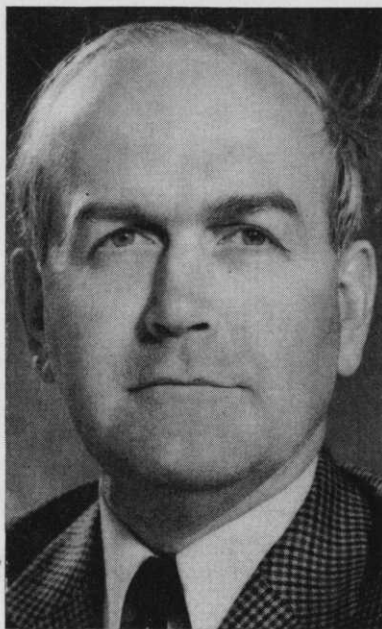
Founded in 1789 by an iron-founder, Ransomes made the world's first lawn mower, Buddings Patent, in 1832, and the Ipswich based company has been in the forefront of grass machinery development ever since.

They produced the first petrol lawn mower in 1902 and the first mains-operated lawn mower in 1926. Since then the emphasis has shifted from the domestic lawn mower to the professional grass cutting machine.

An important recent development has been the introduction of hydraulically operated mowers. Here again Ransomes were pioneers. The Hydraulic 5/7 Power Gang, introduced in 1968, was the world's first hydraulically operated gang mower, to be followed in 1973 by the launch of the Motor 5/3, the world's most advanced grass cutting machine.

Today Ransomes offer machines for all types of grass cutting—from the smallest garden to the largest airfield, from the roughest verge or orchard to the smoothest golf green.

Golf course equipment may be regarded as the company's speciality, however. The Auto-Certes, available in 18 and 20 inch versions, is a specialist golf greens mower, with a ten-knife



GUY Catchpole, General Marketing Manager, Ransomes Grass Machinery Division.

reel for a superb finish.

A range of gang mowers are available for golf course applications. Sport-cutter units, coupled in groups of one, three, five, seven or nine to give a cutting width of up to 20' 6" are for mowing fairways where regular cutting is practised and a good finish essential.

Magna units, available in the same widths, are for cutting the rougher areas. Hydraulic Power 5/7 Gang Mk. 2

[Turn to Page 25]

Quick-change artist

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.

Ransomes Sims & Jefferies Ltd., Ipswich.

RANSOMES



Ransomes-Hahn Tournament Triplex

BUY OR ASK
FOR LEASING
DETAILS



RANSOMES Hydraulic 5/7 Power Gang Mark II—becoming increasingly popular on the golf course.

[Ransomes from Page 23]

will cut up to ten acres per hour at 7 m.p.h. With full hydraulic power there is no need to wait for good weather for gang mowing.

All the cutting units are driven by hydraulic power, with forward and reverse drive, and hydraulic power lifts in the unit in and out of work. This machine is becoming increasingly popular on the golf course, both in Britain and the U.S.A. as its advantages and benefits become better known.

Ransomes markets the Ransomes-Hahn range of golf course equipment. The Tournament Triplex greens management system is well established in Britain with over 400 machines in operation with golf clubs of all sizes. The one man machine gives 67" of cutting width with special greens reels, tee reels, verticut reels and vibra spikers. Brushes and combs and a useful gravity-dump trailer complete the range of accessories for the machine which has become known as a time and money

saver, while maintaining the highest possible standards of greens management.

Ransomes-Hahn also offers a range of turf maintenance machinery. The TM80 and 140 Aerifiers are ideally suited to the turf maintenance requirements of fairways. Designed for mounting on tractors with standard three point linkage, either model can be fitted with a choice of tines to aerify, spike or slice, to improve root structure and drainage and help fine turf withstand the rigours of year round play.

The PD-2 Power Drag is a unique self-propelled three-gang drag unit for fast matting of golf greens. The range also includes pedestrian operated self-propelled vertifiers, aerifiers and verticutters for the fine turf areas of the golf course.

Finally Ransomes offers a range of golf course accessories, manufactured in Scotland, the home of golf, and sup-

[Turn to Page 26]

[Ransomes from Page 25]

plied by Ransomes Grass Machinery (Scotland) Ltd.

Ransomes is a large company, employing some 3,000 people in the U.K. and making a wide range of farm machinery and electric industrial trucks in addition to its annual £7 million turnover in grass machinery.

Because its resources are large it can offer sales and service facilities second to none. A national network of distributors staffed by personnel who have received product and service training at the company's Ipswich headquarters offer totally reliable sales advice and after-sales service, including a comprehensive spare parts facility.

Training courses are also held at Ipswich, in a purpose-built conference block, for operators of Ransomes equipment. These courses enable the operator to fully understand, and so get the best out of sophisticated machines like the Tournament Triplex, enabling him

to achieve optimum performance, allowing effective maintenance to be done at the golf club, cutting maintenance costs and delays.

The grass machinery marketing division is headed by executive director Phil Johnson. General marketing manager Guy Catchpole is assisted by sales manager John Wilson, and recently appointed marketing manager Brian Kitchener who controls the service departments.

Under John Wilson, four area managers act as the link between the company and its distributors. They are Bill Beveridge, Scotland; Glyn Vaughn, North of England and North Wales; Bill Payne, West of England, South Wales and the Midlands; and Ted Reilly, Southern and South East England.

These men are all keen golfers who understand the special requirements and problems of the greenkeeper. They are not only well known to B.G.G.A. members as Ransomes but also for their support of regional B.G.G.A. activities.

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

Supaturf

PRODUCTS LIMITED

Werrington, Peterborough, Telephone 72470

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

U.S. golf course guidelines

NATIONAL survey figures recently released by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (G.C.S.A.A.), intended to provide its membership general guidelines, also prove to be of interest to the comparison minded golfing public.

Knowing full well before they began that the "average golf course" does not exist, G.C.S.A.A.'s survey now reports some interesting points for golfers and non-golfers alike to ponder.

The mythical "average course" will be an 18-hole private course with more than 400 members. It will be open ten months of the year during which time 37,340 rounds of golf will be played.

The golf course superintendent will manage 168 acres with bluegrass fairways averaging 2.9 acres each, bluegrass tees of 2,460 square feet and bentgrass greens of 5,914 square feet.

Budgets climb

To keep this area in the condition desired by his membership, the superintendent's annual operating budget will be \$109,501. This annual total includes items such as a \$7,964 investment in capital equipment, \$59,301 for labour (excluding the superintendent's salary), \$5,068 for fertilizer, \$4,298 for pesticides, \$4,810 for equipment repair and \$1,767 for seed.

A comparison of these recent survey results with those of a similar survey made in 1971 reveals a 19.7 per cent increase in overall operating budgets while the actual maintained acreage of golf courses decreased 3.85 per cent.

As substantiated in other national survey reports, an increasing proportion of golf courses are located in southern areas with a decreasing proportion in western states. Also, greater numbers of golf courses are defined as public, municipal or semi-private while private

golf courses are proportionally on the decline although they still comprise the largest number of courses.

Survey results were tabulated from responses supplied by more than 1,200 of the association's member golf course superintendents from throughout the United States and Canada.

DIARY DATES

- Oct. 6 N.W. Section Autumn Tournament, Bury G.C.
- Oct. 7 Southern Section Secretary's Match, Beaconsfield G.C.
- Oct. 7 East Midland Section. Lecture by Johnsons Seeds Rothley Park G.C.
- Nov. 4 East Midland Section. Lecture on Drainage by Chipman Ltd. Longcliffe G.C.
- Nov. 4 South Coast Section. Lecture on "Golf Green Maintenance" by Maxwell M. Hart (London) Ltd.
- Nov. 15 East Midland Section. Annual Dinner/Dance Shakespear Inn, Leicester, 7.30 p.m.
- Dec. 2 East Midland Section. Lecture by S.T.R.I. on Greens and Tee Construction Leicestershire G.C.
- Dec. 4 North West Section. Trip to Toros at Darlington.
- Dec. 12 South Coast. Christmas Dinner/Dance, Hythe.
- Jan. 12 North West Section. Lecture by Mr. L. Hewitt, Atco's Longton Branch.

SECTION NEWS



East Midland Section

President:

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

Hon. Secretary:

S. FRETTER
4 Queens Drive,
Leicester Forest East,
Leics.

OUR Annual Dinner/Dance will be held at the Shakespeare Inn, Braunstone Lane, Leicester, on 15th November, 1975, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets £3.25 each. Would you please let me know as soon as possible how many tickets you require. Closing date 1st November, 1975.

A lecture by Chipman Ltd. will be held at Longcliffe Golf Club, Loughborough, on 4th November, 1975, at 7.30 p.m. prompt.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. I. Toon who have just had a baby son.

A quiz will be held at the Three Nuns Hotel, Loughborough, on 6th January, 1976, at 7.30 p.m. Also notify Mr. B. Mott seven days before quiz if you will be attending.

Captain's versus President's Team.

The above match was held at Longcliffe Golf Club on Wednesday, 4th June, 1975, where once again the Cup was won by the Captain's team. Our thanks to the Committee of Longcliffe Golf Club for the courtesy of the

A nationwide round-up of news from the branches

course, and to the inside staff for an excellent meal, and to the outside staff for the excellent condition of the course.

We would like to welcome the following members to this section: D. P. Shorrock, 113 Greengate Lane, Birstall, Leics.; B. P. Harding, 3 Clear View Crescent, East Shilton, Leics.; J. M. Payne, 4 Bratmyr, Fleckney, Leics.; W. B. Overton, Park Farm House, 49 Hazel Road, Loughborough, Leics.; G. Hodges, 2 St. James Street, Stapleford, Notts.

North-West Section

Chairman:

E. WALSH
46 Peasley Close,
Logham, Padgate,
Warrington.

Hon. Secretary:

H. M. WALSH
34 Kingsfold Close,
Brightmet,
Bolton, Lancs.

FURTHER dates for your diaries are Mr. L. Hewitt, Atco's Longton Branch, 12th January.

The February and March dates with speakers in the next issue of the Journal.

As stated in the previous issue the trip to Toros at Darlington will be on 4th December by coach. Picking-up points will be Moor Lane Bus Station, Bolton, approximate time at the moment 7 a.m.; Swinton Park G.C., time 7.30 a.m. People who wish to make this trip please let me have your names as soon as possible.

We welcome to the Section the following new members: J. P. Daley, Reddish Vale Golf Club, Reddish, Stockport, Cheshire; G. Brown, Leigh Golf Club, Kenyon, Warrington, Cheshire; D. Rimmer, Hesketh Golf Club, Southport, Lancs.

South Coast Section

Chairman:
E. R. JAMES

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

THE first of this Winter's programme of lectures will be held on Tuesday, 4th November, 1975, at 7 p.m. The Captain and Committee of Alresford Golf Club have kindly offered their clubhouse for our use once again and it is hoped that all members will be able to attend. Last year's programme was well supported and we hope to see you all present at Alresford again this Winter, whatever the weather! Our speaker will be Mr. John Field of Maxwell M. Hart (London) Ltd. and his topic will be "Golf Green Maintenance".

We welcome to the Section the following members and hope their association with us will be a long and happy one: E. Croft and S. Bury of Hayling Island Golf Club, and P. M. Packham, Department of the Environment (transferred from Southern Section).

Northern Section

Chairman:
J. SCOTT
Wetherby Golf Club

Hon. Secretary:
W. HEELES
7 Tentergate Close,
Knaresborough, Yorks.
Tel: K'boro 3851

THE Invitation Tournament took place on Wednesday, the 23rd July, at the Wetherby Golf Club by courtesy of the Committee and members. The weather was mainly sunny with some showers, the food was excellent and the course was in first-class condition.

Prizewinners: 1st Prize, R. Johnson & Mr. N. Stead, Nett 56; 2nd Prize, E. Armitage & Mr. C. Auty, Nett 60; 3rd Prize, W. R. Skelton & Mr. M. Harper, Nett 63.

Guests included Mr. L. Plews, Captain Wetherby Golf Club, Mr. A. Edwards, President Wetherby Golf Club, and

Mr. F. G. Tomlinson, Chairman Green Committee, Wetherby Golf Club.

The following Handicaps have been amended: R. Johnson, 18 to 14; P. Marshall, 20 to 17.

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members: D. Budimir, 1 North Dean, Keighley, West Yorks. (S.T.R.I.); D. Thompson, 8 St. Ives Grove, Harden, West Yorks. (S.T.R.I.); D. Moore, 4 Ruskin Avenue, Bradford, BD9 6EB (S.T.R.I.).

David Ward, Head Greenkeeper at Harrogate Golf Club, tells us that on 29th June someone caused extensive

DIARY DATES are on page 27

damage to his 3rd, 4th and 12th greens by pouring on some kind of chemical substance.

In addition—to support Dave's theory that this act was malicious and not a prank—15 out of 18 holes, newly cut for the Sunday competition, had also been tampered with. All plugs had been transferred from the old holes and expertly replaced in the new holes. Flags had then been stuck in the soil in the old holes. Someone with a grudge indeed!

The Section extends congratulations to Ilkley Golf Club assistant greenkeeper, David Spurden, on his marriage to Louise on 2nd August. Mr. and Mrs. Spurden honeymooned in Wales and now live at Burley-in-Wharfedale.

Anyone willing to contribute news or items of interest for inclusion in the NORTHERN SECTION NEWS, please contact David Hannam at Bingley 5131.

When scythe was king

THIS special article is by N. Fraser who was Head Greenkeeper at Chester-le-Street G.C. for almost 40 years until he retired at the age of 62 for health reasons.

IT'S A far cry looking back to the old days on a golf course when man and a scythe was maybe the main machinery, but in the hands of the right person it was the only tool for bunkers, bank-sides, and general cutting and was an every day routine; and for this maybe wages 6½d per hour. In fact the main implements otherwise deemed necessary to fulfil the other work were barrow, spade, shovel, rake, turfcutter, hole cutter, and cast iron side wheel machine for cutting greens, and as often there was no grass box to this, one could imagine it was often a wet job. Plenty of grass cuttings and worm casts thrown up on one's legs.

Brush the greens first was a must, and with a birch broom, that was an art in itself to do so, and a great necessity owing to the number of sheep grazing, an added hazard to cutting, and also the only manure the land ever got. But, as sheep were maybe one of the main incomes, a necessary evil! Income was small, green fees as little as 1/6d. and subscriptions £1.1.0.

These were the days of unemployment and a job was a job, so with little equipment, make do and mend, and try again was the way to find the answer. The Greenkeeper over the years built up a knowledge of many things, a Jack of all Trades to keep things running, but on the golf side also played the game and in so doing, knew what was required by all who played. Hence those men will now be hard to replace, and the experience gained still comes in handy today.

Those were the days of the horse, the pleasure of the tractor to come. A single unit for fairways, which might get cut once a fortnight, and of the horse, a

story could be told, it was human I'd say, and still talked about today. Fairways were cut, yes! But not the rough, that was the farmer's job once a year. But in that time it was not unknown to lose a ball, and set down a bag of clubs to find it, and start again looking for the bag of clubs. "Real Tiger country", as it was known.

Things did improve when the Ransomes "Sulky", 3 units for fairways came along, at least it had a seat, and as the horse knew its way round the fairways. It was a pleasure. Also hand machines were improving inasmuch were not so heavy, and so easier to push.

The main battle was worms. Today one never sees a cast owing to modern worm killers. It was nothing to see men doing battle on a pouring wet day, watering greens with maybe something like Sulphate of Copper to bring up the worms and brush them off, and what a pride to get one green clean. Mowrake meal took over but still needed plenty of water. Water laid on to the greens was unknown, maybe a hand pump from a water-logged bunker or a pond.

But the greatest evil of all, at least as I thought being young, were the drain pipe type rollers filled with cement, one at each green, with a detachable handle, one carried from green to green and roller to roller. The job ever stays with me today. But one day the "Pro Greenkeeper" gave me the job to "See" as he put it! how far each roller would run down the hill to the river. Strange! but they all finished up in the river. A lesson today on rolling and its results.

The beginning of the turn of the tide as it were. For it was the turn over right from only knowing how to feed and look after a horse, to the unknown whims of a tractor, a big step forward, and start again a new make do and mend.