

TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

What new ideas will golf produce in 1962?

In its Christmas Number "Tennis et Golf" devoted a page to a Belgian golfer's proposal for modifying the game. A 36 in. white plastic ring (hence the name Ring Golf) is placed round the hole and a ball lying on or within the ring is considered holed out. The flag and hole remain unchanged but serve only as markers. If the ball finishes in the ring from an approach shot the player scores a bonus point. No bonus points are given for shots made with the putter. Well . . . ?

Or perhaps Mr. Henry Cotton's elimination of all rough on his new course at Harlow will catch the general fancy. Whatever your opinion, this is good publicity and many inland courses can do with an original turn of thought. Will this one save upkeep or increase it. Your comments will be welcomed, even on a postcard.

Or will some benefactor institute the National Golf Course with impeccable playing conditions and adequate spectator amenities for food, drink, and watching play? One view is that golf can never be a spectacle on normal lines. Space and movement are too restricted to develop any established golf course for the comfort of more than a very limited number of spectators. Even a new golf course specially designed would

be little better. Only a golf stadium will solve the problem. An oval arena some 500 yards long by 150 yards wide will contain 3 greens and nine tees in a triangular layout. Covered space surrounds the arena and the players are undisturbed by gallery, stewards, or the chaps that met them last year at Gleneagles. With field glasses every shot could be seen, and many without them. The idea could be developed and speeded up by opposing two teams of four players with three pairs putting and driving off and one pair playing the fairway shots in the middle.

From the design point of view, the scheme is ideal. Every kind of shady device could be introduced to make the holes testing since the objective is only to provide a spectacle. When not in use, the arena could be used as a driving range from each end.

Golf would then finally attract the non-players. Vernons and Littlewoods could move in. Bids from Milan would have a wider scope. Mr. Henry Longhurst would no longer have to climb those dangerous looking television towers and the greenkeeper's job would be neat and uncomplicated.

This was not our idea originally but, in the absence of strong protests we will publish a plan for it soon.

Meanwhile, we hope your New Year will be happy and successful.