

TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

ANY QUESTIONS?

A golf course will, in due time, reflect the personality, knowledge and efforts of the people who are in charge of it . . . L. J. Feser, writing in *The Golf Course Reporter*, recalls an aspect of greenkeeping which can be easily forgotten.

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Efforts towards perfect playing conditions are often made on standard, safe lines without asking whether the result is really desirable. There is need for analysis before action. Are close lies through the fairway nearer to essential golf than those well-cushioned? Will fast greens, alarming to approach, be more likely to reward the golfer with courage and skill enough to endure under pressure? What, in fact, are perfect playing conditions? Certainly there is more to them than the comfortable, tidy picture which the phrase conjures up.

Woolly?

The job of the golf greenkeeper is to aim at a particular, rather than a perfect playing condition on his course. And he must be prepared to defend the result. To be stimulating to the player this should reflect the thought and brains of the man in charge. The last thing the man in charge should have is a woolly notion of green acres with no weeds, however desirable that may be on other scores. He must think hard about the game of golf and his own course and decide what is best in the one and how best to demand it in the other. The objective, once decided, will be a compromise with soil, climate and funds, but funds will only limit the trimmings not the essentials. Whether planting a single tree or a hundred trees, there are still fifteen distinct questions to be answered before deciding the location. Knowing the questions is just as important in this job as knowing the answers.

Past Mistakes?

We often find ourselves embarrassed, when visiting a distant golf course by apologies for its size, importance or situation. But none of these factors is of the least importance once the course has been made, even if you wish it never had been. Whatever the mistakes of the past, the problem now is to get the most out of that particular piece of ground. The greenkeeper must ensure that his methods are aimed at perpetuating not counteracting the fun, interest, skill, excitement and challenge which good design should produce.

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If the golfer wants to come back because your course is not like all the rest, you are putting a bit of yourself into it and doing a good job. And enjoying it more into the bargain.