

# TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

**R**OYAL BIRKDALE has plans for the 1965 Open well in hand. Colonel John Rees showed us plans of his tented village and of the new 12th hole, which is to replace No. 17. The short 17th has always given problems for stewards and the new 12th will not only eliminate these but will also open up a new area and leave a tough 5-4-5-5 finish to test staying power.

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It is rare to find seaside undulations on an inland course. This was the second thing that struck us about the Taunton and Pickeridge Golf Club in Somerset. The first was the magnificent outlook over Taunton to the hills beyond, which must be equal in extent to those from Sham Castle at Bath, whence any number of counties are said to be visible. The undulations are due to calamine mining in the past. We are not too sure what calamine is, but if any of its miners are still in the district, they would be invaluable in making a flat course look like Deal. Charlie Bond is Head man on the course and, after 40 years on this windswept plateau, knows each hummock and hollow like his own hand.

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Messrs. Bomford of Evesham are distributing a new Hammer-Knife Mower, which will cut and mulch the grass with its 2,000 r.p.m. rotor. This is a new approach to the mowing problem, which may be of interest to greenkeepers on some types of course. Heights of cut between  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. and 3 ins. are possible and the 4 ft. machine costs £300. We hope to publish a picture and more details in our next issue.

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A new nine-hole golf course at Metz will be open for limited play on the 1st September. This is the second new course opened in France this year. Five more are under construction.

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Congratulations to Charles Large, Head Greenkeeper at Stourbridge in Worcester since 1933. The members have given him a gold watch in recognition of his work over thirty years.

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