

TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

Grants

"If you are a taxpayer you will, no doubt, be interested to know that work has now started on a magnificent new club house for the Royal Winchester Golf Club." The article in a Sunday newspaper at the end of May went on to describe how government grants had been made to this golf club and others, implying strongly that the taxpayer's money was being spent on luxuries for the few. There is certainly a danger that this kind of journalism will find material to feed on if all golf clubs get the idea that new locker-rooms can be partly built at public expense. The money is apparently available—£40 million every year for the development of sport. So far as golf is concerned, the urgent need is for more space to play—not more space to store clubs.

Many deserving cases can get no help because work has already started or because they have too short a tenure of their ground. At Llandeilo in South Wales the club was obliged to start work on its new course because it has to quit its present land next year. But starting work disqualifies them from a grant.

Quality

Another drawback to the scheme as it now operates is that grants are made with no assurance as to the quality of what will be done. It is no use adding nine holes to a golf course unless they are to give permanent satisfaction. Several "do-it-yourself" jobs will help fill the immediate need, but produce dissatisfaction in the future as their defects show up.

Any scheme for helping golf is laudable, but this one needs to be both more flexible and more selective if it is to avoid old-fashioned reproaches about helping the rich man's game.



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