

## SITING THE HOLE

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**M**ANY golf courses, as a rule, have an area on each of their greens where the hole is usually placed whenever the Club has a golf competition. These positions are chosen because they make the holes interesting by bringing into play any bunkers or other hazards, natural or artificial, surrounding the green.

Moving the holes to the medal positions on the morning of the competition is generally left to the discretion of the greenkeeper, who has to take into account the condition of the turf—worn patches on the green or any unusual accumulation of casual water which would necessitate the hole being placed elsewhere. But under ordinary circumstances the normal spots would be used. In this connection it is helpful if the greenkeeper is a golfer, or at least has a reasonable understanding of the game.

Having such vast and undulating greens on the Old Course here at St Andrews, it is important to have a method of finding the traditional positions for the medal holes and detailed instructions are given to assist the greenkeeper to locate these places.

### Bearings

Wherever possible crossbearing on natural objects have been given and the intersection of these lines give the centre of a circle some two yards in diameter within which the medal hole is located. These have been supplemented by measurements from fixed points on or near the green (hydrants, edges of bunkers, etc.).

For example, the following directions are given for locating the position of the 11th hole—at the intersection of the following bearings:—

- (a) Town church steeple to Dundee Law.
- (b) Shelter on the Eden Course near eighth tee to centre of small bunker at back of seventh green.

The hole to be at least 25 feet from nearest edge of Strath bunker.

The experienced greenkeeper who regularly cuts the holes tries to preserve the medal positions for these special occasions by moving them frequently over as wide an area of the putting surface as possible, which will help to spread the wear and tear and add a wide variety of interest for the every-day golfer.

### Looking ahead

For important golf events such as the British Open Championship, which lasts for several days, the pin positions on all the greens for each day are carefully considered before the event takes place, and during the course of the Championship the holes are cut as prearranged within the area of the traditional medal positions.

It has become the practice to paint the inside of the hole cups white to make them stand out better and catch the player's eye while putting. Most of the important golf tournaments are now televised and it is also an aid to the cameraman mounted high on his tower; the hole is more easily picked out by the zoom lense of the camera and allows T.V. viewers to follow the game more closely.

### Rational siting

Not all courses are of championship standard and neither are all golfers. This is all the more reason why the vast majority of greenkeepers should interest their conveners in the siting of the holes for medal occasions. It is worth while to decide the two-yard area within which each hole will be placed, taking into account the hazards of the approach and providing the opportunity for the average player to get down in a couple of putts. Siting of holes in impossible positions should be discounted.