

18 HOLES WITH HAWTREE

NO 6 — THE LAKE

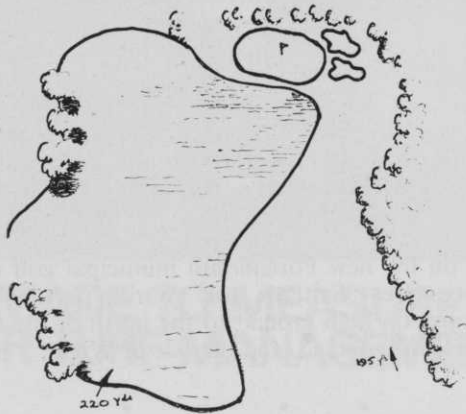
by FRED HAWTREE

NO new golf course, hoping to get its image on to the front cover of *Golf Illustrated* dares go into action without a lake somewhere in its purlieus. Keeping up with the Trent Jones's has become a point of honour so if your committee is looking around for a new feature to commemorate its reign, there is every chance that a water hazard will appear on the agenda.

Water has played a part in the game

until earth-moving machinery and less economical ideas came back from areas to which the Scots had exported their game in the nineteenth century.

If money is no object, local soil factors can be discounted. Your pool can be lined with butyl, supplied from the mains and even act as a reservoir for your water supply or a receptacle for your land drainage. The material excavated can be used to form mound



No. 12 at the Champions Club, Houston, Texas. The lake covers four acres. From the normal tee (right) only an elbow juts into the fairway. The championship tee is to the left. The green falls away to the lake and there are trees on the right for good measure.

of golf since the first "feathery" trickled into the Swilcan Burn at St Andrews. And it is less than 50 years since the "floater" was in circulation. Where has all the water gone these days? Presumably the big expansion in the twenties, 50 new courses a year, diluted the market with too many golfers who never left dry land.

The ultimate hazard then became neglected unless it occurred naturally,

features or to build up greens and tees. Dual use of the feature itself and exploitation of the material it provides will obviously improve the look of the pool's balance sheet. And if you stock it with trout there are future benefits to come.

What are the design factors involved?

The outline should be informal like everything else on the golf course.

Remember that informal swimming pools have now made the kidney bean shape nearly as regular as the circle. If the pool has to be lined, careful treatment of the edge to conceal the lining will be needed. You will be luckiest if it is possible to dam a stream so that Nature determines most of the outline and provides the surrounding contour ready made.

Depth should normally be 4 ft. 6 in. or more. A shallow pool will heat up in summer, evaporate more quickly, and encourage algae formation. Adequate depth will encourage natural processes appropriate to our climate and give the pool a life of its own. There are chemical treatments to keep the water clear but the greenkeeper has enough to do already.

Area, from every point of view is fundamental to the success of the operation. The water, and plenty of water, must be well seen to have its full landscape effect. And if it affects play, it must be seen from the point at which the shot is played. Admittedly our original links water hazard is often invisible or only seen as a dark line in the distance. But golf has moved away from blindness of water hazards just as it has from blind greens. On flat land, therefore, where the area of the pool might exceed what is economically feasible if the water is to be seen from a distance, the appropriate site will often be just in front of a tee especially at short holes. Then the problem is clearly set and the landscape effect is at its maximum. This siting will be still more desirable where the natural water table is several feet below ground level unless the distant view is from high ground. Where tees are elevated, the water can move nearer the green and introduce other playing factors besides pure "carry".

The shallow water trap a few inches deep is not to be recommended unless it be an enlargement of a moving water course presupposing that ground conditions do not require a concrete basin and that its contents do not stagnate. An artificial pool of little depth involves a lot of upkeep for the doubtful pleasure of tempting members to

remove their shoes and socks.

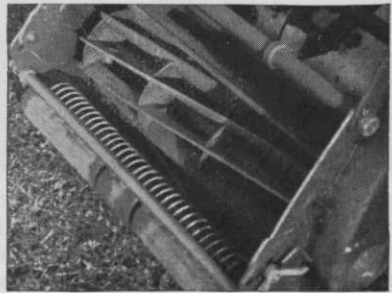
It is agreeable to allow marginal and aquatic plants to enhance the natural appearance of the pool where complications of upkeep will not arise. Close to play, it should be ensured that the banks are not steeper than 1 in 4 and that they are grassed to the lowest water level in summer. Gang mowers can then maintain them without difficulty down to the water's edge.

If then you want your water hazard to be fully effective, make it big enough, deep enough, natural in appearance and easy to maintain. But before you do anything persuade a surveyor member to calculate the volume of the excavation and be certain that you will have water in it throughout the year. Judging by 1968, the last requirement at least should not be difficult to fulfil.

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