

18 HOLES WITH HAWTREE

No. 9 — THE TEE

by FRED HAWTREE

At Hole No. 1 we noticed how important was the player's first impression and how a large tee made it possible to present the course favourably.

Ideally, the same principle should be extended to all eighteen holes especially the Par 3's. If club damage can be spread lightly over a big enough area, the grass will recover by itself and there need be no patching or reurfing. Two hundred and fifty square yards with 350 at short holes, is probably the minimum that can be envisaged at lightly used courses, but 350 and 450 square yards will not be enough if wear is intense and winter play continuous.

Like breweries, the need for economy has led to amalgamation. Surprisingly enough, if a 2 ft. strip round the edge of two tees each 10 yards x 10 yards is not used, nearly 25% of their area is wasted. Connected, they lose only 19%—still pretty considerable. Long narrow tees lose a higher percentage still, though other factors—traffic, location, hole length—may take precedence.

Maintenance is obviously reduced where tees are united but no connection should be made without detailed planning. If the tee-shot is to a fairway or green at a lower level, a long single formation may completely spoil the view of the hole from the back of the tee. At a short hole on one well-known links, the player now looks at a long flat length of tee with the green, as it were, lying at the end of it. All the intermediate land is obscured. It can be argued that the previous wasteful multiplicity of tees was preferable both from the landscape and playing view points.

Certainly where one large tee involves destroying valuable feature, as can often happen on sea-side links, the benefits of reduced maintenance must be very carefully weighed before a decision is made.

The overwhelming desire to join tees has even led to combinations of the tees of two different holes. There is one in

Hampshire resembling the top two-thirds of a Maltese Cross. The idea goes beyond reasonable limits when interference and delays are likely to be introduced.

Visibility problems can often be overcome by "stepping" the tee surface. If the slopes intervening between each level are gradual, say 1 in 4, mowing will not be interrupted, though space is again wasted.

Aesthetically, tees are the least attractive feature of a golf course. Efforts have been made in the past to introduce random shapes instead of rectangles but they have not been generally popular and a flat top on a random shape can often look curious. At the same time, an irregular shape can often be co-ordinated with the direction of the tee shot and surrounding contour to provide something both interesting and acceptable.

Players seem to prefer a tee built up to inspire confidence and some elevation will often be desirable for better drainage. If the surrounding slopes are graded out very gently the flat area will almost disappear and hand work with it.

The teeing ground itself is probably best left dead level. There have been suggestions for a back to front fall at downhill holes and front to back at uphill holes but it is doubtful whether the feasible gradients are significant. A tee can in fact appear level and have a measurable fall.

Complaints will however soon follow if a new tee is wrongly orientated—and the effects of wrong orientation on the tee shot can be noticeable. Players will often allow the trajectory of their club to follow the line given by the tee while aiming in the desired direction. The irregular shape at least avoids this problem.

On most inland soils the dry tee is always going to be more resistant to wear than the wet one. Therefore good drainage is nearly as vital as it is in greens. Modern specifications for clay soils even

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**SOUTHERN SECRETARIES v SOUTHERN SECTION GREENKEEPERS
AT BEACONSFIELD ON WEDNESDAY, 15th OCTOBER**

Once again the secretaries fielded a team which just had the edge on the Greenkeepers which enabled them to retain the Challenge Trophy.

It was a glorious day for the middle of October and the way the course was playing was a great credit to Bob Plain, Ernie, Brian and young Claydon.

The Captain of the Secretaries, Air Commodore F. A. Pearce, in accepting the Trophy, said how much he had enjoyed being at Beaconsfield for the occasion.

Replying on behalf of the Southern Section the Secretary congratulated the victors and expressed the hope that this now very popular annual event would continue for many years to come.

The results were as follows:—

SECRETARIES v GREENKEEPERS

a.m.

A. Heron & S. MacDonald	0	B. Payne & R. Plain	1
R. Davenport & J. Miller	1	D. H. Major & E. W. West	0
G. Waites & J. O'Dwyer	1	G. Payne & W. Machin	0
E. L. Williams & J. Keenan	1	E. Hall & E. W. Folkes	0
E. G. Smith-Wright & L. Warne	0	R. Whitehead & C. A. Moore	1
J. Adair & P. Myhill	1	F. W. Ford & S. Kilby	0
	<hr/> 4		<hr/> 2

p.m.

A. Heron	1	B. Payne	0
R. Davenport	0	R. Plain	1
S. MacDonald	1	D. Major	0
J. Miller	0	E. W. West	1
P. Myhill	0	W. Machin	1
J. O'Dwyer	1	G. Payne	0
J. Keenan	0	E. Hall	1
E. Williams	1	E. Folkes	0
J. Adair	1	P. Whitehead	0
G. Waites	1	C. A. Moore	0
L. Warne	$\frac{1}{2}$	F. W. Ford	$\frac{1}{2}$
E. Smith-Wright	0	S. Kilby	1
	<hr/> 6 $\frac{1}{2}$		<hr/> 5 $\frac{1}{2}$

Match Result 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$

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call for a drainage layer and a soil mix equivalent to those set out for greens. This will be impossible for a whole new course on a tight budget but it is worth considering when new tees are to be made on existing courses. Inward external slopes may also need drainage to cut surface flow or seepage on to the tee. Where these factors have to be considered, soil conditions are also likely to

be those where surfaced paths have to be provided alongside tees to avoid the development of trampled mud, as they do at the other end of the scale on very sandy soil where the surface breaks up.

Many problems will be solved if an acceptable grass substitute can be found for teeing areas. The rubber mat is not the final answer. The new golf course in Alaska is having a nylon tufted carpet for tees.