

# TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

Mr H. Dodge has left the West Kent Golf Club and taken on the new Deangate Ridge Municipal Golf Course at Strood in Kent. It was interesting to see the transformation which took place when he took over from the contractors. An open space suddenly became a golf course, semi-rough appeared in all the right places, tees and greens suddenly looked right because they were mown right, and unkempt hedges suddenly looked tidy.

Now Mr Dodge is 48 and I admire him for tackling a job which is always more arduous than looking after an established course. What interests me particularly is the tradition he represents; automatically the job is organised on proper routine lines; automatically things are done which only a greenkeeper knows are necessary.

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The Greenkeepers' Association is something over 60 years old, its members have inherited a great tradition. They guard it and pass it on. Golfers argue about large greens, small greens, fast greens, slow greens. The greenkeeper quietly carries on and produces playing conditions according to the unwritten rules of his tradition.

The Apprenticeship Scheme is the best channel to ensure that this tradition is passed on. Without it, all the Green Committees in the world could not get things right.

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