

JUBILATION FOR PIERSON

The Links Management Trust of St Andrews have awarded a substantial contract to Brian Pierson to carry out major work on their Jubilee Course.

The Jubilee Course at St Andrews was opened in 1987 on the day when Queen Victoria's jubilee was celebrated, but it was regarded then as the ladies' course, an alternative to the gentler challenge on the ladies' putting green. In 1912, the course was extended from 12 to 18 holes and, in 1939, Willie Auchterlonie, then club professional to the R & A, with a few men began its construction.

By 1946, they had made a pleasing course on the bayside of the dunes, not over-demanding, but ideal for beginners and high-handicap players, so wrote Pat Ward-Thomas in his book 'The Royal & Ancient'

Now the Jubilee is to undergo a major facelift, which will transform the course into a testing layout of about 6,700 yards, an increase over the present course of some 700 yards. Donald Steel, of architects Cotton

Pennink and Steel, was commissioned by the Links Management Committee, as part of its re-development plans for St Andrews, to advise on how the Jubilee Course could be upgraded.

Donald Steel feels that the course offers greater potential than any other he has been involved in altering. The Jubilee has no par fives which, it is felt, are essential if the course is to become a balanced test for the modern game. Additional length had to be added and the land has been found within the boundaries of the Links Trust ground.

The new design is a figure of eight with the course's main feature being the skilled use of the previously disregarded central sand dune. There is also a much greater variation in the direction of play than at present. The redesigned course will introduce some outstanding holes with both greens and tees varying in height.

The 3rd is the first exciting new hole, a par five of 550 yards, it uses the present 16th and 15th

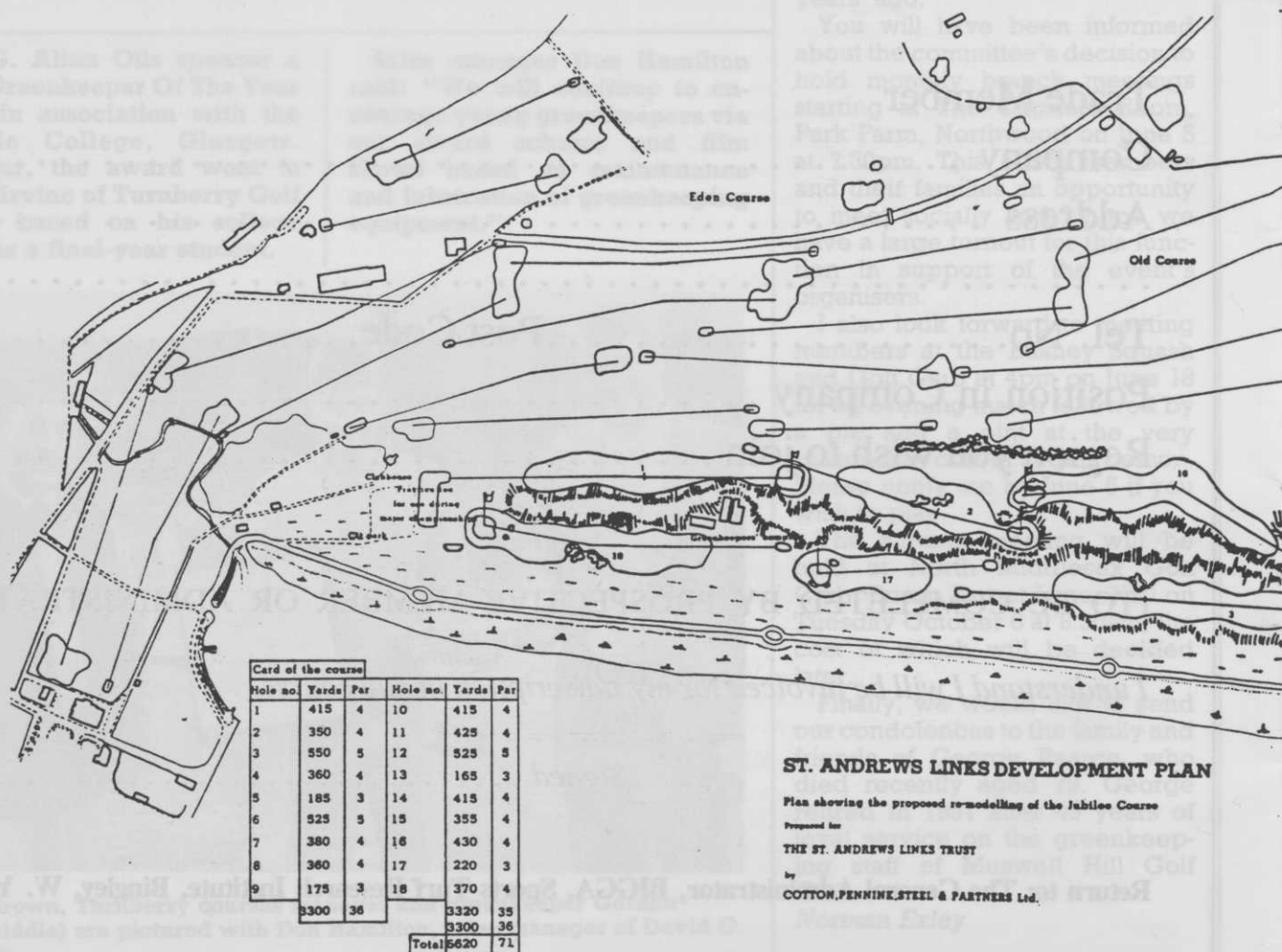
holes. The 6th, also, is two existing holes strung together, the 5th and 6th, to make another genuine par five of over 500 yards.

Both the 9th and 10th will break new ground, the latter being a stiff par four with a green guarded by a lone dune, although a final resting place for the green has yet to be found. A considerable amount of clearance work and contouring will have to be done by the Pierson team to get this part of the course to blend in with its surroundings.

For this work, the Links Management Trust have been fortunate in acquiring a substantial amount of topsoil from the excavation of a local swimming pool, reputed to be the site of a leper colony!

The 13th is an excellent short hole of 165 yards played from an elevated tee into the prevailing wind to a green backed by a gorse-covered dune. The 15th is regarded by Donald Steel as the star attraction with a tight line, between a huge dune on the right and severe gorse on the left, into a green set in a hollow.

The finish is also exacting with the 17th being a par three of 220 yards off the back tee and the 18th a par four heavily bunkered on the



left of the driving area.

The specification for the contract was produced by Jim Arthur, who will visit the course during the alterations.

Brian Pierson faces a daunting task in radically altering part of the home of golf, but with assistance from Links Supervisor Walter Woods, his task will be made easier. Work has already commenced on green site clearance under one of Pierson's golf course construction Managers Nigel Booker. Walter, who knows every inch of St Andrews, has already pinpointed areas from where the construction team will be able to obtain suitable material for the creation of the "new dunes" and rolling contours, which will ensure the course retains its unique status as part of the home of golf.

Construction will take well into the autumn and by the time Brian Pierson hands back the Jubilee Course to Links Management Trust secretary Alec Beveridge, it will prove a stern test. Stiffer than in the early 'fifties when John Salvesen, a partner in the design company, completed the course, never taking more than five at any hole with only a putter!



Messrs Pierson, Woods, Salvesen, Booker in discussions.



The central dune looking down the proposed 15th.

