

The GOLF COURSE

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THERE is a certain course in this country whose undoubted merits can be appreciated by the best golfers, and yet nearly every expert, in commenting on the course, will refer with regret to the tricky qualities of the putting-greens. The excellence of the turf cannot be denied, but the green committee appears to take a fiendish delight in keeping the greens as fast as lightning, and on occasions placing the cups in almost impossible places. The chairman of the committee once asserted that he could cut a hole on one of the greens and place a ball thirty feet away from it, when he would wager that no one would be able to get down in two. On this same course, during a tournament, a player was on the green and his approach putt gathered so much speed that it ran off the green and actually was lost.

There never is any excuse for making putting impossible, and yet, in many tournaments, the committees apparently believe that they are unusually clever when they succeed in placing some of the cups in ridiculous spots. Of course, on flat greens it makes but little difference where the hole is cut, unless it is

way over on one side so close to the guarding pit that the approach is unnecessarily severe, but on greens which are very undulating, it is not at all difficult to cut a hole that is well-nigh impregnable to anything except a lucky stab.

It is an old trick of green-keepers to wager against a score which seems to be very probable, when they are aware that they are to place the cups, for it is quite possible to run a very fine performance many strokes above figures which would have been recorded had the cups been placed normally.

Undulating greens are most desirable when they fit the shots. Certainly a pronounced undulation should never figure at the very end of the ball's run to the cup. In other words, a hole should never be cut on a very pronounced slope which may play queer pranks at the very finish of a putt which had been correctly hit. The selection of locations for cups, previous to an important tournament, is a great responsibility, and it is best that the person who has it to do should walk around with a putter and a ball, trying out every selection to make sure that there exists no subtle trickiness which might escape the eye.

PROFESSIONALS and green-keepers frequently request us to advise them where they can secure situations. We shall be glad to furnish the names of competent men.