

THE GOLF COURSE

A MONTHLY BULLETIN DEVOTED TO THE DISCUSSION OF MODERN METHODS AS APPLIED TO GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION AND UPKEEP

Modern Golf Chats

By A. W. TILLINGHAST

SOMETIMES we hear this question: "What is golf architecture?" It may be answered in few words. In the old days, when a club desired a course, there would be called in a professional player who would have very little time to give to the work, and he would be expected to know instinctively where the hole should be placed. He might walk over the ground once or twice, and after the third walk, the course would be laid out. He has done the best that he could in the short time which he has, but, after all, he only has been able to locate the greens and give a general idea of the run of the course.

The modern golf architect devotes many days to exhaustive study of conditions; the ground must be surveyed and charted, and greens and hazards are modeled in miniature before work is begun. The conscientious builder of courses desires to spend a great deal of his time on the ground as the work progresses, for often there are slight eleventh hour changes to be made. It is unfair to criticise the work of some

professionals, for they are players, and even though they have given the laying out of courses some study, they cannot devote the time which is necessary to the construction of a modern course.

Besides having a profound knowledge of the strokes of golf and the groups of strokes which should be demanded by a modern course, the architect must be something of an engineer. Greens cannot be placed always in spots which look attractive, for possibly these spots would not produce good turf.

The character of soil and drainage must be given much attention. However, I think that it is not possible to lay out a golf course by theory alone. The architect must be a player with a feel of the shots. To be sure, there are times when the first judgments may be wrong. He conceives a drive and mid-iron hole, but after it has been surveyed and he gets the actual distance, he finds that it is longer than he anticipated—possibly a drive and cleek, or drive and brasseys length; but usually the first judgment of the expert is

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nearly correct. It is the feel of the shots rather than the measure of tape that is the greatest asset to the builder of courses.

Wherever the construction of a golf course is contemplated, it is desirable that an expert advise in the selection of ground for a proposed course. In his eyes the undeveloped ground is a finished creation, and his experience enables him to determine immediately the most promising site. A modern course requires from one hundred to one hundred and fifty acres, although in some instances, when the tracts have been spread out considerably, very satisfactory lay-outs have placed eighteen holes on a trifle less than ninety acres. Then, step by step:

Permit a golf architect of recognized repute to plan the course. There are many possible arrangements on every tract, but he will determine the best one.

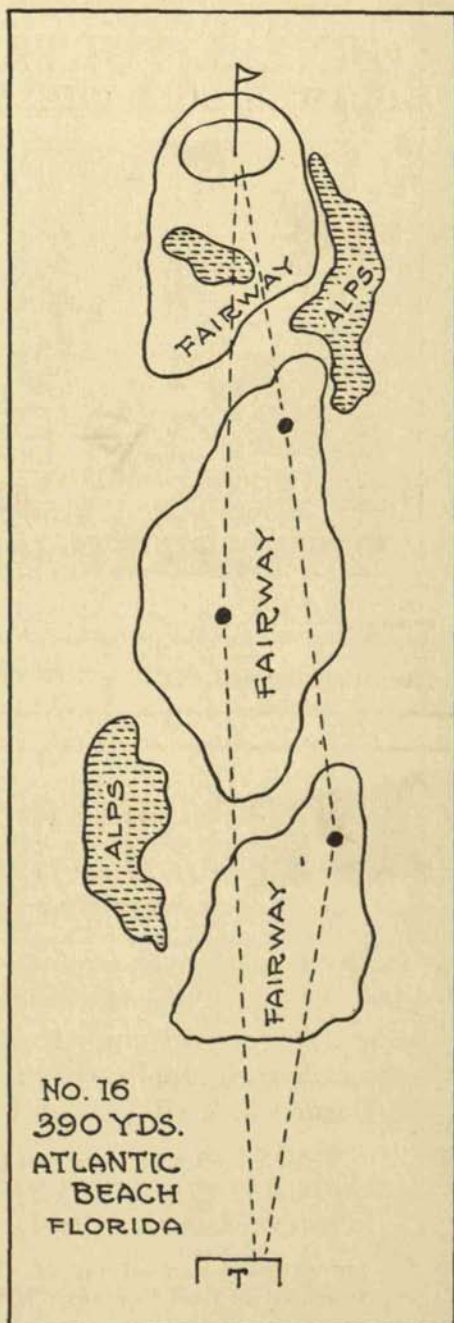
Call in a green-keeper and constructor of unquestioned merit. Place in his hands the prints and models prepared by your architect.

Permit your constructor to follow the plans unhampered and without the slightest interference.

Adhere unwaveringly to the expert advice which you have paid for, and use only materials of known and tested excellence.

It is my purpose each month to illustrate types of modern holes, and in this number there is shown one from the course at Atlantic Beach, Florida, planned by the writer last August. The segregated fairways are distinctly modern, and they are particularly effective in sandy country. The islands of green, standing out prominently in the midst of the surrounding sand, not only are pleasing to the eye, but provide very sound golf.

Of course the expert will play directly on to the middle fairway, which enables him to be home with his second, a feat beyond the powers of the short



driver, who places his tee shot on the first fairway.

Segregated fairways are economical, for the work of upkeep is concentrated.