

One-Shotters

BY THE OBSERVER.

PLAYING over many courses I find the greatest pleasure in the good one-shot holes which each offers, and after rounds, when my three companions and myself talked of the day's golf with our feet under a table, I observed that holes of this type furnished the main topics of conversation. After questioning many golfers, I am convinced that the one-shotters provide the spice for the sport's pudding. The three or four and sometimes five holes, which may be reached from the teeing grounds, either make or break a course, and any lay-out that does not contain feature one-shotters is dreary indeed no matter how excellent it may be in other respects.

The one-shot hole supplies quick action, with success or failure depending on one stroke. Probably this is the secret of its gripping appeal. Usually the greens are more attractive than the others for they and their approaches constitute the hole. The character of the ground, or maybe water, between teeing ground and green may be of such a terrifying nature that an all absorbing realization of the penalty of failure creates a mental hazard. Certainly this feature cannot be ignored, but after all the character of the green and its surroundings is the keystone around which the hole is built.

I have observed many faults, seemingly trivial in the eyes of some but nevertheless vital. The construction of the greens is one of them. When a one-shot hole is planned the architect knows exactly the character of the shot which is to find and hold a certain green, provided it has been hit properly. Several teeing grounds make it possible to demand a certain shot under all wind conditions. With this in mind, the green is planned to take this particular shot and yet we find greens

utterly unaccommodating to a true shot, the type of which is absolutely known. How often do we see greens sloping away from the pitches of mashie or iron? Surely such as these are inexcusable. The sizes of the greens, too, depend upon the length of the shots which are to reach them, small for the wrist-shot pitches and increasing in area as the shots from the teeing grounds lengthen. Only too frequently are there evidences of the absence of any such thought.

The most glaring fault, however, is the blind shot to a one-shot hole, particularly on the very short ones where the real objective is the cup itself. With a mashie in his hands the average player is not satisfied if he only reaches the green. He is playing at the tin and he counts his effort a partial failure if he does not come to rest within reasonable putting distance. He wants to see the flag all the way to the cup, that he may feel the shot, too; and above all he wants the pleasure of seeing his ball strike the ground and eagerly watching its progress. Is it going to take the spin? Is it to stop, or keep on rolling just a bit more perhaps? Any short hole which denies the golfer this great thrill of expectancy is unworthy of a place on any course. I know of a course in Philadelphia where exists a mashie hole, the green absolutely hidden away in an undulating basin, but despite the criticism of the foremost experts the committee hangs on to it. Such a hole leaves a distinctly bad impression.

Any suggestion of freakishness must be avoided. The shot to the green of any short hole should be insured safely provided it is played accurately. For this reason pronounced undulations should be avoided when building greens for holes of pitching length. The reason for this is obvious.

A desirable distribution of one-

shotters will place two in each nine, with the lengths varying from the controlled pitch of 100 yards or thereabout to the full drive which may be considered to measure 240 yards, possibly longer or shorter than this yardage as the character of the ground and turf may provide. A very closely guarded, small green, with trouble all the way, measuring 115 yards; a slightly larger green and not so closely bunkered for an iron of 175 yards; a 90-foot green to take a cleek or spoon of 200 yards, bunkered on the sides and somewhere along the line to catch half topped shots which might run the distance; and a big green, similarly trapped for the full shot with wood—furnish a rather attractive collection. Any one-shotter, which leaves an opening for a badly hit ball to find the green, is open to severe criticism. The type is do-or-die in its demands; even the most ordinary players delight to play one-shot holes of this kind. But it must not be inferred that the bunkering of these may not grade shots, rewarding adequately the daring. Hazards may be arranged in such a way that the most desirable putt awaits the player who courts the greatest danger. Naturally, to accomplish this, the greens must be irregular in shape, presenting the longest face to the shot which comes to it either from the right or left as conditions make evident.

The true line to any green may not be direct and sometimes this is true of holes of the one-shot type. Take for example the Redan, which has been copied on many American courses. It requires a good cleek or spoon to reach the green, which runs diagonally across a direct line between teeing ground and green. The correct line of play is not direct but rather to the right where a well placed ball is thrown in to the pin from the face of a gentle slope. I have observed many cunningly planned one-shotters and as I have said already I find my keenest delight in grappling with them. Strangely, my three cronies, Long, Wild and Short, unitedly agree with me for once.

Editorial

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than repaid us for our endeavor to give authoritative information on the subjects discussed in our bulletin.

We sincerely regret the fact that it seems impracticable to issue *THE GOLF COURSE* regularly during the coming year, though we do hope to publish at least several numbers. This decision is forced upon us by the handicaps which the war has imposed. Several members of our active organization have already enlisted in the military or naval service and others expect to follow shortly.

This makes it practically impossible for us to devote attention to anything outside of actual routine business, and then again we can not depend on men outside our organization who have been welcome contributors, for most of these men also are compelled to think of other problems just now.

It is far from our intention to discontinue *THE GOLF COURSE* or even suspend its publication for any definite period, and the regular monthly issues will be resumed at the earliest possible moment. We trust this will come very soon.

We want to remind our many readers, who have shown such appreciation of *THE GOLF COURSE*, that any inquiries which they have to make pertaining to subjects generally discussed in the publication will be gladly answered by mail.

It is often possible also for us to send one of our experts to make a personal inspection of turf conditions, etc., and give recommendations as to the proper treatment and we welcome an opportunity of serving you in this way.