Old Layouts Fairer to Women Golfers

By MISS CECIL LEITCH
Ex-British Ladies’ Champion

A WELL-KNOWN golf course architect told me recently that one of his ambitions is to lay out a golf course entirely for women. I was unable to follow up the remark with a discussion as to his ideas on the subject, but he gave me food for thought. Shortly after this brief conversation, an important women’s meeting was played over a modern course, and during this event a competitor said to me, “Isn’t this an ideal course for women?” I could not agree with this opinion, and my negative answer caused surprise with the result that my reasons were solicited. It was then that I ventured to point out that the course was laid out for “tigers” (the term now used to describe the best performers of the male persuasion). My inquirer still adhered to her original opinion, so further explanation was necessary. Her attention was then drawn to several incidents which had already occurred in the event then in progress.

Let me give one of these here to illustrate my argument. At a certain hole on the course, A, representing one side, and B, representing the opposing side, were all square at the end of eighteen holes and the match had to be played out. A hit a very poor drive to the next hole and the ball finished in a much better position than it deserved in thin rough. B had a perfectly struck long tee shot on the true line and

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and I find an example at the third hole of this famous course—a course which caters for the Open and Amateur Championship tests. At this, “The Cardinal,” men are given a hard task to secure the perfect four, as the drive must be long and accurate before the “Cardinal Bunker” can be carried with the second shot. (The Prestwick Club does not open its doors to women, so there are no women members, but certain playing privileges are extended to the weaker sex. I mention this point in passing to show that women use men’s tees when playing the course.) The architecture of this hole is such that it becomes an equally perfect five for a woman player of low handicap. Innumerable cases could be given which would emphasize the suitability of the older style of golf course architecture to women’s golf as compared with the more modern style of construction.

Women’s golf and men’s golf are two entirely different forms of the game despite what may be said to the contrary.

During the past year I have played over several, to me, new courses, laid out on modern lines, and the thing which was most noticeable was the lack of holes of the “drive and approach” length. There appears to be a tendency nowadays to make a hole either very long or “one-shot,” with the result that the moderate player has an excess of wooden-club play and recovery work.—Golf Illustrated, London.