

Brae Burn—Hole by Hole

Scene of the 1928 National Amateur championship

By CARL B. CLANCY

FAMOUS old Brae Burn, scene of the National Women's Championship in 1906, the National Open in 1919, and many State championships, is this year the battle ground of the National Amateur Championship. It is as severe a test of golf as could be found anywhere in the United States. The length of the course is 6604 yards, Par 74, and the lay-out is such that this year's winner will have well-proved his right to the title.

On driving from the first tee the player finds an excellent warming-up hole of 337 yards. A good shot from the tee, which is on a little hill will land in a position where the green can easily be seen, mounds surround the green and thirty yards short of it is a brook.

Number 2—304 yards, requires the placing of the drive over a high hill in order to land in a good position for the pitch to the double level green which is well trapped on the sides and the rear. In front there are two openings on either side of a deep bunker.

A sliced drive means a bad lie in traps or stiff rough.

Number 3 which is 375 yards long has an uphill fairway for about 275 yards and then a deep valley in front of the green which is open in front for a run-up shot, but trapped on the sides and raised slightly in the rear.

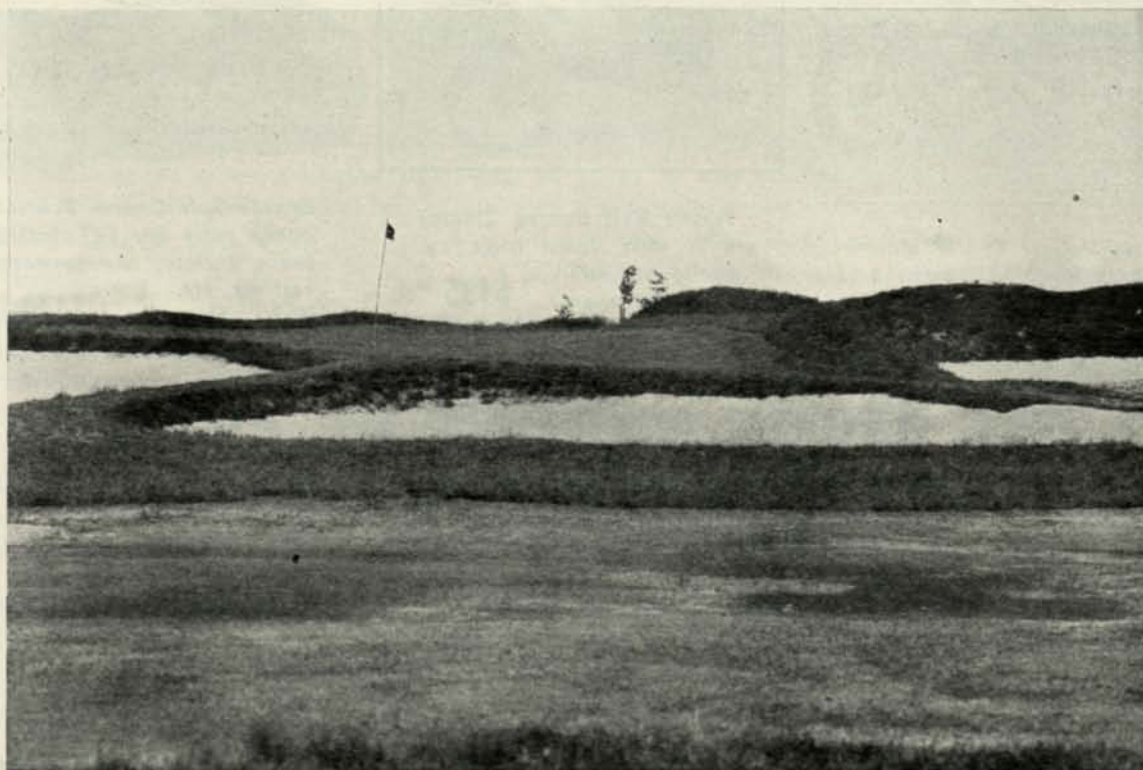
The next hole is one where the scores will begin to run high for the less accurate players. With a gully to carry on the drive, traps on the left and out of bounds on the right, one must be straight down the middle. There are deep traps and high mounds to carry on the second shot and the approach shot is equally difficult with traps surrounding the green. The distance is 446 yards.

There will be few "Birdies" scored on the fifth during the coming championship and a par 5 will be well earned. 577 yards long, with a wide gully in front of the green and traps around the sides and rear, make it the hardest hole on the course.

Number 6 gives a brief respite from



JOHN SHANAHAN
Brae Burn's veteran greenkeeper



Brae Burn's No. 12—163 yard uphill shot. There's trouble aplenty here

the hard hitting. It is a 150 yard hole, the tee of which is 75 feet higher than the green. The front edge of the green is bordered by a brook so that the tee shot falling short will be likely to add a couple of extra strokes to the score.

The same brook that will catch the careless player on Number 6 will also catch him on Number 7 where it crosses the fairway, flowing nearer to the tee on the right. After crossing the brook the fairway is uphill to the green which is open in front so that the good player should have little trouble getting on in two shots. The distance is 412 yards.

Number 8 is a 227 yard hole over a deep ravine with sides that are very steep. There is very little chance for recovery if one should half top his tee shot.

Number 9 is a drive over a ridge to the foot of a hill and then a mashie-niblick to the green on top, which is 299 yards from the tee. A very shallow trap runs the length of the green in the rear. Beyond the trap, being out of bounds, a shot a trifle strong will probably mean a penalty. The outgoing nine is 3127 yards with a par of 35.

Number 10 hole is 491 yards and has a long rolling fairway with mounds and heavy rough on the sides. The green must be pitched to in most cases on the third shot as few players will make the green in two shots.

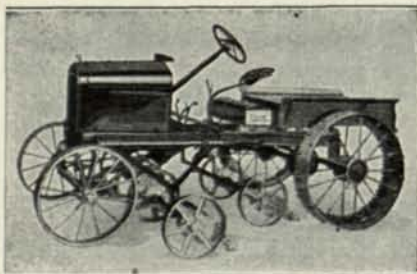
A new tee on Number 11 increases the yardage by 20 yards making this hole 463 yards long. The drive is slightly downhill with out of bounds to a hook and trees on the right to penalize a slice. The left side of the green is open for the long hitter while the right side has a deep trap and mounds in front.

The 12th is a 163 yard hole and unless the tee shot lands on the green the player is certainly in trouble, for two huge traps cover the entire front of the green which is large enough to easily take three putts.

The fairway on the 470 yard Number 13 is very close to the railroad tracks and a very slight hook will carry the ball out of bounds. 100 yards short of the green is a ditch to catch a poor second shot, but a good one will reach and hold the green which has a distinct rise towards the rear.

Number 14—556 yards long according to the card, is the second hardest hole of the course. The fairway is uphill and undulating, and the green is practically unattainable in less than three strokes. The entrance being only from forty to fifty feet wide calls for great accuracy. Surrounding the green are banks about ten feet high, having on top heavy rough and sand traps.

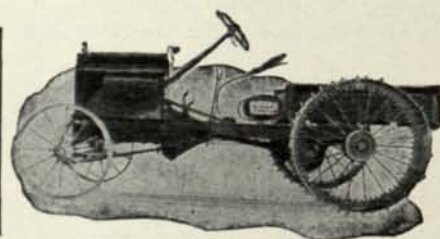
Number 15 is a short two-shotter of 311 yards. The fairway is uphill and the green can be seen for the second shot, but the distance must be judged accurately



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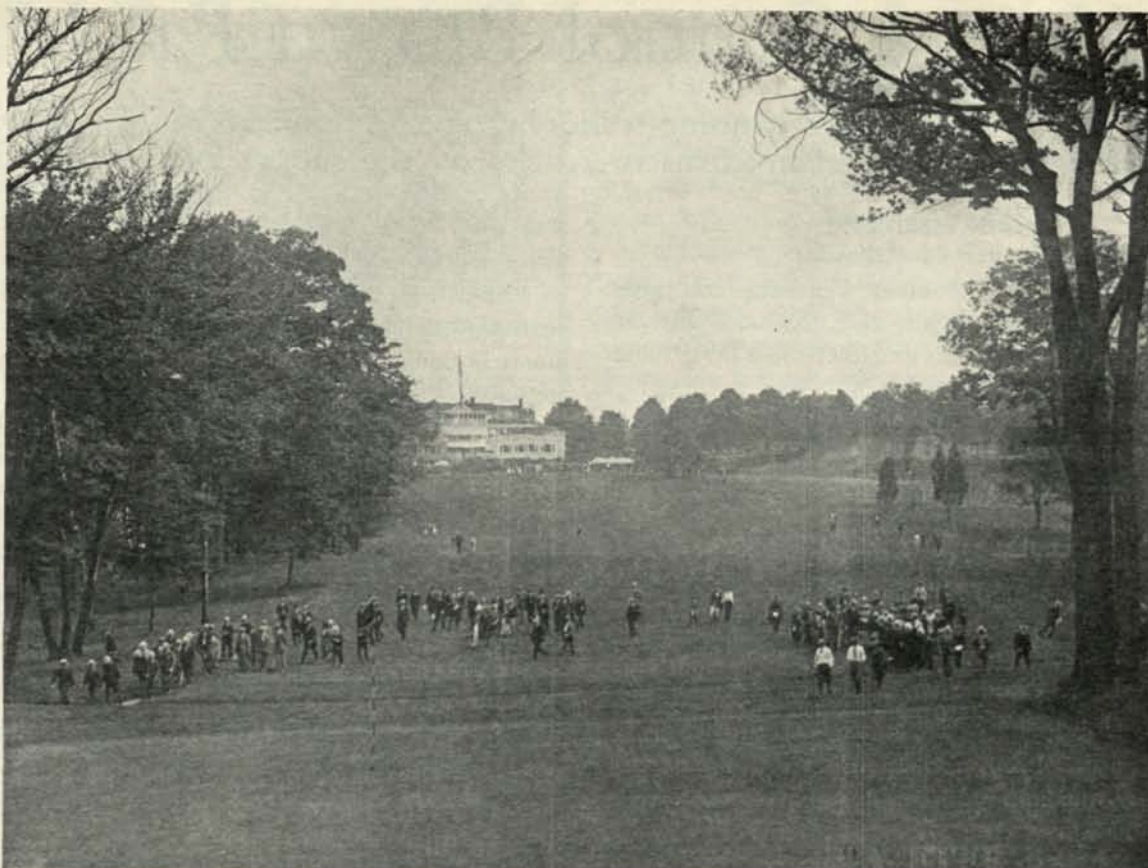
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GALLERY FOLLOWING CHICK EVANS AT THE BRAE BURN COUNTRY CLUB

This famous course at West Newton, Mass., will be the scene of the National Amateur Championship, Sept. 10-15. John Shanahan, veteran greenkeeper, is getting it ready for the big test

Photo by Edwin Levick

or the player will come to grief in the deep bunker in front or in the rough in the rear.

Although only 370 yards long, a par 4 will be well earned on Number 16. The fairway is on a side hill and a tremendous uphill drive is required to land on a level spot. The green is open in front, but in the rear ample trouble exists in the form of thick rough and a steep bank.

Number 17 is a 255 yard hole with the fairway downhill all the way. The green is raised in the rear and trapped on both sides.

On Number 18—437 yards long, there can be no slowing down in the heavy pace set by the other seventeen holes. The first 175 yards is but a narrow aisle through the trees with a carry of 210 yards to clear a brook which has a high mound running along the further bank. The

second shot is a long uphill one to the large green which is raised in the rear. Distance in—3516 yards; par 37.

The greenkeeper, John Shanahan who has been with the club twenty-seven years has put the course in good shape for many championships. He has twenty-six men working forty-five hours per week for the ordinary maintenance of the twenty-seven holes.

For mowing the fairways he has three 5-unit fairway mowers hauled by three tractors, two light and one heavy.

The greens at Brae-Burn are of South German mixed Bent and a nursery of fourteen hundred square feet supplies the turf.

Mr. Shanahan combats brown patch by watering the greens early in the morning and he believes that he secures as good results by this treatment as by any other.

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