

# Merion And Its History

This famous club, organized in 1866, started with fifteen men and annual dues of two dollars

**T**O TELL the history of Merion in tennis, golf, cricket and other sports would take up more room than is available. In the earlier days, many cricket matches with foreign teams were played as Lord Hawkes' team, Prince Ranjitsinshi's team, Cambridge University eleven, Australian eleven, and the Marlybone Cricket Club.

The Merion Cricket Club was started with fifteen members, and Archibald R. Montgomery was its first president. The annual dues were two dollars per annum, and the luxuries afforded the members consisted of the privilege of playing cricket in an open field at Wynnewood on the land of a member's father, of finding shelter in any old countryside school house, and the use of the school pump to provide bathing facilities. These grounds were occupied from 1886 to 1893.

While the club was organized in 1866 the present golf course was not built until 1900. To golfers it is hardly necessary to mention the many golf matches of note that have been played on the Merion courses. Amateur and professional, state, city and national events have been held there. In national events, Merion's first experience was with the Woman's National Tournament in 1909 which was played over the original course north of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

In 1916 the National Amateur Tournament of the United States Golf Association was played upon the new courses, the qualifying round being played on both the East and West courses. This was won by "Chick" Evans.

In 1924, Merion's celebrated East course was again selected as the site for the 28th National Amateur Golf Championship. It resulted in the victory of "Bobby" Jones over George von Elm, on the twenty-eighth hole.

In 1926, at the request of many of the leading women golfers of the United States, Merion's East course was selected by the United States Golf Association for the Women's National Tournament of that year, which was won by Mrs. Helen B. Stetson, of Philadelphia.

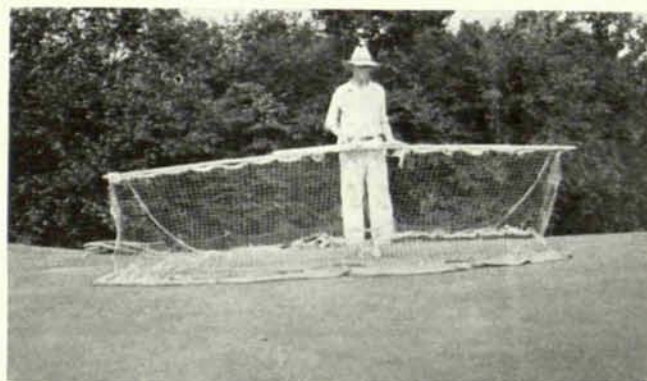
Merion's East course was again selected this year as the place for holding the present 34th National Amateur Championship of the United States Golf Association.

Perhaps it would be interesting to know how the quality and condition of these courses have been established and maintained; and it is only fair to say that it is due largely to the fact that in the twenty years since the development of the East course at Merion only four chairmen of the Green Committee have had charge of the work. These are: Winthrop Sargent, Hugh I. Wilson, John R. Maxwell, and Arnold Gerstell, the present chairman. Continuity of purpose, knowledge of development, and skilled attention have marked the work of these men.

It is said of Joe Valentine, veteran greenkeeper in charge of Merion's golf courses, that there may be other greenkeepers in the United States just as good, but there are certainly none any better. He is a keen student of turf culture and has shown a versatility in handling critical situations which stamp him as a past master in golf course maintenance. Always he has Merion in the pink of condition, and when disease strikes his turf he quickly finds an efficient means of checking it. In every way Joe Valentine is a credit to the profession he represents.



JOE VALENTINE  
*Veteran greenkeeper of the  
Merion Cricket Club*

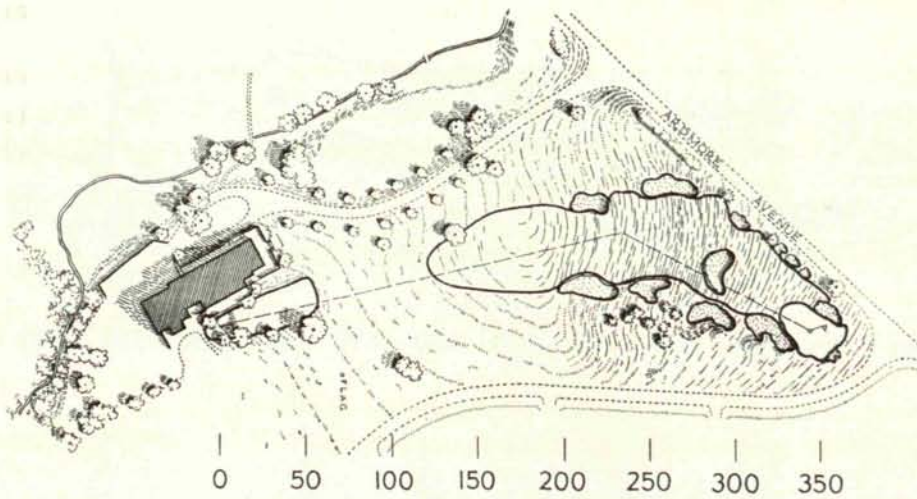


NET WITH SACKS FOR DRAGGING GREENS

*This is used by Robert Foulis, pro-greenkeeper, Bellerive C. C., Normandy, Mo., who says it is more practical than poling.*

MERION CRICKET CLUB, PHILADELPHIA

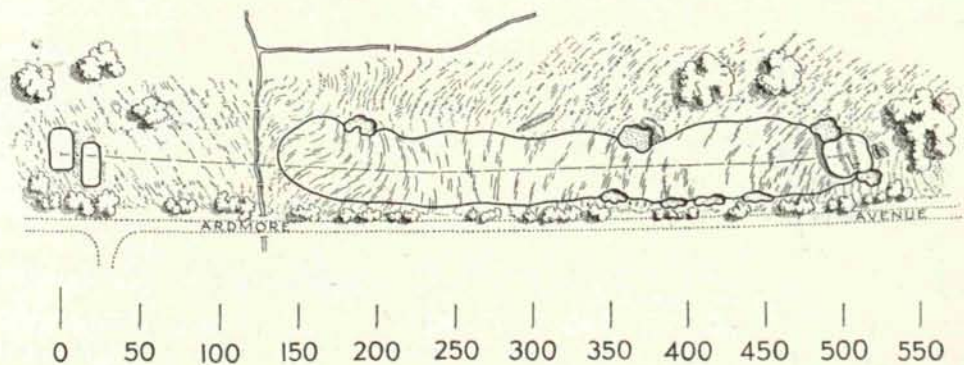
HOLE 1. 360 Yards—Par 4. Drive and Pitch



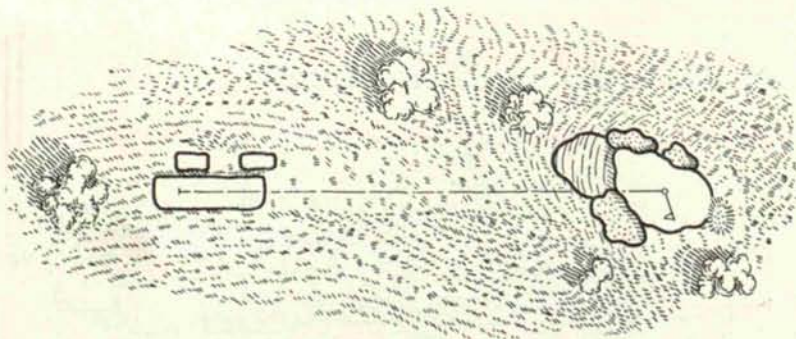
A 360-YARD dog-leg, bearing to the right, requiring a well-placed first shot. Two traps, stepped one above the other, lie in wait for a hooked drive. Two others, to the right, penalize a slice. A small trap near the cedar tree at the back end of the Fairway marks the line of the drive. The second shot demands particular accuracy, with a carrying bunker to catch a topped shot and with traps to left and right of level Green. Pocket of sand in a mound at the back of the Green punishes an over-played approach. Looks difficult, but two good shots in succession will turn the trick.

HOLE 2. 523 Yards—Par 5. A Three-Shotter

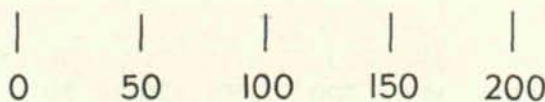
STRAIGHTAWAY, 523 yards Drive over a brook, one hundred fifty yards from the Tee, with a trap to the left and an exacting boundary to the right all the way. Up grade from the brook to the Green, requiring a stout second shot for short hitters, with a chance for the longer ones to pick off a bird if they have courage to go for it. Traps to the left and right to penalize a muffed second shot. Third a comfortable run-up or pitch to the triple-plateau Green. Traps to the left and to the far right side of the Green. A hole that allows no nonsense.



HOLE 3. 195 Yards—Par 3. Iron or Spoon



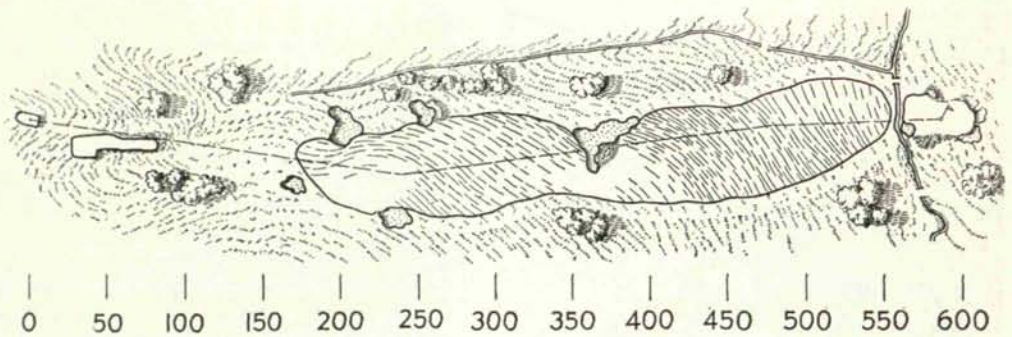
TEE shot requires full carry to plateau Green, somewhat higher than the Tee. Steep, rough slope running up to the Green, which has slightly converging slopes and is flanked by a deep, high-banked trap on the near right and two smaller ones on the left far side.



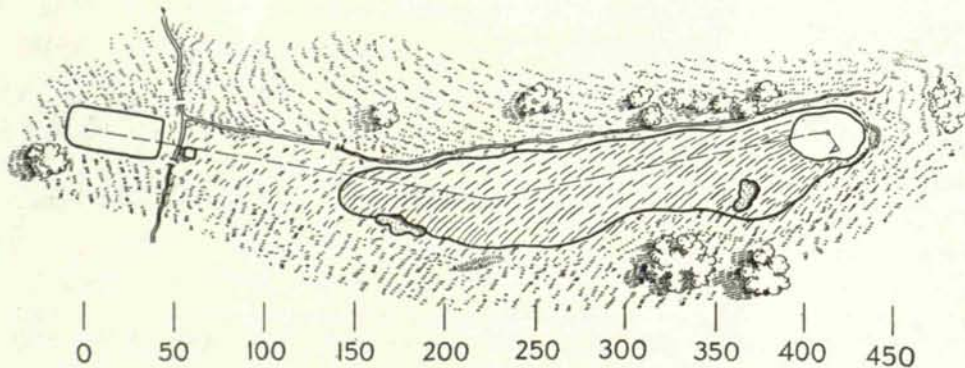
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## HOLE 4. 595 Yards—Par 5. A Long Three-Shotter

Straightaway, 595 yards. Traps to the left to catch a hooked drive, and another to the right to punish the opposite fault. Plenty of distance for a smacking second, with a broad carrying bunker to catch a topped second shot. Third a pitch, if the first two have had length. Fairway slopes down to flat Green, with a brook in front, mounds to the left and right, and traps at the rear. The Tee and second shots generally tell the story.



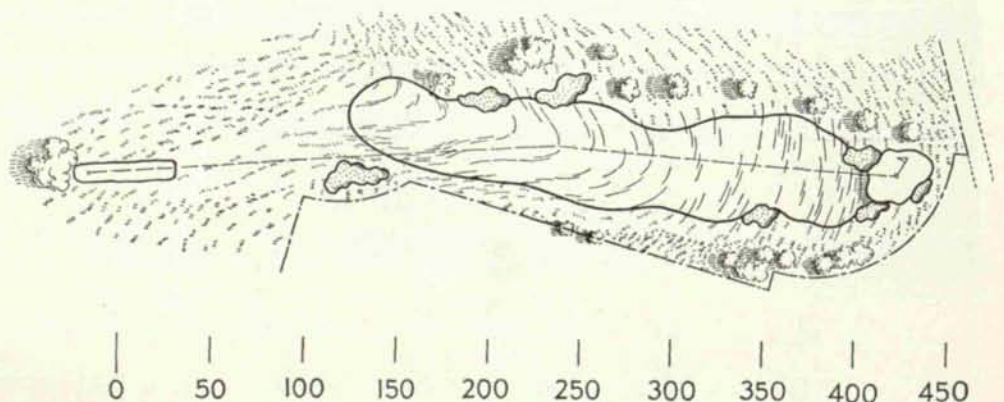
## HOLE 5. 435 Yards—Par 4.—Drive and Iron or Spoon



Fairway bears somewhat to the left, with a brook on that side from Tee to Green. Trap to the right to punish a sliced drive, another farther along to catch a timid second shot, with an ample, somewhat sloping Green. Altogether, a hole that does not appear particularly challenging, but which produces fewer pars than any other except the eighteenth.

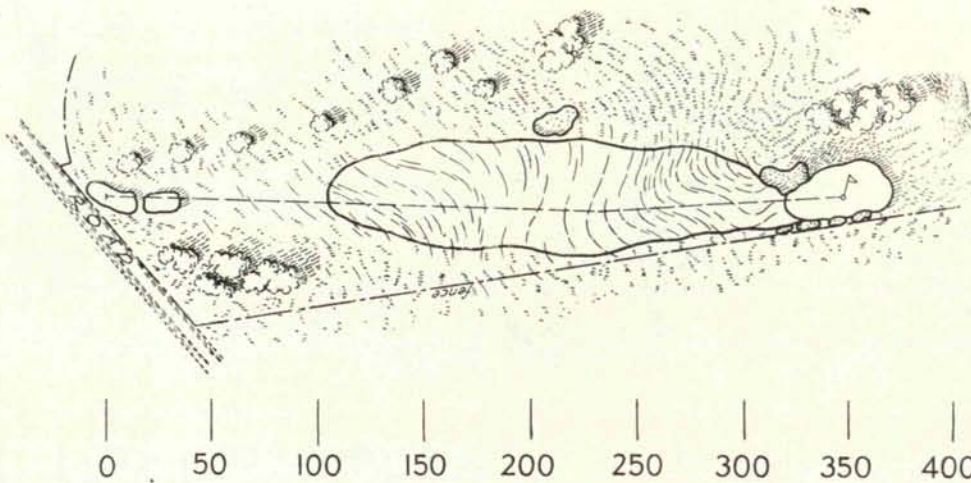
## HOLE 6. 442 Yards—Par 4. Drive and Iron or Spoon

Straightaway, over trap and jutting garden to the right, with second shot to a somewhat raised level Green guarded by traps at left, right and rear. Here the drive does it, if the succeeding shot is firm, and both are true.



MERION CRICKET CLUB, PHILADELPHIA

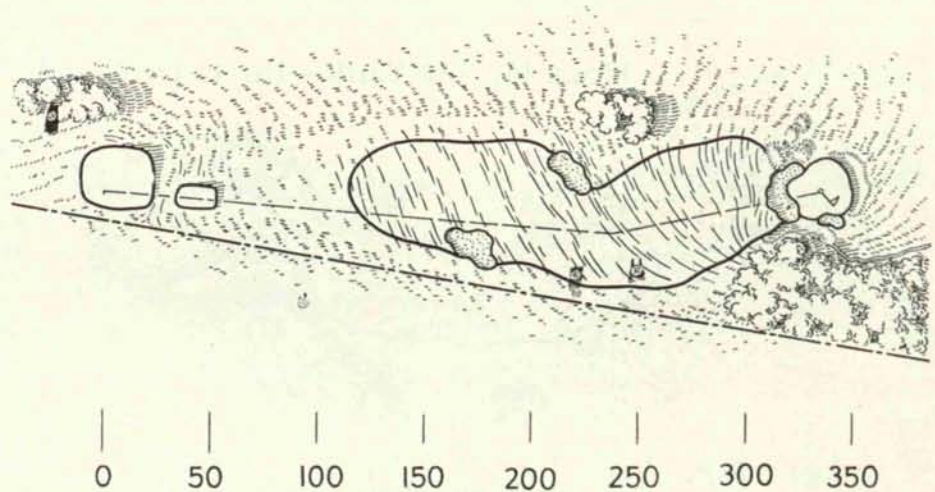
HOLE 7. 355 Yards—Par 4. Drive and Run-up



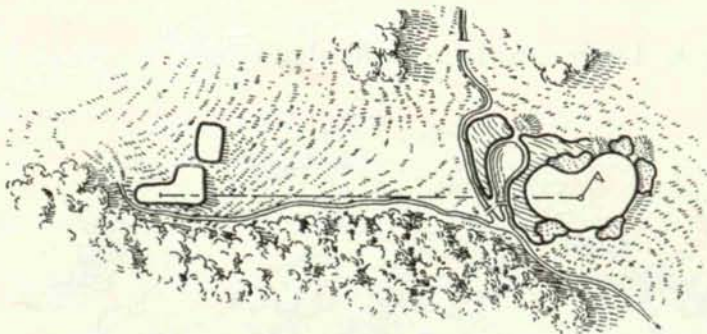
STRAIGHTAWAY, with a boundary edging closer to the Green as the latter is approached. A well-placed drive, particularly if long, opens up the hole. Otherwise it calls for an accurately pitched second, which must avoid a deep trap to the left of the somewhat sloping Green, with four shallow pits at the right. A hole that is tough but smart, troublesome but fair.

HOLE 8. 350 Yards—Par 4. Drive and Pitch

STRAIGHTAWAY, with a boundary to the right, and traps to the left and right of Fairway for the drive to clear. Further on, a mound to the left of the somewhat sloping Green, grassy depressions to the right and rear, and in front a yawning expanse of sand across the entire entrance. Once the drive has come off satisfactorily, only a tight pitch will bring results.



HOLE 9. 170 Yards—Par 3. Iron or Mashie Iron

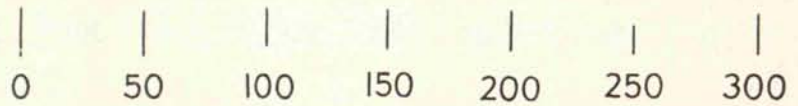
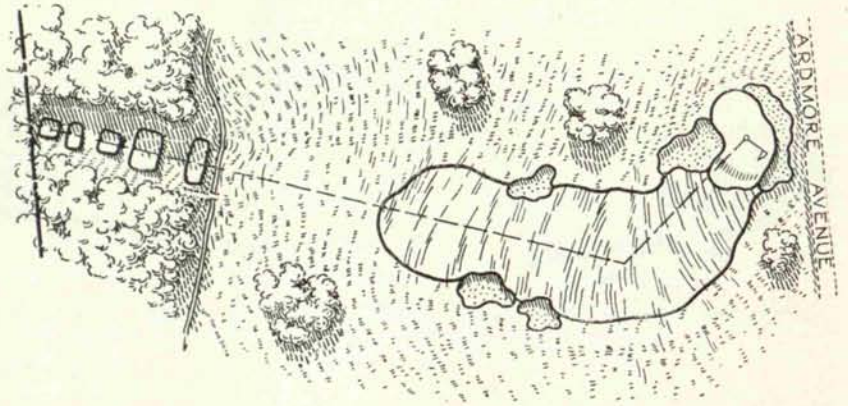


FULL carry over a pond which fronts an ample comparatively level Green, with brook and sand to the right, and traps separated by grassy mounds to the left and rear. Green bends around from right to left, and particular accuracy is required if the shot is to be close when the pin is placed in the far left portion of the Green.

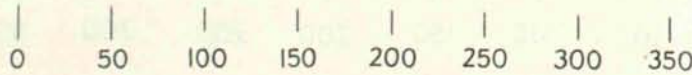
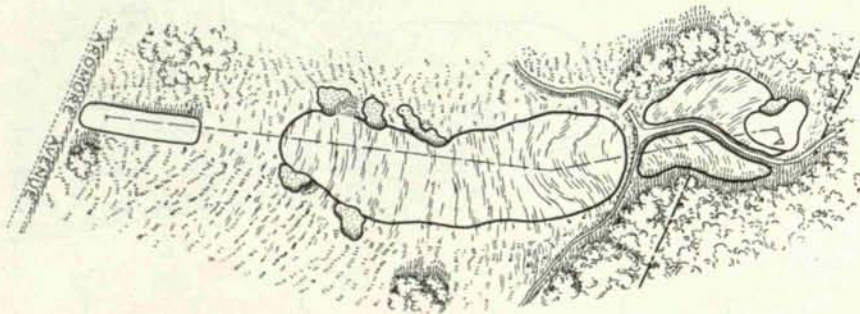
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HOLE 10. 335 Yards—Par 4. Drive and Run-up

A DOG-LEG to the left, with an invitation to cut loose from a Tee high up in the woods, across low ground to the raised Fairway at about the level of the Tee. Trap to the left and two to the right to punish infirm Tee shots, with ample reward to the long hitter who gets his drive out opposite the entrance to the comparatively narrow level Green, flanked by a broad and deep trap to the left and three shallow pits to the right. Because of its exceptionally fine texture, this Green looks faster than the others, but it does not play faster. Here, again, the drive does it.



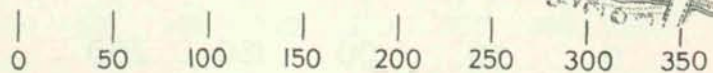
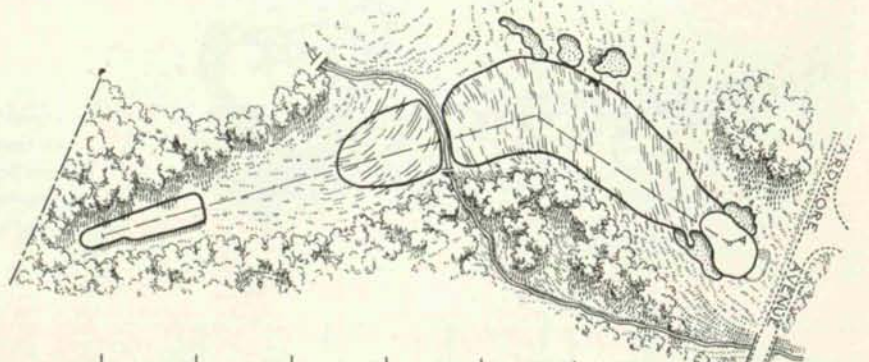
HOLE 11. 378 Yards—Par 4. Drive and Mashie



A FAIRWAY that bears somewhat to the left and falls away to a lower level, which helps the Tee shot if traps to the left and right have been cleared. A particularly severe second shot to a conservative level Green set in the elbow of a winding brook to the right and rear, with a pit cutting in on the left side of the Green. There is practically no Fairway between the drive area and the Green itself, and a high pitch with plenty of bite is necessary to hold the Green. Altogether, rather more than one hole's share of possible grief.

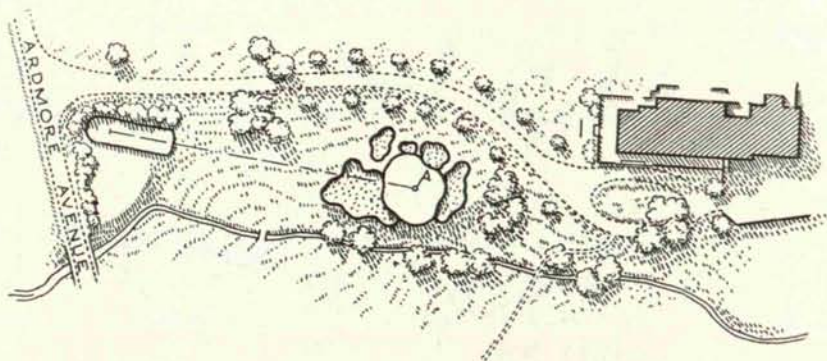
HOLE 12. 415 Yards—Par 4. Drive and Iron or Mashie Iron

A DOG-LEG, to the right. Drive from a Tee back in the woods, across a brook requiring a two-hundred-yard carry, with advantage to the long hitter who can hug the trees which jut out in the elbow at the right. Second shot an iron to be raised somewhat sloping Green, with encircling traps and a comparatively narrow entrance. Here great premium is placed on length and accuracy of drive.



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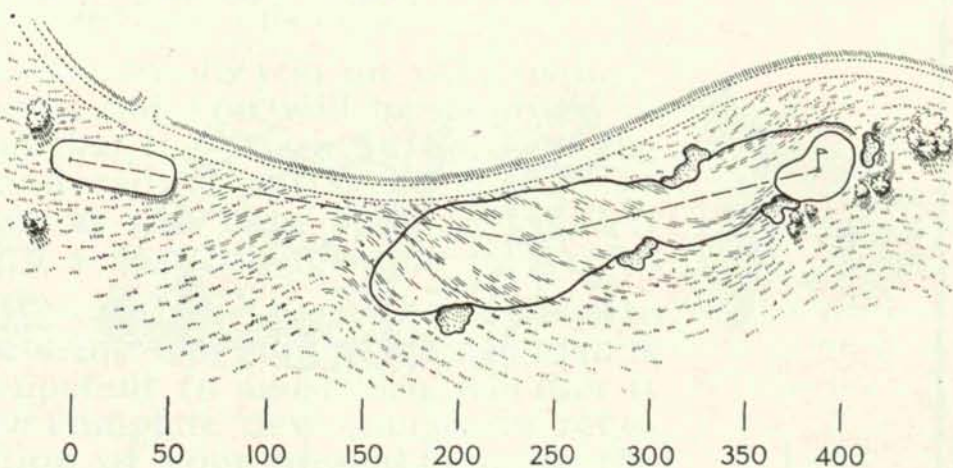
HOLE 13. 125 Yards—Par 3. Mashie or Mashie Niblick



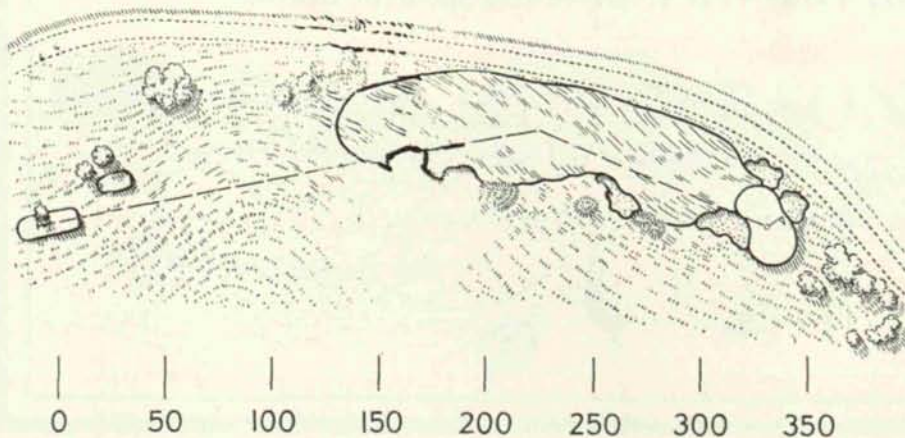
TEE is at a somewhat higher level than the flat island Green, which is surrounded by traps, some deep and some shallow. A Tee shot other than that of the sort particularly required will find sure trouble.

HOLE 14. 412 Yards—Par 4. Drive and Iron or Spoon

A FAIRWAY that bears somewhat to the left, with a continuous boundary on that side, and traps to the right to punish too great conservatism from the Tee. Trap to the left to catch a ragged second shot and others to the right of an ample undulating Green, with mounds and patches at its far edge to penalize an overplayed second. Up grade all the way. Premium on distance and accuracy from the Tee.



HOLE 15. 370 Yards—Par 4. Drive and Mashie or Mashie Iron

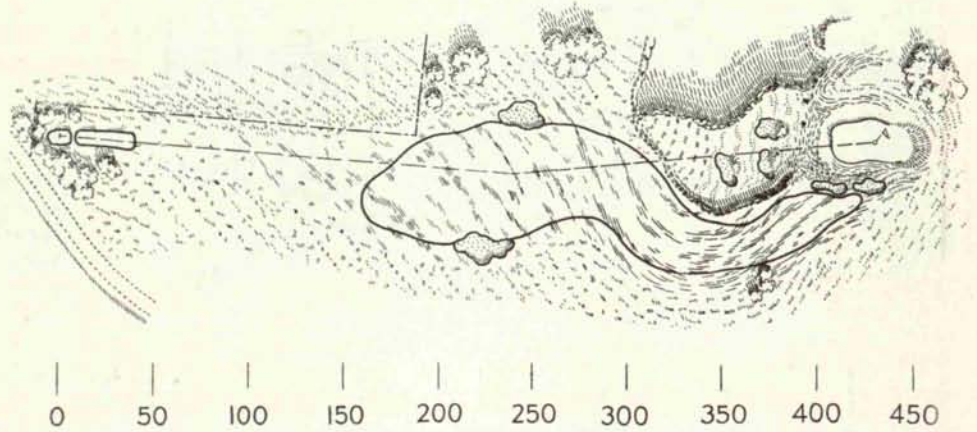


A FINE two-shotter, with Fairway bearing to the right, and successive traps in the elbow at the right to extend the long hitter who chooses to cut the corner. To the left, a boundary to punish too great caution from the Tee. A drive placed to the left side of the Fairway opens up the entrance to the somewhat raised Green, which slopes toward its entrance, with pits to the left and a severe trap to the right front.

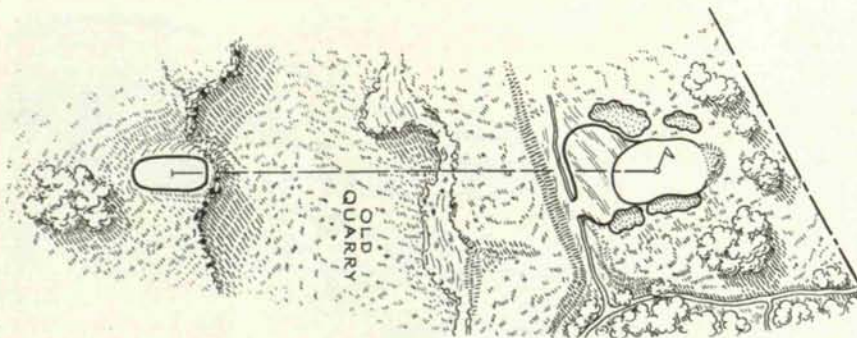
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HOLE 16. 435 Yards—Par 4. Drive and Iron or Spoon

THE first of the Quarry holes. A boundary to catch a pull from the Tee with traps to right and left farther along. Second shot an iron, or perhaps wood for all but the long hitters. This second shot must carry the upper level of the Quarry, which is a broad rock-walled depression floored with undulating reaches of sand-blown beach grass. Over this hazard the ball must at least find its way to the lower shelf of the Green to be safe; if hit well, it will carry to the upper level of the Green, surrounded by rough banks and patches. There is a "way around" for those who do not choose to brave the Quarry, but it is not spoken of in tournament play.



HOLE 17. 215 Yards—Par 3. Iron or Spoon



TEE shot over the lower level of the Quarry, and a rough slope between it and the two-level Green, which is flanked by generous traps on either side, with patch of sand in mound beyond. A challenging iron shot, calling for length and firmness.

HOLE 18. 455 Yards—Par 4. Drive and Spoon or Brassie

STRAIGHTAWAY home. The Tee shot again over the Quarry, with woods at left from Tee to pin. The long hitter, if straight, may go for it with an iron on his second shot, but usually the wood is required. The ample level Green is guarded by traps at fore-left, left and right, with patches of rough beyond. In actual play, the eighteenth is the toughest par on the course, with no chance for soft shots or nonse. A grand home hole.

