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INVERNESS ~ A Test of Golf

By ROBERT E. POWER, *Editor*

Note: We are indebted to Bob Swiss, chairman of the Program committee, and F. C. Fletcher, of the Caslon Company, which printed the program, for permission to reproduce photos, charts and descriptions of the Inverness holes.

INVERNESS proved in the Open Championship to be what its admirers said it was—a fine test of golf and true championship course. Certainly it was no set-up for the world's most famous "sharp shooters." Many of the best of them stumbled around through rough and bunkers and when they did reach the green they found their small undulating surfaces most difficult to negotiate.

It is not our province to discuss or comment on the play except as it reflected the condition of the course. Prior to the tournament, W. J. Rockefeller, Inverness veteran greenkeeper, was taken ill and it fell on the shoulders of Mr. Frank E. Weber, chairman of the Green committee to take the helm. He called back Joe P. Mayo of Pebble Beach, California—a former Inverness boy and now noted in his own name and they worked incessantly to whip the course into shape.

John Morley and the writer spent part of the first day examining the greens. They seemed fast but true with varied strains of good bent grasses and a sufficiently safe cushion to hold well-hit shots. The fairways appeared a bit tight but one must ex-

pect a closely-mowed course for a National Championship, especially with the new ball which is supposed to sit up and offer better lies than the old one.

The rough was long and tough. This affected the scores when the players were a bit wild. Yet Inverness was not long and the premium on accuracy had to be preserved—otherwise the best golfer could not have won.

We watched Bill Burke in the final rounds Saturday and he was hitting his shots low and straight from tee to green and putting with unusual accuracy. I never saw him 3-putt a green—which proves something about the greens being true. Even so, the new ball is going to change some of the greenkeeper's methods—*Remember that.*

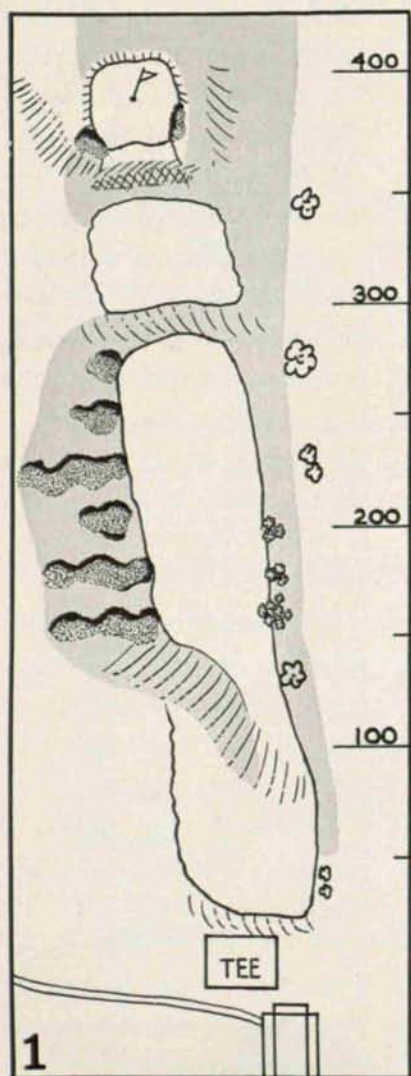
Perhaps next year we shall see the new ball on a long, open course somewhere in the East and the result will decide its destiny.

The conduct of the tournament under the able direction of President H. H. Ramsay and his assistants was all that could be desired. More power to Ramsay—the greenkeeper's friend.



H. H. RAMSAY, PRESIDENT, U. S. G. A.

Mr. Ramsay has come up from the ranks, so to speak, having held many offices in the U. S. G. A. He is the first president to appoint greenkeepers on the Green Section Advisory Committee.



INVERNESS

Hole No. 1

392 YARDS — PAR 4

A superb test to open a round of golf. A long straight driver has a distinct advantage, but with out of bounds upon his right and traps and rough to his left, the hole frequently is a sore trial to the unwary golfer.

About 290 yards from the tee there is a steep drop-off in the fairway, and a small valley about 75 yards in width, the far bank of which, immediately in front of the green, is deeply rough. The green itself tops a small plateau and is dangerously trapped on the two sides facing the approach, with plenty of rough beyond.

A carefully played second shot is essential to insure par on this hole.



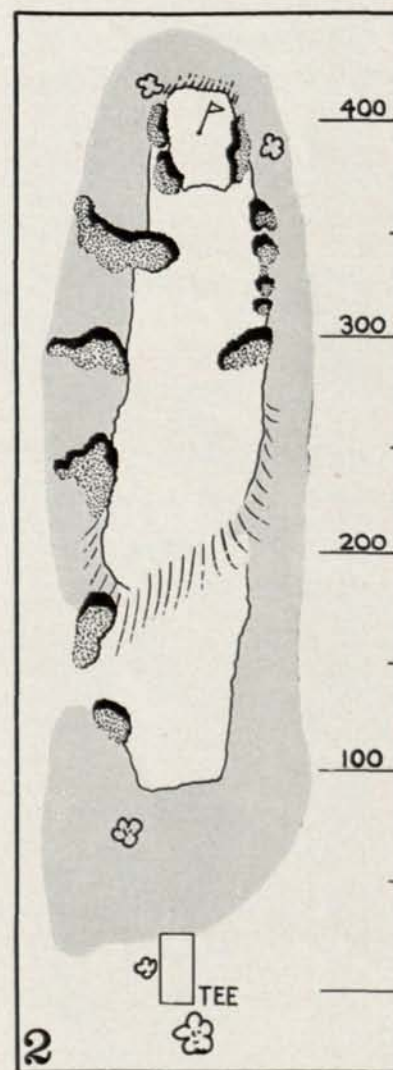
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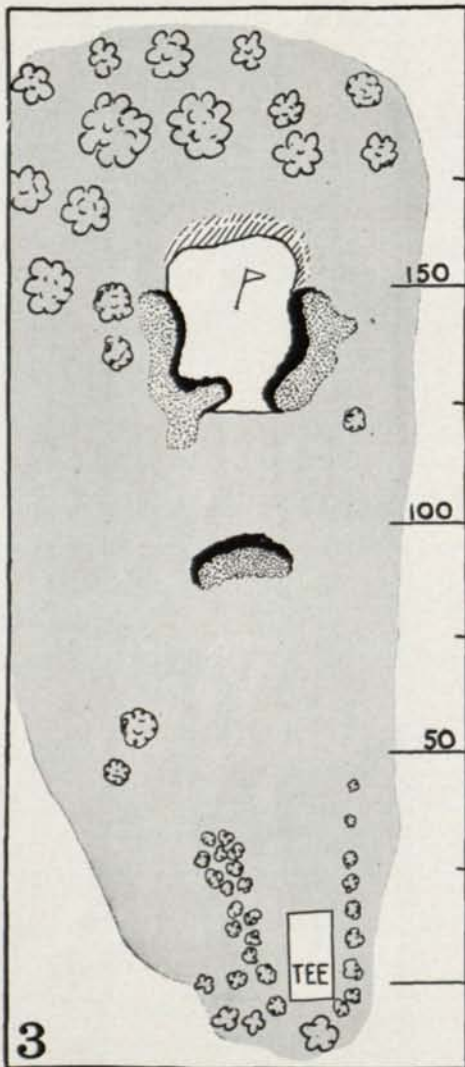
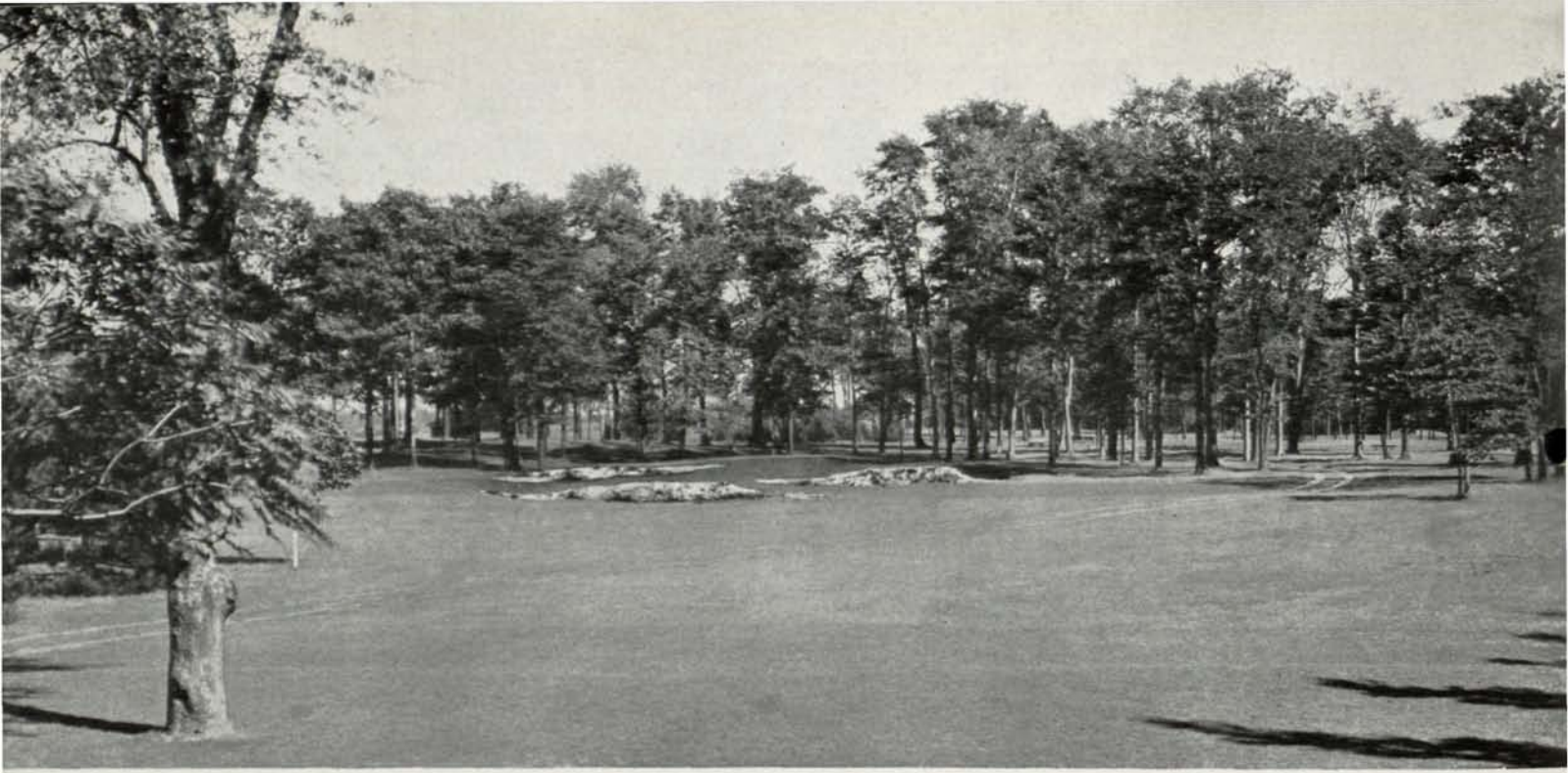
Hole No. 2

388 YARDS — PAR 4

This hole has recently been lengthened and converted into a truly difficult par four. The green is now guarded with a series of traps on both sides and rough beyond. A sliced ball means out of bounds, and a hook anywhere along the line of play finds a trap along the eleventh fairway, which parallels this second hole from the tee to the green.

In 1920 this was considered one of the easiest holes. Today it contains plenty of trouble for even the most skilful player.





INVERNESS

Hole No. 3

146 YARDS — PAR 3

An innocent and simple looking layout, but one that permits of no mistakes. It is a sporty one shotter, and if the pitch holds the green all will be well, but if you are off the line, either to right or left, a happy three may turn into a dismal five.

The green is irregular in outline, undulating in terrain, and unusually fast, so a shot from the trap or rough beyond the green takes careful planning to insure a four, even for the best of players.



INVERNESS

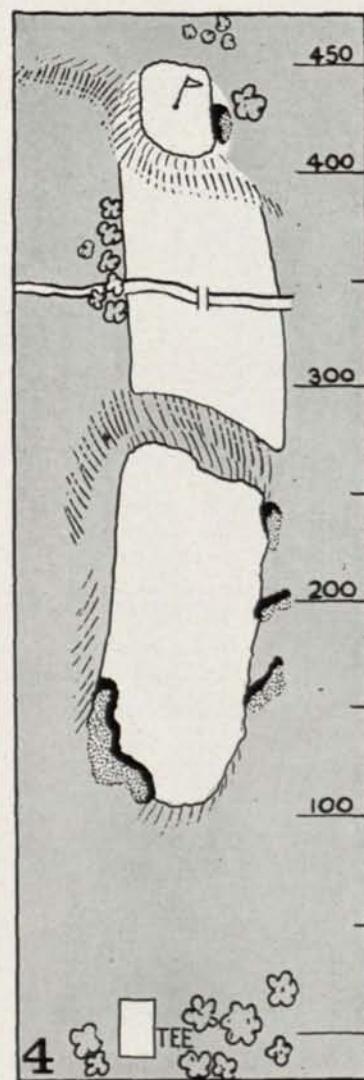
Hole No. 4

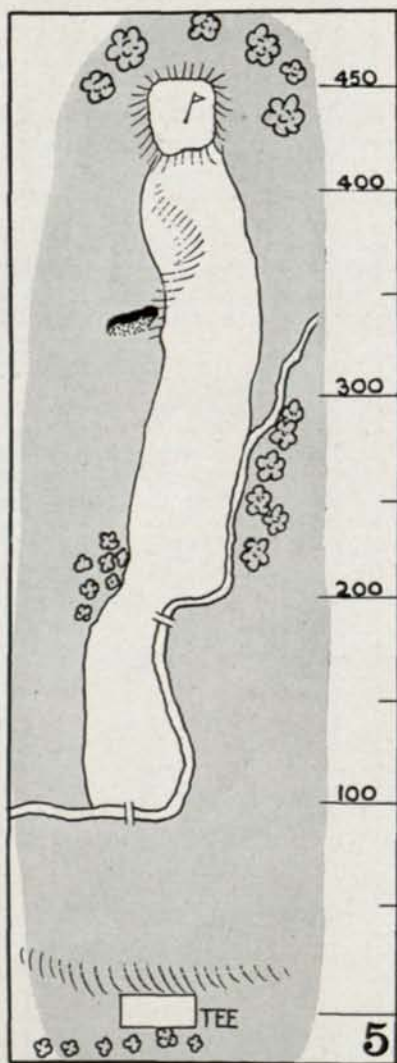
431 YARDS — PAR 4

This is one of the most noted holes of Inverness. Consistently high class golf is essential here if one would equal par. A long straight shot from the back tee is a joy, but either a slice or hook is apt to cause despair.

Two hundred and seventy yards from the tee there is a bank or ledge of rough that traps the long driver. Getting home on the second means supreme golf.

The green, as on hole No. 1, tops a small plateau, and is guarded by a sloping apron or rise in the fairway that slows down the run-up approach or deadens the brassie or iron second shot that chances to be short. On account of its slanting terrain, the green itself demands an accurate putting touch.





INVERNESS

Hole No. 5

430 YARDS — PAR 4

A remarkable golf hole, picturesque, naturally protected, the hardest par four at Inverness, and recognized by any authority as one of the best on any course in any country. A natural hole in the truest sense, without a single sand trap, yet admittedly one of the most difficult to negotiate in par figures. A shot from the tee some thirty feet above the fairway is subject to plenty of trouble. A curving, winding brook that first crosses and then skirts the fairway for 200 yards is only one of the natural hazards.

Absolutely straight direction and good control are necessary even to expert players. Here a birdie is one of the achievements, as well as one of the biggest thrills in golf.



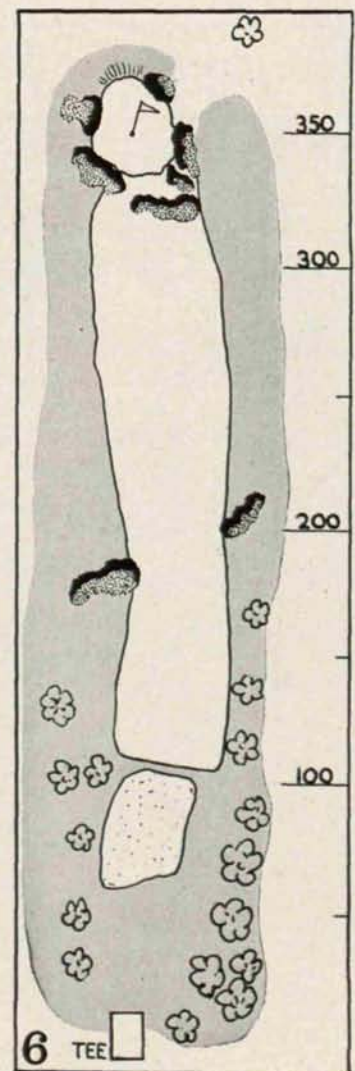
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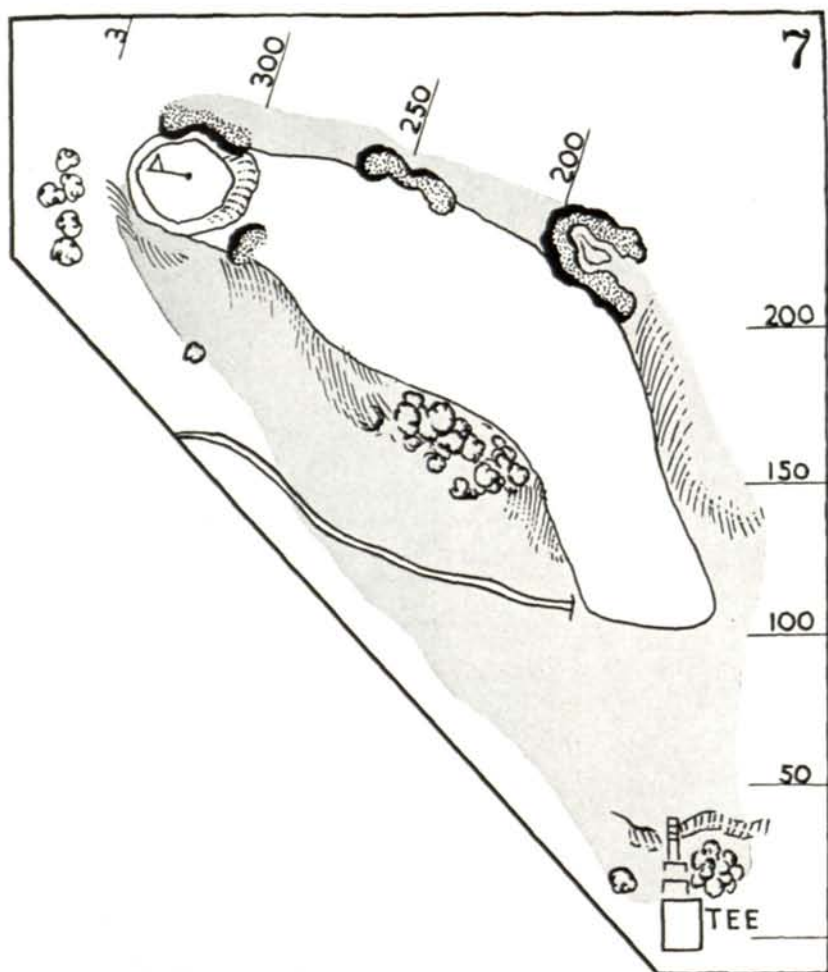
Hole No. 6

350 YARDS — PAR 4

A sporty hole of medium length with the green well guarded. Following the custom of modern golf architecture the trap that originally sprawled across the fairway has been eliminated, and only the trees to the right and left of the tee remain as hazards to the erratic driver.

The bunker traps short of the green require a skilfully played second shot that will hold the green. Such a pitch will reward the accurate putter with par, but what a penalty this hole exacts for an overplayed second!





INVERNESS

Hole No. 7

316 YARDS — PAR 4

This is the famous dogleg hole that has occupied the golfing spotlight for a decade. In 1920 Ted Ray of England chose, at a tremendous risk, to drive straight for the green, a carry of some 260 yards, and as a reward on this hole he collected three birdies and one par. Each year since this remarkable achievement, other long drivers have striven to duplicate Ray's performance, but without success.

The hole is a natural four with plenty of hazards all along both sides, and its proper allotment of traps just short and beyond the green. The green itself lies on a slant and is of rolling nature so that it requires accurate putting, even though safely on the green on your second.



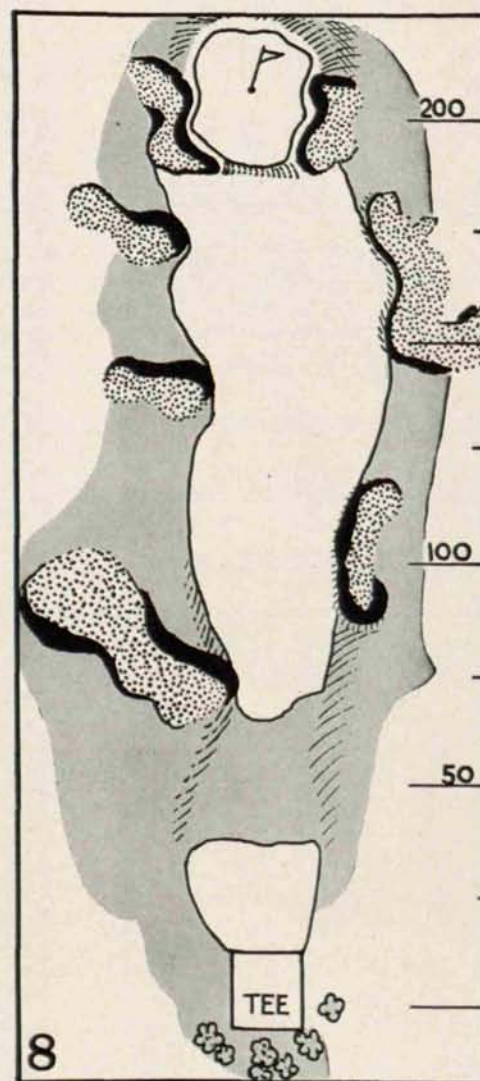
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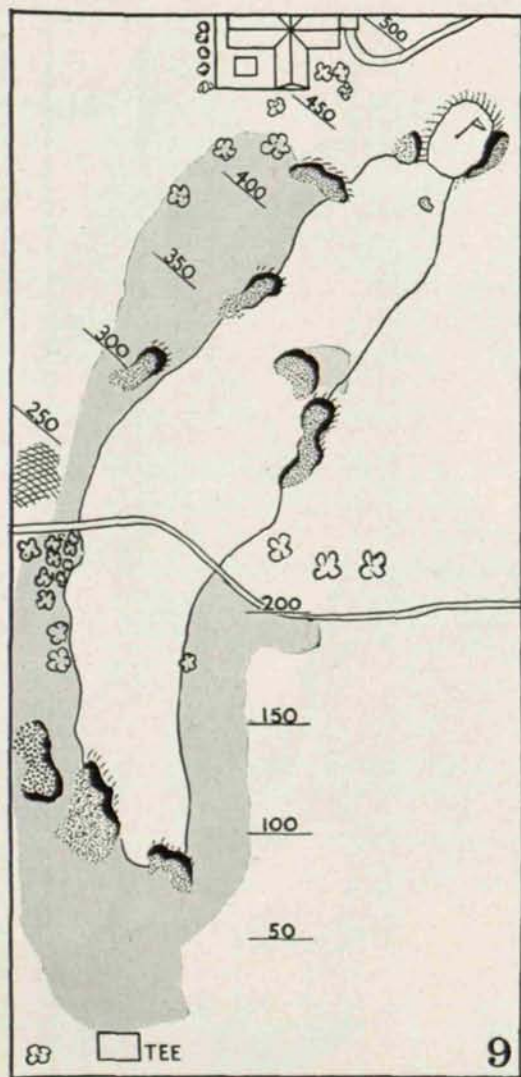
Hole No. 8

210 YARDS — PAR 3

This is another of the famous one shot holes of Inverness, simple to behold, difficult to negotiate in par. Although but 210 yards in length, a series of traps on either side, most of them invisible from the tee, insures it long being remembered by many of the entrants of the Thirty-fifth National Open.

Both the green and tee were remodeled this year and in its improved state it is believed No. 8 will stand its baptism of fire and defend its par as well as any hole on the course.





INVERNESS

Hole No. 9

492 YARDS — PAR 5

One of the most interesting holes of the "inside" nine. To the eye it looks simple but club records prove that less pars have been scored upon it by average players than any other single hole at Inverness. It is an extremely beautiful hole and presents several lines of play.

Long drivers will probably choose a direct air-line from tee to green, one that skirts the bend in the fairway on the right and attempt to get home with brassie on their second. A hooked second, however, will prove disastrous, as the green is well guarded to the left, and a series of bunkers and traps to the right.

A birdie four is a splendid reward for any player, while an eagle three would cause one to forgive everybody and everything!



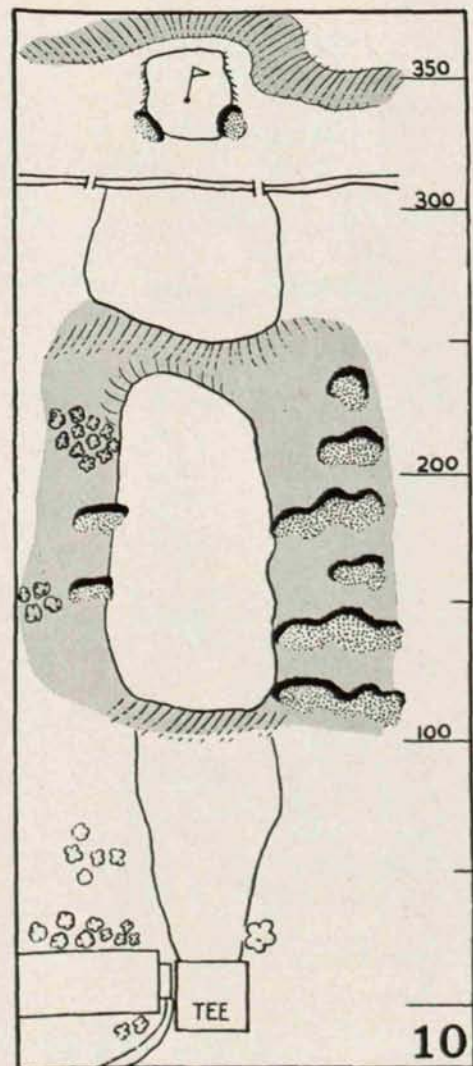
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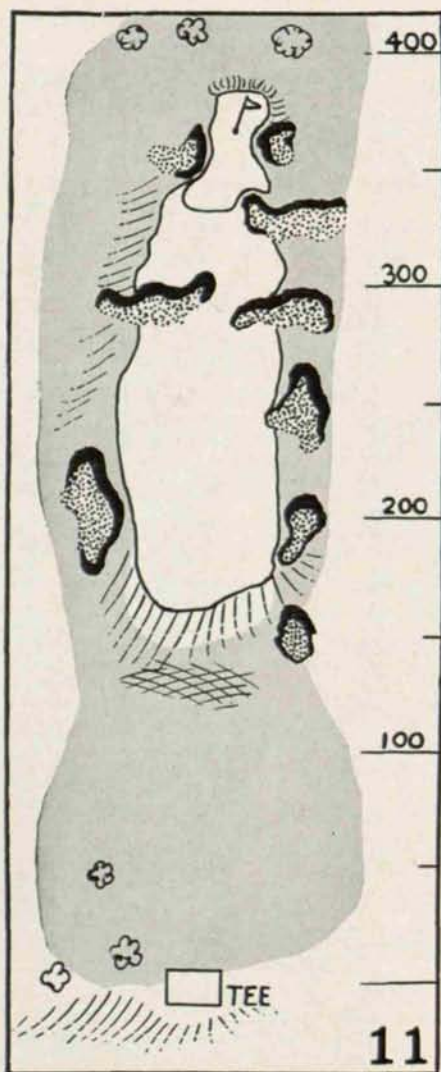
Hole No. 10

348 YARDS — PAR 4

This hole parallels No. 1 and presents almost similar features from the tee. Its battery of sand traps at the right punish the slicer. The location of the green on No. 10 has much to do with the beauty and the sportiveness of the hole.

A fine drive reveals this gently undulating green about 100 yards from the high bank of the natural little valley that runs through the first few holes at Inverness. A well controlled drive and a safe mashie second makes this hole one of the joys of a well played round at Inverness.





INVERNESS

Hole No. 11

380 YARDS — PAR 4

This simple appearing hole that runs along between the second and twelfth fairways is more hazardous than it appears to the casual observer. The play of years has suggested simple ways of making it harder, so last year an entirely new green was built, which with a deeper approach and added yardage makes his hole even more interesting than in past years. The green is rather tightly trapped but there is nothing tricky or unfair about its architecture.

Here, as on most other holes a high premium is placed on control of direction. A player carding par here for each round will be playing superb golf.



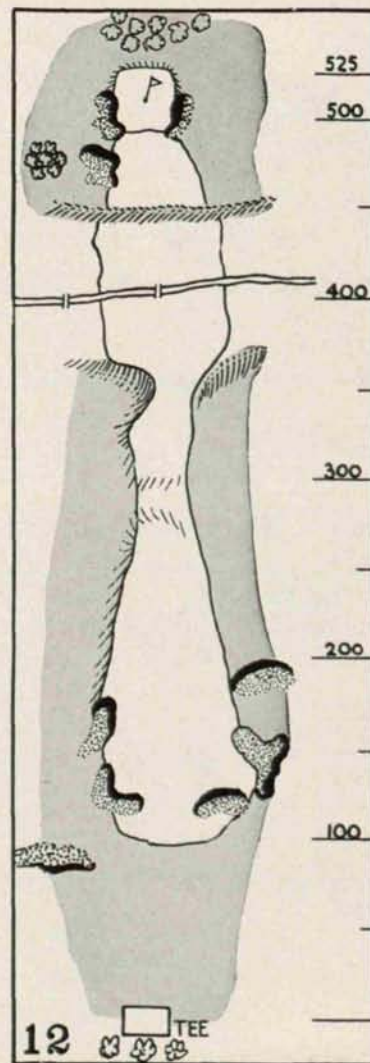
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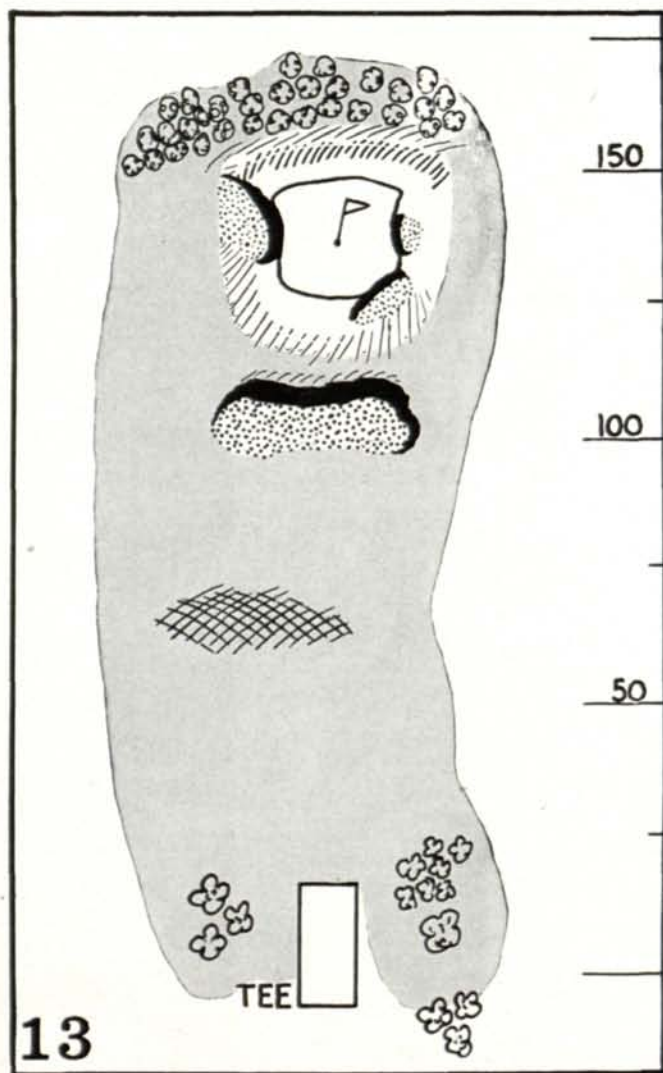
Hole No. 12

516 YARDS — PAR 5

This, the longest hole at Inverness, is a delight to the long hitters. Any two shots reaching this green must be really great wallops. The tragedy of an imperfect second is too well known to Inverness members. Here is hoping no such catastrophe befalls any of our visitors.

The brook that protects the tenth green runs blithely along 100 yards from the green, and is a menace to long and short second shots alike. The green, though large, is well guarded by deep overhanging traps on three sides, but its uniform surface is a particular putting delight.





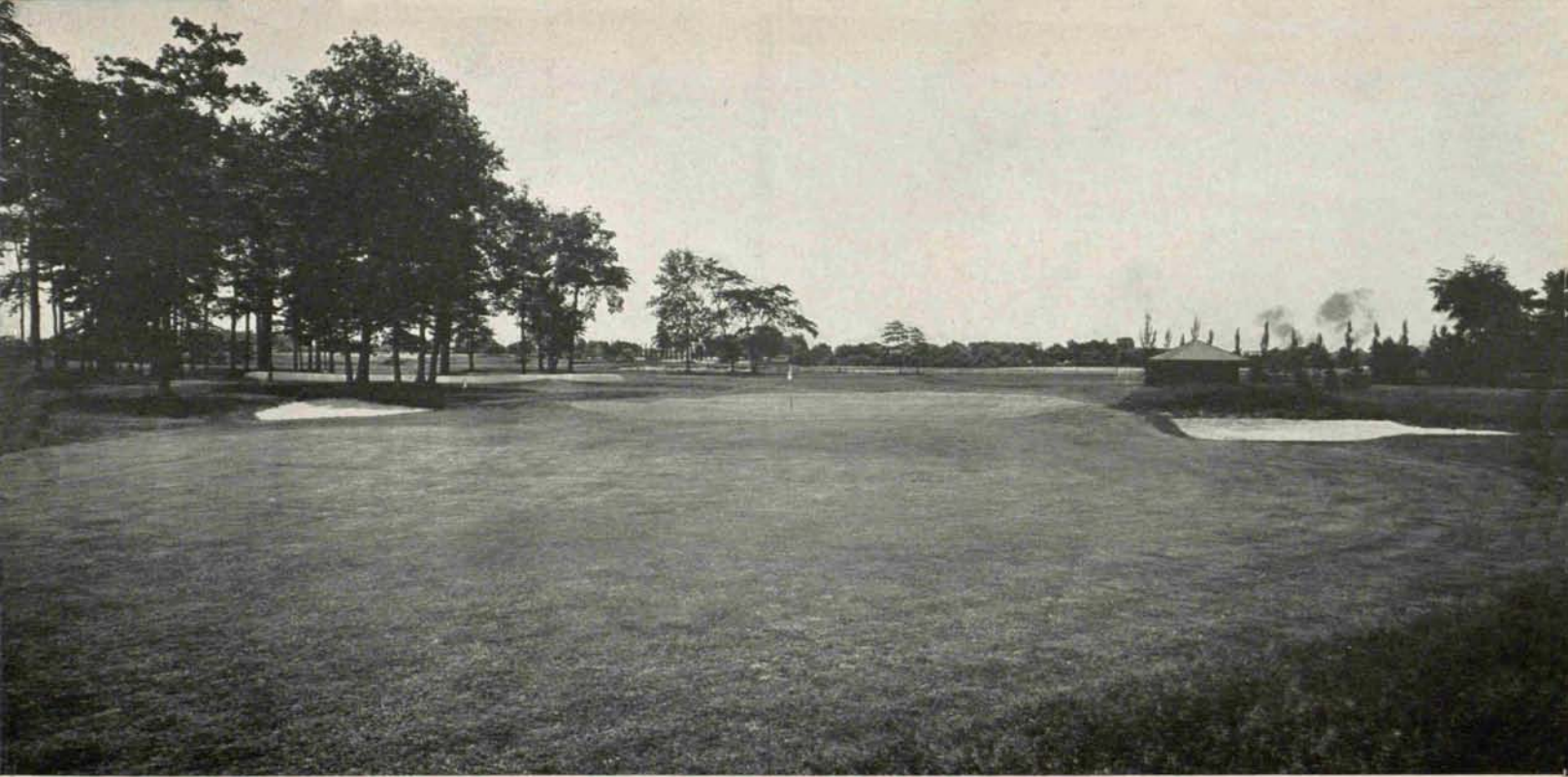
INVERNESS

Hole No. 13

146 YARDS — PAR 3

This beautiful hole is fittingly called the hole of the Scotch Pines. The short yardage, of course, calls for a mashie pitch but that pitch must be accurate and hold the green. This green was entirely rebuilt since the 1920 Open was played here, and is especially well guarded. Players find this putting surface a delight at all times.

This is a famous birdie two hole for many a good golfer, but for the careless or unlucky one, it will live up to its traditional hard luck number.



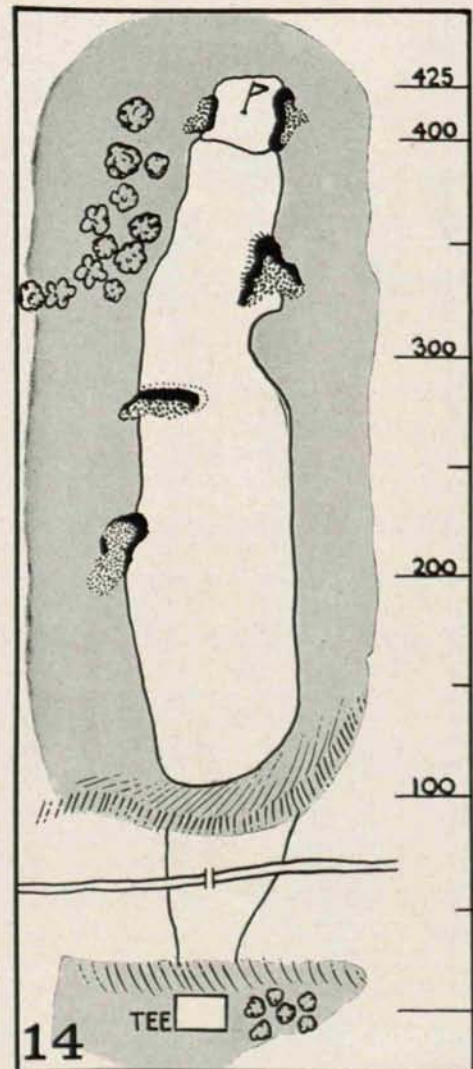
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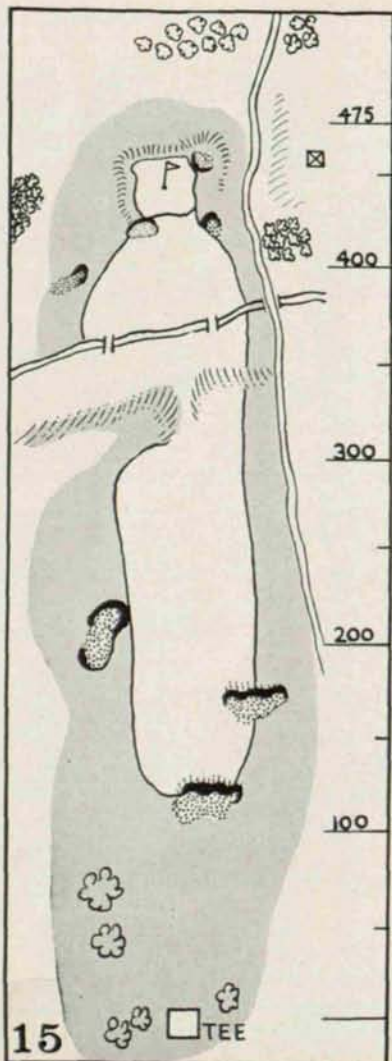
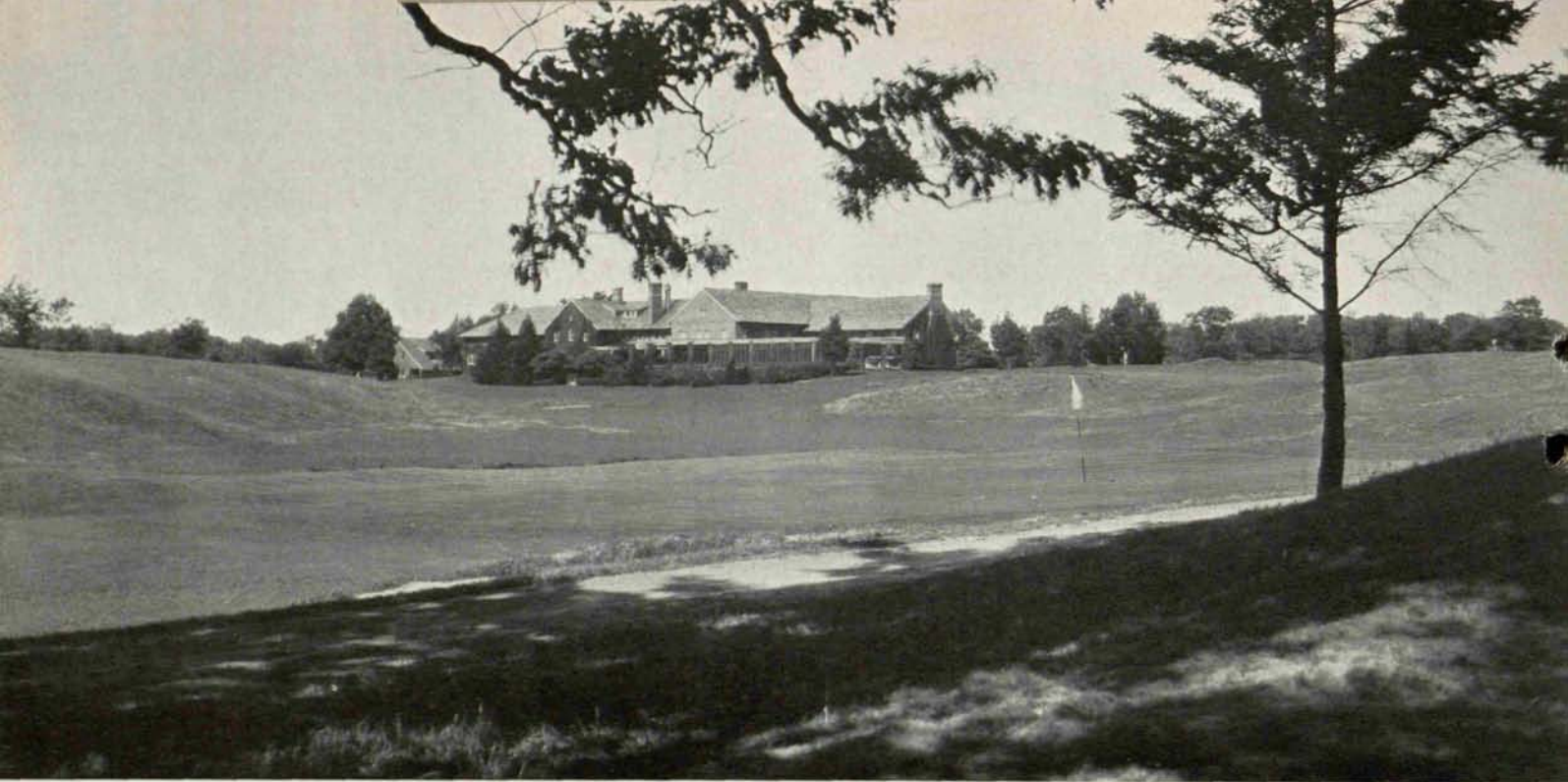
Hole No. 14

416 YARDS — PAR 4

This hole has been practically unchanged during the last decade. A truly fine golf hole of excellent length, and calling for accurate golf from tee to green. A pull or a slice adds greatly to its tightness, while a topped shot from the tee makes par practically impossible. A good long drive and an accurately placed second brings joy to any golfer, but avoid outside play, either to the right or the left.

As in the case of many of the parallel holes of the second nine, the traps and hazards from other holes catch the long slice or hook from the fourteenth tee. The green is particularly well protected by a trap approach from the left and flanking traps for either side, but for the long straight player a par is practically assured.





INVERNESS

Hole No. 15

441 YARDS—PAR 4

One of the most beautiful golf holes at Inverness, the tee nestles in the woodland, and the vista which greets the player is truly inspiring. Down hill practically all the way to the green, a really great drive collects a high premium.

Once more this innocent appearing little brook that meanders through the course presents a lot of trouble for the short second, and the next trap to the left, just short of the green will just as readily punish the long one that is not absolutely true. This is a truly inspirational golfing hole, both for its natural beauty and exceptional playing features.



INVERNESS

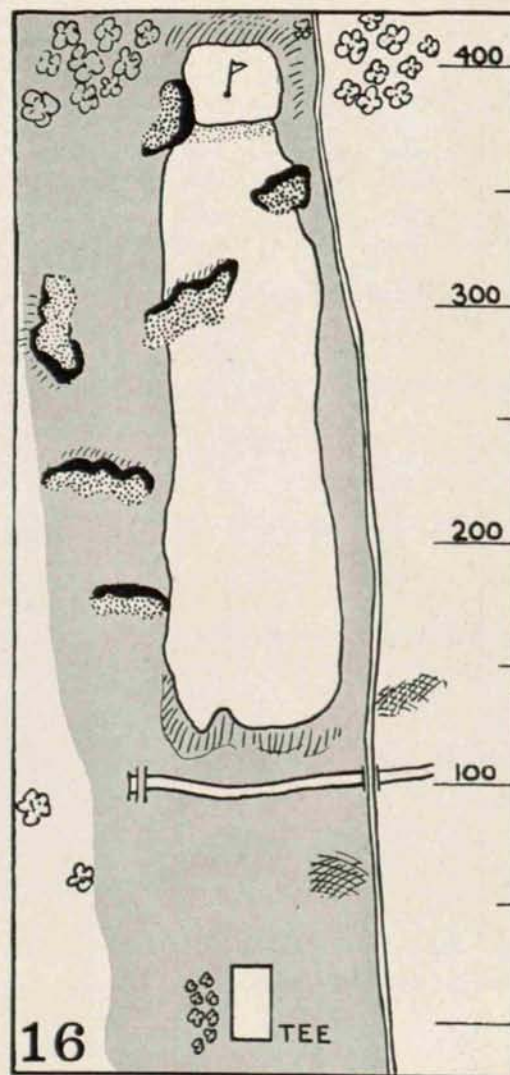
Hole No. 16

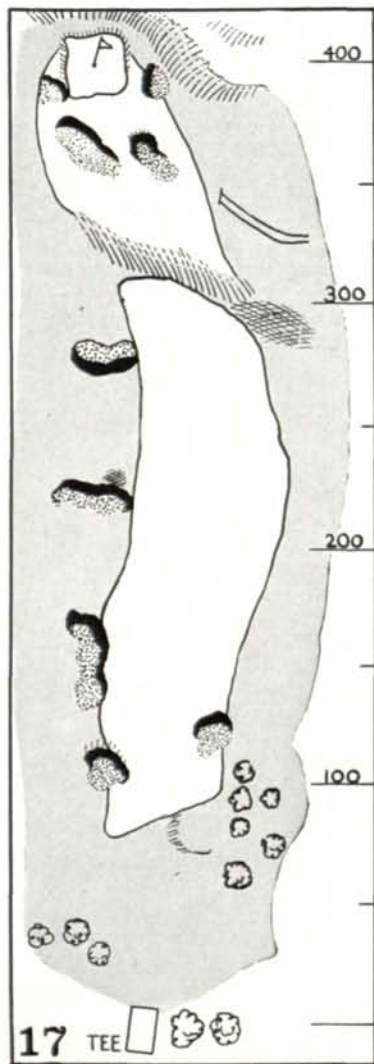
398 YARDS — PAR 4

A very interesting natural golf hole, and an excellent test of a player's steadiness. Its par four while seemingly simple, is often turned into a five or six by even fine players.

As an extra contribution to the cause, the Green Committee has elected to narrow the fairway somewhat about 230 yards from the hole, and this narrowing is to be effected by allowing the rough to protrude some thirty or forty feet into the natural fairway.

A topped tee shot is sure tragedy. Recently the hole has been rebuilt around the green and its beautiful natural situation, surrounded by trees as a background, will delight our guests and cause the putting green of the sixteenth hole to long linger in their memories.





INVERNESS

Hole No. 17

404 YARDS — PAR 4

This golf hole has an especially interesting history, the scene of Harry Vardon's "last great chance" in the 1920 Open. When played from the longest tee, located back amid the trees, the hole is slightly dogleg to the left. A long straight shot brings the green into view for a carefully played second, which if perfectly carried off, will reward the player with an opportunity to make a birdie.

This green is carefully trapped in front as well as both sides of the green, which makes it essential to carry and hold it. It is considered one of the most interesting holes from the approach standpoint in the entire course.



INVERNESS

Hole No. 18

325 YARDS — PAR 4

A truly inspirational view greets the eye from the eighteenth tee. This hole, although only 325 yards, is superbly classy every inch of the way, and its several traps defend its par as valiantly as any golf hole anywhere. No. 18 is recognized as one of the most beautiful and most dramatic finishing holes on the American continent.

A straight long tee shot and a perfectly played second pitch can bring an easy par, but the second must be just right, straight out, not too far nor too short, for the green is well guarded and completely trapped on all sides.

The putting surface is a delight, but on account of its undulating surface and perhaps its proximity to the club house and the constant gallery, many a good putt is missed that spells success or ruin for the players.

