

TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

MOST golfers have now forgotten the winter. When they see dead patches on greens, they ask why the snow was not cleared. The critics have been boosted by the absurd dates on which makers of popular beverages are advised to hold their tournaments. The expanding programme starts too early and ends too late. Each new addition has to be fixed to avoid clashing with the Pernambuco Open or the Brewmaster Foursomes. Never a thought as to whether the course is likely to be in reasonable condition. Travel has also widened promoters' horizons so that they think the climate on British golf courses is like California all the year round. Provided the prize money is big enough, the grass is bound to grow.

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This spring has shown that it is never safe to fix big events in April or even May in this country. Nor should a Committee expect a greenkeeper to ignore what is best for his course and do only what the gaily clad gladiators demand as of right. His whole routine is turned inside out for three or four days' play. The members are there all the year. At a time when he should devote himself to the gentle arts of healing winter ravages, he is exposed to the dangers of shock treatments and the critical eye of strangers. Some Press Correspondents are understanding: others have to find a "story" when a player with locker room blues works them off on the greens.

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There are three solutions. The tournament programme could be re-packed into the box it once comfortably occupied. Television and the growing public would still produce results. We could wait patiently until the need to increase prize money to six figures to attract any big names outside December and January causes all manufacturers of lager and aperitifs to take the pledge. Or all golfers with strong views on greenkeeping could be invited to prepare a clay course for an Open Championship in February. That should learn them.