

TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

H. Hilder will have been 50 years at Worpleston in October this year. He started in 1914 as a lad of 14, had a few months in the First World War and four and a half years in the Second.

Now Head Greenkeeper, he says he could not manage without his brother Fred who also started at 14 at the same course, did five years in the Second World War and completed 44 years' service last June.

It is good to know that there is a record of devotion in the South to compete with that of the Jones family at Little Aston.

Another "old retainer" is Harry Monkhouse at Marston Green, who retires next year. We first met Harry when this Birmingham public course was only a plan on paper just before the war and, indeed, its second nine holes were only opened afterwards. Now he will see it cut to nine again when the Birmingham Airport runway is extended. Happily, plans are afoot for a new 18 holes on adjacent land.

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We were glad to make the acquaintance of Berkhamsted last month and of W. Morris, the Head Greenkeeper, who manages to keep greens on the common without water which are the equal of any under much more favourable conditions. The total absence of sand bunkers is not the time-saver one might expect because the grass features obviously take their toll of manhours. But perhaps it is a comfort in winter when the battle against encroaching bracken is also dying down.

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