

Greenkeepers should relax over Christmas, because on 1st January the new Standard Scratch Score scheme comes into force. The basic S.S.S. will be fixed on the total length of the course, measured as before, and will go up one stroke from 70 in every 200 yards above 6,400 and down one stroke in every 200 yards below 6,200. For instance, 6,123 produces a 69, 5,987 a 68, 6,500 a 71, and so on.

You may, therefore, expect to see your Green Committee prowling round the course looking for the number of yards necessary to put them above the next milestone. Sometimes it will only be 20 yards or so if you are lucky with a 5,982 or 6,182, but if you are only just over a minimum, you can expect to be building quite a few new tees next year.

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T. O'Brien has moved from the U.S.A.F. Base golf course at Chateauroux in France to the new course under construction at Domont. This is on the N.1 out of Paris going north to Boulogne so anyone taking a car abroad this summer may find themselves passing by and be able to look him up. He got married between moving from one course to the next and we hope that Mrs. O'Brien is settling down happily in her new surroundings.

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This reminds me that a corner for Mrs. Greenkeeper will appear regularly from next month. Mrs. Mawson from Bardsey in Yorkshire has kindly undertaken to help solve the recurring problem of greenkeepers' healthy appetites. She will be glad to have suggestions from other readers' wives and I can think of several that I hope she will hear from.

Meanwhile, I wish you all a Merry Christmas.