

News and Notes

The moulded plastic golf club head, introduced last summer by Formica Limited, has been undergoing stringent tests on courses all over the country and first reports indicate that the new head will more than justify the claims to revolutionise golfing equipment.

Typical of the many Professionals who have been trying the head is Jack Davies, of the West Essex Golf Club, at Chingford. Jack Davies has been a Club Professional for over forty years and has seen fads come and go since he came to the West Essex in the 1920's after serving in France during the Great War. However, he recently won the Alliance Competition using a FORMICA plastic headed club, playing against men half his age, and he is enthusiastic about it.

Golf Course Plan for Blackwell Grange

Darlington Development Committee consider that part of Blackwell Grange may be used as a nine-hole municipal golf course.

Land on the Grange has already been allocated for "executive" Council housing.

Mr. G. S. Short, the Borough Surveyor, may be asked to report on the possibility of further residential development—and the provision of the golf course.

Mayor Opens Municipal Golf Course

The nine-hole miniature golf course in Abington Park, Northampton, was given a civic send-off last month by the Mayor of Northampton, Councillor George Hackett. Watched by members of the Estates Committee and Corporation officials, he opened the course by teeing off at the first hole of 65 yards with a left-handed iron. Afterwards, other members of the council and officials went round the undulating £2,000 course.

The charge for golfers using their own equipment is 2s. 6d. a round and those borrowing kit from the Corporation 5s.

West Essex is an average sized club, with 93 acres of grounds and a membership of about 500, approximately 50 per cent of whom play regularly. During the past few months, Jack Davies' club with a FORMICA plastic head has been handled by all and sundry, not all of them experts, and it has stood up to at least four rounds a week for six months as well as to early morning practice, yet a short session on the buffer was all that was needed for it to pass as brand new. No persimmon head on the market today could equal such a record. The Club members, having once overcome an understandable suspicion of 'plastics' have been unanimous in their praise of the new head as the next logical step in golfing development, and several have already ordered new clubs for themselves.

The great advantage of the plastic over traditional persimmon wood is that it has no grain and therefore cannot split, nor will it chip or crack, yet it can be drilled, bored and reamed to the most exacting requirements. FORMICA moulded heads are available as a block or ready for individual professional finishing, as well as on standard clubs retailed by several leading manufacturers. These heads are made at Formica Limited's Sports Goods Unit at Glenrothes, in Scotland, where the Company also manufacture the popular range of plastic golfing accessories, including shaft caps, ferrules, faces and tees.

Plan For New Sidmouth Golf Course Backed

The Manor Estates Committee has recommended Sidmouth Urban Council to explore the possibility of constructing a golf course on Muttersmoor.

Mr. F. A. C. Pinney said at last month's Council meeting that if such a scheme did mature it would help Sidmouth to compete with the attractions of holidays abroad.