

(contd. from p. 16)

endeavour will lead to a series of wild lunges and a score of 7 or 8 and more.

The redesigning of a golf hole is an expensive business. Under no circumstances should it be attempted by an amateur. It does not follow that a good player is a good architect. I can think of one, an international amateur and a good friend of mine now dead, whose alterations were a failure.

When bitten by the alteration bug a club must seek the advice of a professional golf course architect (who need not be a professional golfer). This is not given free. Apart from experience in design and an "eye for country" — some courses have been planned in thick woods — he has a knowledge of soils, grasses, and most important — drainage. These the amateur lacks.

Then there is the cost of construction. If the local green staff are given the job the rest of the course will suffer. Even in winter there are storm

drains to be cleared and machinery overhauled.

I have in journeys round the country seen courses, or holes that have been "improved" — some by experts. It would be an exaggeration to say that these have always met with the approval of the double-figure handicaps who, it cannot be emphasised too often, keep a club in being.

Once a thing is done it is done. It cannot be reversed without a further outlay of large sums. To amend Shakespeare:

"If it were done, it is well it were done slowly".

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