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arranged terms of payment, so much down—so much over three years and clinched the deal. This I felt was the way to move. A typewriter was then brought in, a solicitor started to dictate and the formal papers were ready by 9 p.m.

No work was to be done until competitions finished at the end of September. But in July, there was a telephone call. "We have decided to close the course during alterations. You can now do what you like." These instructions are so rare that I took them literally and prepared plans, profiles and sections for recontouring every hole to remove freakish slopes. This involved cutting 16 feet deep at some points.

On the 1st October I went out, set out the pegs and offered to return when they started work. On the 14th October, another telegram. "Please come on 21st". This was in line with Llavaneras traditions. Three weeks from setting out to starting work is very reasonable. In the event, they were roughly a quarter of the way through the bulk excavations and top-soil had been stripped from most of the course and all was exactly in accordance with the plans. This is not a common occurrence on golf courses. But *Sênor Fradera*, a leading Committee Member, had engaged a "*paregador*" who is rather better than a clerk of works.

The soil has a beautiful texture from decomposed granite and large reserves appeared at a depth free of weed seed. These were suitably distributed and planting started in December. A certain *Sênor Mas* has large nurseries of an

Agrostic *Stolonifera* strain at Llavaneras. Stolons were spread liberally over the ground and then rolled with vertical discs which pushed them into the surface. In January 1969, some of the stolons already had an inch or more of root and by April, all was green.

The Members meanwhile had been distributed round neighbouring courses—San Cugat, Pals, Costa Brava and El Prat—but they reassembled at Christmas to see how the works were progressing. A route was signposted all round the course and they were organised into foursomes, each in a car, and were sent off from the first tee at intervals by the starter to drive the nine holes.

February to April is a good season for grass growth in that climate but the opening was delayed until the 1st July. By this time there was a uniform turf everywhere with no weed and no rogue grasses. A reservoir had been made for full watering, a new car park had been squeezed out of an odd corner, full size palm and pine trees had been planted at strategic points, and the size of the clubhouse had been trebled with putting green, new terraces and approach—a busy nine months.

At first they thought the new course was too easy. But when the memories of the old course had faded, the problems of golf itself took charge and in a recent professional competition, there were only two rounds one below par.

I have tried to think why a lot of courses in Britain do not undertake a transformation of this sort. It is more difficult in a colder country with congested courses but the real answer is probably more simple. Money!

Selkirk Golf Club's plans to extend their nine holes to 18 have met local opposition. Nearly 1,000 people have signed a petition opposing the plan which takes in part of a local beauty spot.

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Aberdeen is looking ahead to an expansion of golf facilities. It already has three 18-hole courses and is planning a new 18 and two new nine's at Hazlehead and Balnagask.

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Kenilworth Golf Club has been lucky in proposals for a new by-pass road. The plans remove exactly 34 square yards in one corner of the course.