

TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

Not many golf clubs would consider British Waterways to be a serious menace, though early in the fifties the Leeds-Liverpool Canal broke its banks where it passes above the Keighley Golf Club and a few million gallons of water gouged out some notable chasms as they passed across the course to the River Aire.

But in the Low Countries, canals have not been relegated to pleasure craft and new ones are not uncommon. Even so, the Royal Antwerp Golf Club was alarmed to find that a new waterway 80 ft. deep and 400 ft. wide was likely to cut through the middle of the layout. The Club was founded in 1888 by a local group of Englishmen and, after the attentions of Tom Simpson in the twenties and thirties, is a golf course of great distinction. The main course measures some 6,700 yards on a generally level sandy site with strong local undulations worked into the approaches. Most fairways are lined with pine, birch and heather and one additional stroke on the Standard Scratch Score for course difficulty is not over-generous.

British Golf Clubs threatened by roads sometimes find a certain sympathy in the officials with whom they have to deal, since many are themselves golfers. The Antwerp Committee, after several trips to Brussels, found no such understanding but at least managed to get the canal shifted to the boundary. It still cut off most of two holes but this concession seemed to satisfy the men at the Ministry. "What's the matter with that?", they asked. "You are only losing two holes. You have still got sixteen".



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