

The only bad hole is one that is featureless and dull. Luck? We hear too much of so-called unfairness. Bernard Darwin when writing on this asked: "Do we wish to raise the game to the bloomless heights of chess?" I confess to a weakness for blind holes—fun and luck. I can, however, picture what would happen to the professional designer who introduced one into his plan. And yet life consists of wondering what lies on the other side of the hill.

There is a delusion that a good player can lay out a good hole. There was a famous amateur international, a good friend of mine now dead, who for no apparent reason layed down a green close to the existing one. I paced its area one day. Seven paces wide, 12 from front to back. He did me the honour of asking what I thought of it. My reply was that given a medium or long iron to this unwatered green, I would bet against Henry Cotton at his best leaving the ball on that green more than three times in 20 attempts. It was never used.

I recall a course which was altered by a famous professional. The members, who contributed to the cost, now find it takes half an hour longer to complete the round. There is a new short hole, a feature of which I cannot fathom. The teeing-ground is at the top green defended immediately in front by a stream. An out-of-bounds fence on the left. Just over the water hazard and a sentinel over the left entrances to the green stands a tree. The right-hand side is open, calling for a downhill chip. So far, so good. But just beyond that tree is a bunker. What for? One or the other is dispensable. That is an isolated case. If alterations are to be made, I come down heavily on the side of the Pro architect against the Am.

There remains one question. Provided the course is not one of those that caters for professional tournaments, or upkeep is a burden, why not leave things as they are? In short, committees are not elected to change a course.

60 golfers join Omega Hole-in-one Club in 1972

No less than 60 golfers have joined the Omega Hole-in-One Club, founded this year and open to all golfers belonging to recognised U.K. and Irish golf clubs scoring a hole-in-one while playing for the Captain's Prize.

Each of the golfers achieving this feat has now been presented by Omega with one of the Swiss watchmakers' Chronostops, inscribed with the player's name and the date on which the hole-in-one was scored. The most successful club to take part in the scheme was the Knock Golf Club, near Belfast, with the surprising tally of three hole-in-one scorers in the Captain's Prize. This remarkable feat was achieved by Mr. V. Skillen and Mr. A. V. Reid (both 16 handicap players) and Mrs. W. T. Dawson (handicap 26), from the ladies' section.

The Southport and Ainsdale Golf Club, Southport and the Peterborough Milton

Golf Club, Peterborough, also each produced two qualifiers.

Irish golfers were well to the fore with 10 players from the North and Eire qualifying. Seven Scottish golfers scored holes-in-one in the Captain's Prize, and Mr. Dennis L. Jones from the Morrision Golf Club, Swansea, was the sole Welsh representative. Out of the 60 players qualifying, 11 were ladies.

Commenting on the scheme, a spokesman from Omega said: "We have been delighted with the response given to our 'Hole-in-One' Club in its inaugural year. Over 1,000 clubs signified their wish to take part in the scheme, and we have had a most enthusiastic response from golfers joining the Club and our dealers have been delighted to be associated with the presentations made at the various clubs." Omega will be advising clubs about next year's plans in the New Year.