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THE BRITISH GOLF

GREENKEEPER

HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE



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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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18 HOLES WITH HAWTREE

No. 18 — Climax or Anti-climax

By F. W. HAWTREE

The last hole, more than all others, is likely to suffer from the fact that it has to be there. But it gains immensely from the memories of hard fought matches which it has decided. A great 18th will be doubly successful. A poor one may still pass muster.

If there is any choice, should we aim for a par 5 or a par 4? On championship courses, great occasions suggest greater length. On the other hand, the shortness of the last hole on the Old Course at St Andrews actually heightened the drama at the close of the 1970 Open Championship. For the rest of us a par 5 may be daunting at this stage especially if it is uphill. And clubhouses situated on high ground for outlook often entail this drawback. But a par 5 should not be uphill in any event so we can eliminate that one. A downhill par 5 where the extra run increases the chance of a birdie would be acceptable and a flat one if local feature is especially interesting.

I took this chance at Pals to the north of the Costa Brava, which was originally designed as a shortish 9-hole course in 1966. Then the golf course seemed to do better than the sale of housing plots round it and members persuaded the owner to extend it to eighteen. Fortunately, the original design enabled this to be done rationally and, in fact, the Spanish Open Championship will be played there next year.

The 18th started from the idea that the green would be enormous. This is generally a good feature of any 18th hole. It seems to continue the interest (or prolong the agony) right up to the last moment.

The fairway had to be cut out of pine trees. Tree clearing is an awkward job for the golf course architect. He has to define the area to be cleared without any absolute certainty as to how it will look when it is finished. He, therefore, tends to underestimate

at the start and touch up the margins later. A splendid group of pines, all good specimens with young ones coming on for the future, were thus preserved. This group became the second feature of the hole, bunkers were fitted into the picture and it eventually looked like the illustration. The pine trees, incidentally, are of a height which can be played over from a sufficient distance and of a density which can be seen through at eye level. They thus do for the second shot what the screens replacing the Black Sheds do for the tee shot at the Road Hole at St Andrews but the comparison ends there, if it is a comparison at all.

I asked some Pals members the other day how it had turned out. "Much better than we expected", they said.

As I hope I said earlier in the round, it is often the exceptions to any rule which we try to make about the form of eighteen holes which turn out to be the most successful. Mr Tom Simpson would deliberately put in a 'bad length' hole if the total layout did not otherwise produce one. It would be safe to make a rule that the 18th should not be a par 3 if avoidable. I am breaking that rule at Lisburn near Belfast. The land to the south of the clubhouse (the proper side for the 18th green, rules or no rules) is flat for sixty yards then rises sharply to a brow some 250 yards away. Too steep to play uphill but an admirable approach downhill. The alternatives were a drive up to the brow and a second shot down to the green or a short hole of about 220 yards from the brow.

As a par 4, there was some possibility of out of bounds on the right—no danger to property now, but if houses appear there in the future, it is no legal argument to say we were there first. There was also the recurrent problem of the difference in performance between golfers good and bad. A drive fifty yards short of the brow left no sight of green or approach though at 200 yards all was perfectly visible. The shorter

player would be tempted to continue with his second shot, unaware of whether players were just over the brow, rather than walk another hundred yards up and back. If, to overcome this snag, the tee were brought forward so that the shorter player reached the brow, the longer player would be well over it involving the same danger or possibly more as the ball kicked forward on the down slope towards the green.

The answer in 1971 was not a bell to be rung when the coast is clear. It was a par 3 hole. Firstly, the long par 3 is a severe test and even frightening at the climax of the round. Even Mr Michael Bonallack said last month "But I am not a good 2-iron player". If he isn't, who is? Secondly, the scenic effect, looking down on the green (a large one again, naturally) with the clubhouse a little higher beyond it, will be agreeable. Lastly, for the spectators in the clubhouse, the view of the players on the tee, the tee-shots and the full play of the hole will be ideal.

The 18th green is very much the link between life indoors and out. It should be seen from all the main rooms and preferably when sitting fairly well back in these rooms. Windows often are not deep enough, balconies or terraces often obstruct the view. There is always need for earnest consultation between the golf architect and the proper architect. Then the pleasures of the course can somehow pervade the building and the two aspects of golf club life are unified. In another sense, this is what the perfect golf club secretary is achieving.

Thanks for the game. At least, it went to the last hole.

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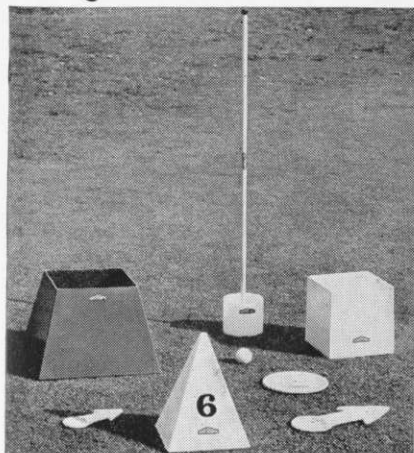
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Minutes of the 54th Annual General Meeting held at Notts. Golf Club, Hollinwell on Monday, 23rd August, 1971 at 3 p.m.

The Association Chairman opened the meeting at which there were approximately 60 members present and invited Mr Carl Bretherton to occupy the Chair. Mr Bretherton thanked the Chairman and expressed his willingness to conduct the meeting.

1. *Minutes of the last A.G.M.*: On the suggestion of the Chairman, the Minutes of the last A.G.M. were taken as read in view of the fact that they were put in the Association Journal.

The Hon. Secretary then read the Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting which was held on the 8th May 1971. Arising from the Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting, the Hon. Secretary reported that this was called in view of the proposed increase in subscriptions and although the meeting was not fully represented owing to lack of attendance, in view of the fact that the Executive Committee had agreed proposals put forward and there had been no objections raised by any member during the period of notification in the Journal of this meeting, the A.G.M. with this limited attendance had agreed to the proposition which was brought before it. The Hon. Secretary asked this meeting to accept the increases as called for. His request was carried unanimously.

2. *Annual Report*: The Hon. Secretary read the Annual Report and its adoption was proposed by Mr Carrick and seconded by Mr Herrington. At this stage, the Chairman asked the meeting to stand in silence in memory of the deceased members whose names had been submitted in the Report.

3. *Financial Statement*: The Hon. Treasurer then presented the accounts to the meeting and explained that they appeared to be in a reasonably satisfactory position and as no questions were raised by the meeting, their acceptance was proposed by Mr Walsh, seconded by Mr Fry.

4. *Executive Committee Report*: The

Tournament Sub-Committee elected at the Executive Meeting were as follows: Messrs Robertshaw, Carrick, Smith, Walsh and Folkes. Three to form a quorum.

The Hon. Secretary then reported that the North-West Section, who are handling the arrangements for 1972, had nominated Mr Walsh to act as Vice-Chairman and also that the Association had been offered the courtesy of the St Annes Old Links Golf Course for the tournament to take place on the 14th, 15th and 16th August.

5. *Election of Officers*:

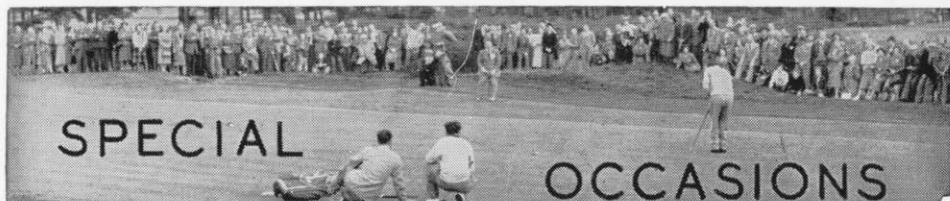
President: At the unanimous request of the meeting Mr Carl Bretherton was re-elected President of the Association. Mr Bretherton thanked the meeting and said he would be very pleased to accept this office for 1971/1972.

Vice-Presidents: Following the proposition of the Northern Section, it was agreed that the name of Mr W. Mountain should be added to the list of existing Vice-Presidents who would be nominated as listed in the Association Journal. This was carried unanimously.

Chairman: It was proposed by Mr Fretter, seconded by Mr Dodds, that Mr J. Carrick, present Vice-Chairman, should be elected Chairman for 1971/1972. This proposition was carried unanimously.

Mr A. Robertshaw, the retiring Chairman, then rose and invited Mr Carrick to occupy the chair and in so doing, expressed a few remarks concerning his own happy association with the chairmanship in the past year. Mr Carrick then thanked the members for the honour bestowed upon him and he sincerely hoped that he would be able to carry out his duties to the satisfaction of the members. He thereupon presented to Mr Robertshaw a tankard in recognition of his services in 1971 to which Mr Robertshaw replied how delighted he was to receive this recognition as he had assured all his associates in the Northern Section that he would not go back without a trophy as he felt sure that somebody would give him a tankard before the end of the meeting.

(contd. on page 10)



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|------|------|---|
| Oct. | 16th | East Midland Dance. |
| | 18th | North-West Section Lecture. |
| Nov. | 3rd | Southern Section Lecture — The Ship Tavern. |
| | 9th | North-West Section Annual Trip. |
| Dec. | 1st | Southern Section Lecture — The Ship Tavern. |
| | 6th | North-West Section Lecture. |

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(contd. from page 8)

Vice-Chairman: On the proposition of the North-West Section it was unanimously carried that Mr H. M. Walsh should take over the office of Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

Secretary and Treasurer: At the general request Mr C. H. Dix was re-elected Secretary and Treasurer for another year to which Mr Dix responded that he would be willing to continue in office.

Executive Committee: It was unanimously agreed that the Executive Committee should be elected as nominated by Sections.

Hon. Auditors: The Hon. Treasurer reported that the services of Messrs. Smallfield, Rawlins & Co. had been most efficient and at his proposal, it was unanimously agreed that the Hon. Auditors should be re-elected.

Hon. Solicitor: It was unanimously agreed that Mr H. Dowding, who had kindly taken over the duties for the Association, should be re-elected for the ensuing year.

6. *Proposition from Mr Fretter of the East Midlands Section that any groundsman be allowed to become a member of the British Golf Greenkeeper's Association wherever he is employed:* As this proposition came from an individual Member, it was put to the meeting but failed to obtain a seconder whereupon the meeting agreed that this proposition could not be considered.

7. *Proposition from Mr J. Scott, seconded by Mr A. Robertshaw that Mr W. Mountain, President of the Northern Section, be nominated as a Vice-President of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association:* This proposition was unanimously accepted by the meeting with a note of appreciation of Mr Mountain's services over many years for the Northern Section.

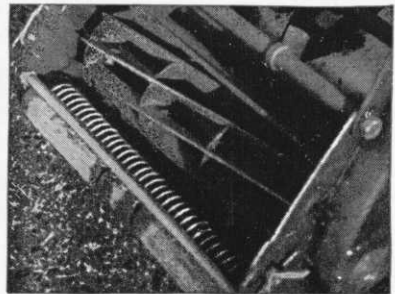
8. *Any other Business:* The question of members' passes was raised as it was felt by several members that these did not entirely meet their requirements and it was agreed that the Hon. Secretary should consider the possibility of making them more attractive.

The question of non-arrivals at the tournament by members who had

forwarded Entry Forms was discussed as it was felt that the efforts put forward by the Secretary and his Committee to arrange the tournament were badly disturbed by members not appearing and not giving previous notification. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Executive Committee should consider this problem with a view to making possible changes to the Form of Entry.

Following the advice of Mr F. W. Hawtree to the Executive Meeting, this meeting was informed that 1972 was the 60th anniversary of the foundation of this Association and it was suggested by the Executive Committee that some form of celebration should be put in hand to mark the occasion. After some discussion, it was thought that a function in Blackpool on the evening following the end of the Tournament would be a good idea and it was finally agreed that Mr Walsh should be asked to make enquiries at this venue to see what was possible in the way of holding possibly a dinner and cabaret or dinner-dance Mr Walsh said he would be most happy

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