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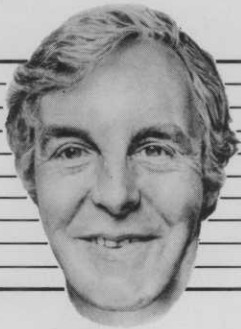
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Greenside Comment...



John Lelean

Enterprising Developments

This issue of Golf Greenkeeping is the first as a completely independent publication for the management and maintenance of golf courses in the United Kingdom. Regular readers will notice several changes in the presentation and layout of the magazine, designed to provide not only up to date information on the latest techniques, but in-depth articles featuring interesting projects, concerned with golf course constructions.

The development of a new municipal course at Oulton Hall at Rothwell near Leeds, this month is an example of the type of projects Golf Greenkeeping intends to highlight during the coming months.

The Oulton Hall Golf Course is quite unique in its concept, because the local authority have used a combination of resources; their own parks and recreation facilities, outside advice and most importantly MSC labour. Not only has this ambitious scheme provided people who would otherwise have been unemployed with a job, but because there is

an 'end product' for all to see, considerable enthusiasm has been generated among those involved.

Whether one approves of the political aspects of job creation schemes or not, in this instance there is a considerable benefit for everyone. A golf course is under construction within the budget the ratepayers can afford; a worthwhile job has been provided for people who would otherwise spend their time waiting for pay day on the dole; not least the golfers of Leeds will have the pleasure of another fine course.

The driving range which opened shortly after this article was prepared is so popular, customers are queueing up to use the facilities, providing income already to off-set the costs of construction.

There is a desperate shortage of golf courses around our densely populated cities requiring a combination of finance, land, enterprise, drive and enthusiasm, as well as a relaxation of rigid green belt restrictions.

Because of the crippling costs involved in building an eighteen hole golf course, future developments can only take place in one of two ways.

Firstly by municipal authorities who have vast tracts of land, though they may be earmarked for other uses. Secondly by private enterprise, if the planning controllers will accept that golf courses not only provide leisure activities for thousands, but they are conservation areas in themselves.

Collingtree Park, also featured in this issue is a case in point. A total of £50 million has been made available for this enterprising development, most, it must be accepted, will be for the construction of high-class housing, hotels and a private clinic, but there is nothing wrong in building a golf course with a profit motive.

What is certain, the established member-owned clubs, the backbone of golf in this country, will never increase in number.

Next Month: **FRED HAWTREE DEVELOPS THE HUGGING & KISSING SYNDROME COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS FOR GOLF COURSES FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AT DUBAI THE COURSE FOR THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP PRODUCT REVIEWS**

NEWS ROUND-UP	5,6
ROTHWELL... A NEW 27 HOLE COURSE IN LEEDS	7,8,10,11
NEW £50m GOLF COMPLEX FOR NORTHAMPTON	12
APPOINTMENTS	13
SEVE SCHMITZ VISITS MINNEAPOLIS	14,15
HUGS AND KISSES... GOLF'S BIG LOVE AFFAIR by Fred Hawtree	16,17
TRADE DIRECTORY	18

