



DESIGNED & SKETCHED ROBERT TRENT JONES  
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Proposed green for new course at Utica, N. Y., discussed in this article.

# TRAPS—WHAT SIZE? WHAT DEPTH?

By ROBERT TRENT JONES

ONE of the charms of the English seaside courses is the infinite variety, the tumbling irregularity, and the rugged appearance of their traps. Like the catch in the Scotch fishermen's baskets, they are all sizes and shapes. So important has been their influence in the realm of golf that some of them have been given such names as Hell's Bunker at St. Andrews (which cost Gene Sarazen the British Open one year), Sandy Parlor, and Hell's Half Acre.

One of the weaknesses of our early American courses was the tendency to standardize the size, shape and depth of the traps as if they came out of one mold. While through this we may have become proficient in blasting to within a drop-putt area of the pin, at the same time it has made golf lose some of its charm.

While deep traps still have their spine-quivering effect, they no longer produce that aggravating fear that existed before the advent of the sand-wedge. When a Revolta will play from 13 traps during the course of a round of a championship

tournament and still turn in a card of 71 by virtue of his trap-shot efficiency combined with a velvet putting stroke, traps have certainly lost some of their sting for the expert. But even the sand-wedge has not proved infallible, particularly as far as the average golfer is concerned, for he can still be seen looking for the ball at the pin when he should be looking at his feet after a vigorous effort in the trap.

How then, can we combine the design of the hole to give a balanced source of punishment to all types of golfers, making it sufficiently fearful for the crack golfer without making it too tough for the average shooter? This can be done by having key or master traps from the tee and at the green, the location of which will depend upon the strategic value of the shot. These can be made fearful-looking by flashing the sand and sod, and actually fearful by undulating the traps so that a constant variety of shots must be played due to the stance one obtains at the spot where the ball has stopped.

At the same time such undulations can be made to blend with the subtle green contours and the dune-like framework of

Member clubs of the New Jersey State GA are reported to be pretty worked up these days over a recent action of the association limiting the state amateur championship hereafter to 27 and 36-hole courses, where the large qualifying field can be handled. This means the tourney will rotate between six clubs from now on, unless the ruling is rescinded.

More than 120,000 sheets of the PROMotion group instruction series were requested by pros and school athletic authorities during the first week after the new instruction series was announced. The sheets follow the plan first used with great success by Elmer Biggs and Art Andrews in class teaching of Peoria (Ill.) high school students.

Additional sheets were prepared by Frank Sprogell, PGA publicity committee chairman. Pros engaged in class instruction may secure as many of these series of 6 sheets as they require, and without cost, by addressing their request to PROMotion, Room 1614, 14 E. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Ill.

the green, making the hole an artistic one as well as a fair test of golf. Such traps should be located primarily to affect the shots that would be normally played by the expert.

To make holes and green design more attractive in appearance and to administer a psychological effect, other traps which are necessary to complete an attractive and interesting golf hole should be of varying depths and sizes with a tendency toward the shallow, so that while the average golfer may frequently find his ball in

them, he will require but one stroke to get out of them. Even though the traps are shallow, tests have shown that the odds of the golfer's getting down in one putt after having recovered from such a trap are decidedly against him.

The accompanying sketch of a proposed green for a new course which we are designing for the City of Utica, New York illustrates the effective use of traps of varying depths in proportion to the strategic value of the shot required. For illustration the pin has been placed in two locations to show the relative difficulty depending upon its position. The two traps at the back are shallow, while the key trap directly in the front is quite deep and the trap at the right is a compromise being of medium depth.

The variety of size, and the irregularity of the orientation of the sod and sand blend with the design of the green to make an attractive picture. A hole of this type beautiful to look at, and intriguing to play, has a finality that makes it a constant source of pleasure for all classes of golfers.

## HOW CLUBS HOLD MEMBERS

By H. B. MARTIN

IT is only human for many golf club members to become obsessed with the belief that the greenest fairways are those that belong to other courses. The most beautifully manicured greens and perfect sand traps are always a couple of miles down the road, or across town at the links you played last weekend as a guest. Likewise, the most palatable and best served food can be found at the wayside inn along the highway or at some other country club.

Club officials and the management are often responsible for members arriving at this state of mind, but more frequently it is just the cussed perversity of human nature. Most everyone who has even a remote knowledge of golf and country club life has an idea that he, or she, could run the golf club a little bit better than the present management, or at least, he would like to try it—and no advice would be needed from meddling club members or incompetent committees.

It is not such a strange request to want to be the whole show. The fact of the matter is that running a golf club is like

managing any other well organized business—it is a one man job. This axiom might be better qualified in this way: The nearer a golf club comes to being a single working unit the more successful it will be.

It has been said that the proof of this is in the statement, paradoxically as it may seem, that 10, or even a dozen of the smartest and most successful business men in the country could not run a golf or country club. Such a venture would be a gigantic failure. This is not a supposition or just idle guess work—it has been tried several times and nearly always with the same disastrous results.

The average golf club member feels he has a proprietary interest in the organization and its management. Few are willing to sit back without venturing a sug-