

Florida Opens Two New Courses

By R. M. French, Jr.

TWO of the sportiest courses in south Florida were opened to lovers of the Royal and Ancient game last winter. Both are located in the heart of Florida's tourist area and typify two extremes of golf course construction—one is 6,624 yards of golfing headaches, with big greens, plenty of traps and water thrown in to give the player grief in larger doses; the other is a mere 2,840 yards of narrow fairways, tiny greens with trees and water in abundance to make it one of the most difficult nines in Florida.

The Miami Shores CC is located on famous Federal highway in Miami Shores Village, on the main thoroughfare of Florida's east coast and just north of the city limits of Miami. This course is the product of nearly 10 years of planning and more than two years of active work. It was conceived by Roy Hawkins, general manager of Bessemer Properties, Inc., in 1930, and large holdings of that company were set aside for the proposed course. Construction was started in November, 1937, and with the aid of a federal government grant, was completed this past December at a cost of approximately \$300,000.

Hauled 38,000 Yards of Soil

The course with a par of 71 has been built on a 131-acre tract formerly white sand land on which pineapples were grown. More than 38,000 yards of top soil and \$15,000 worth of trees and shrubs have been placed over the rolling terrain which is watered from a 40-foot well through more than five miles of underground sprinkler system.

The clubhouse, of colonial style, fronts

on Federal Highway, and was designed by Robert Law Weed, one of Miami's leading architects. Mary Abbot Hinton supervised the decorations of the building, on which construction was started late in 1938 and completed just prior to opening of the course.

Clubhouse Is 225' in Length

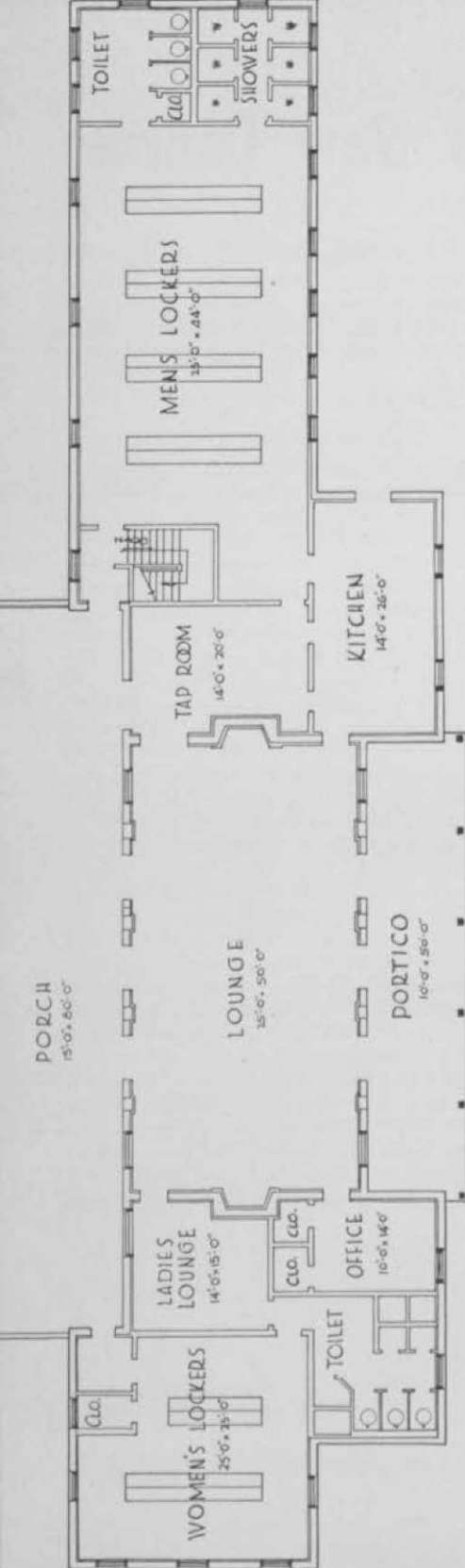
The clubhouse is 225 feet long, and is placed facing the highway. A beautiful lounge, 50 by 28 feet, extends from the highway side of the clubhouse through to the course side and opens on a veranda 50 feet long which looks out over the 18th green, which drops away from it in a long terrace. The women's locker-room is in the wing to the left of the entrance, or south end of the building, and has space for 32 lockers. In the righthand wing, or north end of the clubhouse, is the men's locker-room, with space for 138 members, kitchen and tap-room on the ground floor. The pro-shop and additional locker space is provided in the basement of this wing, on the first tee end of the building.

Enhancing the beauty of the colonial building is its elevation above the surrounding area, and while it is actually only slightly more than three feet above the adjacent highway, the architects have so blended the building with the landscape that you are taken from Florida to the rolling country of Virginia all in the blink of an eye.

In keeping with the "rolling country impression" given by the clubhouse, the course itself has been raised on virtually every hole, making the layout much more sporty and giving the players from the

Accuracy is at a premium on the 138-yd. 11th hole. The canal takes those hooked shots, while the big traps at the right await your slice. Says Willie MacFarlane, "but wait until you've played No. 11; that's the toughest hole on the course."





Plan of first floor of the new Miami Shores clubhouse. Note the unusually large lounge and veranda, both measuring 50 ft. in length. Pro-shop and additional locker space, if needed, is located in basement.

North a course more in keeping with their home eighteens.

With the exception of the par 3 holes, every one on the course is a dogleg, with rolling fairways and the greens well guarded with deep traps. A railroad which runs through the length of the course has made necessary longer than average distances between tees and greens, but this distance, which at first seems unnecessary, has permitted the designers to make the course much more difficult than is ordinarily the practice with semi-public courses. During the winter the Miami Shores course averages better than 150 players per day and yet there is little waiting between shots. The walks between green and tee seem to be the answer. Despite the difficulty of the course, there is plenty of rough and natural hazards to delay play to the point where it would be troublesome on most courses; this greater distance between greens and tees seems to give that needed few minutes for each hole to compensate for a lost ball.

Membership Is Chief Problem

One of the chief problems of any golf course in Florida is the question of membership. If a course is strictly a membership one it virtually has to close in the summer in order to operate at a profit. Miami Shores has solved the problem by opening the course to all comers, at \$2 greens fees, during the winter, and annual memberships for local residents at \$100. As the management explains it, the course has the benefit of the tourist play during the winter, and the added income, at a time of year when the local residents are so busy they are unable to make full use of the course anyhow. So far the practice is working splendidly, they report.

Those mentioning the Miami Shores course always add: "And that 11th hole—now let me tell you, there's a hole." And indeed it is a thing of beauty to look at and a nightmare for most golfers who face its hazards.

To Willie MacFarlane, former National Open champion, and winter professional at the course, as well as to Andy Kay, resident professional, No. 11 is "the hole." Its length is 138 yards, par 3, and boasts all the nasty things that make a golf hole tough. Angling from right to left in front of the tee is the Biscayne canal,



Veranda of Miami Shores clubhouse overlooks the 18th green—which doesn't make the final hole any easier. The building is a part of the \$300,000 plant opened this past season.

which runs through the course, and which on this hole gobbles up a hook ball with the greatest of ease.

The green is fairly large but is trapped all the way around except for a narrow strip directly in front. So, a slice goes into traps on the right, a hook or too short a shot goes into the canal, and if you're too strong, you're over the green in more trouble. Added to these troublesome things is the fact the tee is guarded from any easterly wind, the prevailing one in Florida, by the railroad embankment under which you walk to reach it. You just have to guess at the strength of the breeze and that just adds to the "take" of the canal.

Richardson Course Is Compact

In sharp contrast to Miami Shores is the Richardson Golf Course at Fort Lauderdale, 30 miles to the north. This course is the realization of the dream of George Richardson who has been building golf courses for a quarter of a century.

The Richardsons, George, Mrs. Richardson and their son, George, Jr., found the spot in 1937 and purchased a 40-acre tract in the heart of a cypress hammock along the Middle River at Fort Lauderdale.

When Richardson, Senior, left for the North that spring, he already had staked out the course and it was then up to George, Jr., and Mrs. Richardson, who immediately decided on a pay-as-you-go

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Golfers on the Chicago Cubs and White Sox baseball clubs will play their annual golf match at Twin Orchard CC, July 9, under the auspices of the Illinois PGA. Newspaper and radio sports department men also will have their annual exhibition at the same time. The initial event put on by Lew Waldron in 1939 was well attended by sports fans who were treated to some weird golf. Gate this year goes to the Red Cross.

policy, and the result was that when the links was opened in December, it was completely free of debt.

Where the Miami Shores course spreads over a considerable area, this 9-hole layout utilizes the 40-acre tract completely. The 9 holes all place a premium on straight shots and have a total yardage of 2,840 with a par of 34. The longest hole is but 475 yards and the shortest is 150 yards, without a breather in the lot.

The Richardson course clubhouse is the old home which was on the 40 acres when the family bought it. The downstairs has been converted into lounge, office, pro-shop and locker-rooms, on a miniature scale, of course.

During the few months the course has been in operation it has drawn most of its play from the fashionable Lauderdale Beach Hotel and the Hillsboro club. The Richardsons operate the club under a restricted membership plan, counting on the "no waiting to tee off" to help them draw players from the surrounding eighteens, of which there are three. It is too early to determine if this policy will succeed, but with the course under family operation as it is, it seems to have better than an even chance.

CHARLEY BURNS, Akron (O.) munny course official and director of the GSA has done an outstanding job in getting newspaper publicity for the greenkeepers. In his study of sport section factors he's found one reason why golf news lag. The reason is expense of newspaper pick-up of golf club news.

Burns' survey of sports editors reveals that if pros and managers would telephone scores and other news to sports depts., instead of expecting short-handed sports depts. to do the telephoning, golf club news would increase.