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AUGUST, 1931

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Robert E. Power, President and Editor. FRANK H. PELTON, C. E. LOWE, Treasurer. M. J. Fox, Assistant Secretary.

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August, 1931

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AUGUST 1931 Volume V Number VIII

The NATIONAL GREENKEEPER

Official Organ of The National Association of Greenkeepers of America

INVERNESS—A Test of Golf

By ROBERT E. POWER, Editor

Note: We are indebted to Bob Swiss, chairman of the Program committee, and F. C. Fletcher, of the Caslon Company, which printed the program, for permission to reproduce photos, charts and descriptions of the Inverness holes.

I NVERNESS proved in the Open Championship to be what its admirers said it was—a fine test of golf and true championship course. Certainly it was no set-up for the world's most famous "sharp shooters." Many of the best of them stumbled around through rough and bunkers and when they did reach the green they found their small undulating surfaces most difficult to negotiate.

It is not our province to discuss or comment on the play except as it reflected the condition of the course. Prior to the tournament, W. J. Rockefeller, Inverness veteran greenkeeper, was taken ill and it fell on the shoulders of Mr. Frank E. Weber, chairman of the Green committee to take the helm. He called back Joe P. Mayo of Pebble Beach, California-a former Inverness boy and now noted in his own name and they worked incessantly to whip the course into shape.

John Morley and the writer spent part of the first day examining the greens. They seemed fast but true with varied strains of good bent grasses and a sufficiently safe cushion to hold well-hit shots. The fairways appeared a bit tight but one must expect a closely-mowed course for a National Championship, especially with the new ball which is supposed to sit up and offer better lies than the old one.

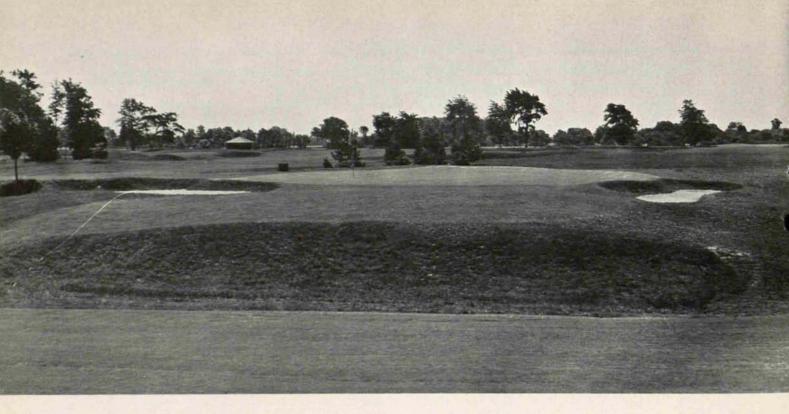
The rough was long and tough. This affected the scores when the players were a bit wild. Yet Inverness was not long and the premium on accuracy had to be preserved—otherwise the best

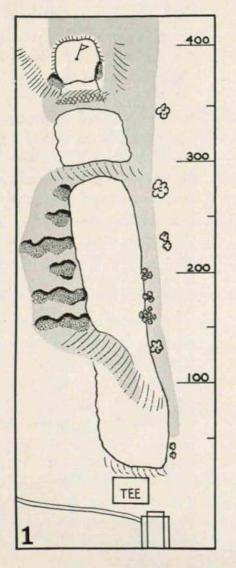


Mr. Ramsay has come up from the ranks, so to speak, having held many offices in the U. S. G. A. He is the first president to appoint greenkeepers on the Green Section Advisory Committee. golfer could not have won. We watched Bill Burke in the final rounds Saturday and he was hitting his shots low and straight from tee to green and putting with unusual accuracy. I never saw him 3-putt a green—which proves something about the greens being true. Even so, the new ball is going to change some of the greenkeeper's methods—*Remember that*.

Perhaps next year we shall see the new ball on a long, open course somewhere in the East and the result will decide its destiny.

The conduct of the tournament under the able direction of President H. H. Ramsay and his assistants was all that could be desired. More power to Ramsay the greenkeeper's friend.





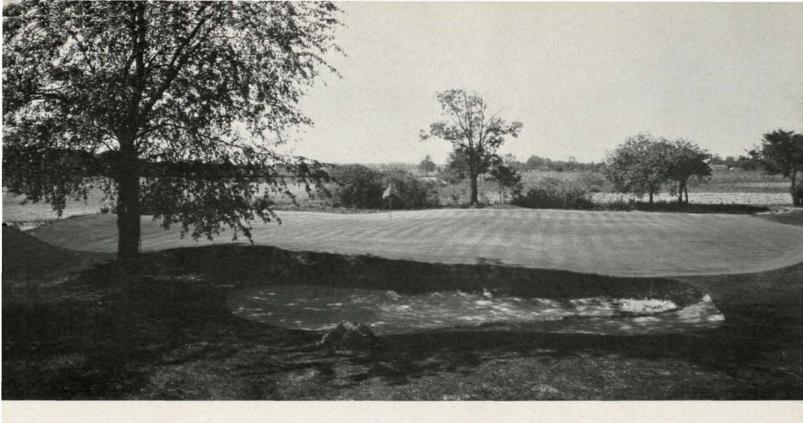
Hole No. 1 392 YARDS-PAR 4

A superb test to open a round of golf. A long straight driver has a distinct advantage, but with out of bounds upon his right and traps and rough to his left, the hole frequently is a sore trial to the unwary golfer.

About 290 yards from the tee there is a steep drop-off in the fairway, and a small valley about 75 yards in width, the far bank of which, immediately in front of the green, is deeply rough. The green itself tops a small plateau and is dangerously trapped on the two sides facing the approach, with plenty of rough beyond.

A carefully played second shot is essential to insure par on this hole.

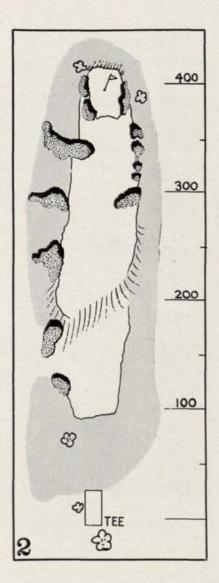
The National Greenkeeper



Hole No. 2 388 YARDS – PAR 4

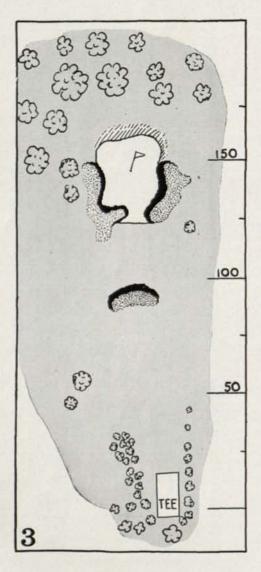
This hole has recently been lengthened and converted into a truly difficult par four. The green is now guarded with a series of traps on both sides and rough beyond. A sliced ball means out of bounds, and a hook anywhere along the line of play finds a trap along the eleventh fairway, which parallels this second hole from the tee to the green.

In 1920 this was considered one of the easiest holes. Today it contains plenty of trouble for even the most skilful player.



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INVERNESS Hole No. 3 146 YARDS—PAR 3

An innocent and simple looking layout, but one that permits of no mistakes. It is a sporty one shotter, and if the pitch holds the green all will be well, but if you are off the line, either to right or left, a happy three may turn into a dismal five.

The green is irregular in outline, undulating in terrain, and unusually fast, so a shot from the trap or rough beyond the green takes careful planning to insure a four, even for the best of players.

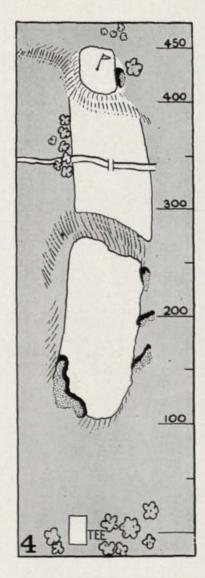


Hole No. 4 431 YARDS-PAR 4

This is one of the most noted holes of Inverness. Consistently high class golf is essential here if one would equal par. A long straight shot from the back tee is a joy, but either a slice or hook is apt to cause despair.

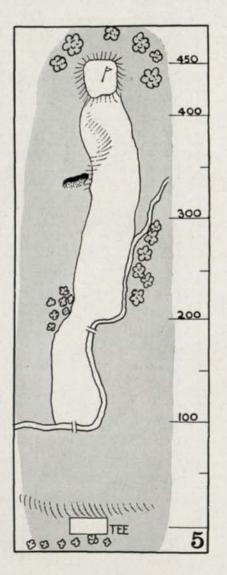
Two hundred and seventy yards from the tee there is a bank or ledge of rough that traps the long driver. Getting home on the second means supreme golf.

The green, as on hole No. 1, tops a small plateau, and is guarded by a sloping apron or rise in the fairway that slows down the run-up approach or deadens the brassie or iron second shot that chances to be short. On account of its slanting terrain, the green itself demands an accurate putting touch.



The National Greenkeeper





Hole No. 5 430 YARDS – PAR 4

A remarkable golf hole, picturesque, naturally protected, the hardest par four at Inverness, and recognized by any authority as one of the best on any course in any country. A natural hole in the truest sense, without a single sand trap, yet admittedly one of the most difficult to negotiate in par figures. A shot from the tee some thirty feet above the fairway is subject to plenty of trouble. A curving, winding brook that first crosses and then skirts the fairway for 200 yards is only one of the natural hazards.

Absolutely straight direction and good control are necessary even to expert players. Here a birdie is one of the achievements, as well as one of the biggest thrills in golf.