

NEW IDEAS IN GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURE

By WALTER J. TRAVIS

Photographs by GEORGE P. HALL

THERE was opened quite recently a new golf course which promises to be one of the best in the whole country in the very near future. It embodies several new ideas in the laying out—new, at all events, to this side of the water. And it is also unique in that it is a proprietary club which is virtually open to the golfing public at large—on practically the same lines as North Berwick, in Scotland. While it is open to the public it is confidently expected that in exactly the same way as now obtains at St. Andrews, North Berwick and other foreign links, a number of clubs will be formed, the members of which will have the privilege of playing, on the payment of certain fixed dues. Already one such club has enrolled itself.

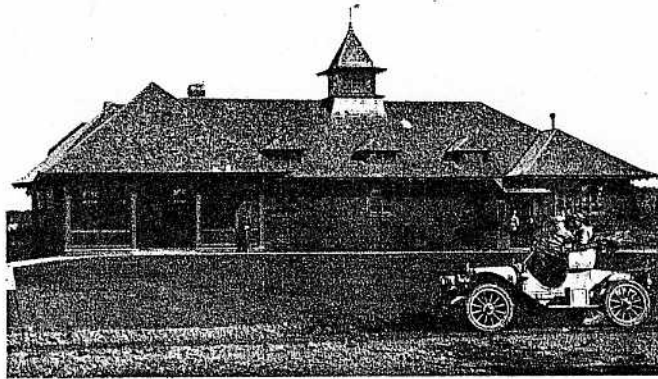
The new course is known as the Salisbury Links and is situated at Garden City, Long Island.

The most striking feature of the course is the provision for all classes of players, from the very top-notch to the veriest duffer. The former has almost constantly before him the problem of whether to go direct for the hole, with all its attendant risks in case of failure, or to emulate the example of the weaker player and take the longer, but safer, route. Such is real golf and the Salisbury Links embodies the first consistent step taken on this side to construct a course throughout on sound principles.

I am not going to weary the reader with a detailed description of the various features of each and every hole. Suffice it to say that all are full of interest and no two are alike. At the same time I cannot refrain from glancing briefly at one or two, the salient features of which are characteristic of the deep thought and care which have been bestowed, not only on them, but also on the remainder.

Take, by way of illustration, the fifth, seventh, and fifteenth holes. The fifth is 352 yards. The tee shot direct for the hole involves a carry of 145 yards. An intervening road runs diagonally across. While a straight shot, direct on the hole, gives a very good approach, the more one bears to the right the easier the approach becomes, but the greater must the carry be from the tee; conversely, the more one bears to the left of a direct line to the hole the easier the carry becomes, until finally it reduces itself to one within the compass of the merest tyro. But the more one bears to the left the harder—not to say longer—the approach becomes, both by reason of the dip of the ground and also because of the presence of hazards contiguous to the green, on the left. And if a man who is capable of negotiating the direct tee shot feels a little weakening of the knees as to his ability to bring it off, and elects to make sure by compromising on a bit to the left, he is still safe provided he has not gone too far to the left, or pulled, in either of which case, he will probably find himself in one of a series of bunkers cunningly placed to catch just such shots.

The seventh, again, is extremely interesting. It is 415 yards long. Two good shots will get home. A direct line to the hole necessitates a carry of about 150 yards, several pot bunkers intervening, with rough broken ground on the left.



The club house commands a good view of the links. It is not large but is well arranged. The men's locker room will accommodate about 250, and in addition there is a ladies' locker room, luncheon room seating about sixty, kitchen, etc., etc.

To the right the fair green stretches away from the straight line to the hole, making it comparatively easy for the average player to reach the green in three strokes provided he carries an old road some 280 yards on his second.

The fifteenth is a fine example of a one-shot hole. It is 190 yards long, on ground gradually sloping upward to an elevation of some ten or a dozen feet above the tee, with a very slight dip nearly all the way to the right. Anyone can easily get the green in two strokes, but only the perfectly played tee shot will reach, and hold, the green. It is guarded on both sides by bunkers, with long grass and rough ground for an overplay.

These three holes which I have just described in rough detail will give some idea of how very interesting the rest are. Every one presents a different problem, somewhat difficult of solution to the good player, but not so difficult to the less ambitious—provided.

In point of fact, I consider it furnishes the best test of golf that is to be found on this side—hard for the good player who is not toying the mark practically all the time—easy for him when he is playing all his shots as they should be played—hard, extremely hard, for the average player who—to use a vulgarism—essays to bite off more than he can chew; yet easy for the same player, or even one of the duffer class, provided they resign themselves, in most cases, to the loss of a stroke on the great majority of the holes, by playing safe and not attempting anything beyond their known limitations—which they never will do. And I'm not so sure, for the ultimate good of their game and the game as a whole, that it is not better so.

Nearly all of the greens are of an undulating character, some, perhaps, a little too much so. Nearly all these undulations are artificial, but so cleverly constructed as not to suggest their artificiality.

The hazards, also, are well arranged and are, as they should be, hazards in reality not merely in name.

While the course, being as it is quite new, is somewhat rough and immature at present, next season will witness a remarkable improvement in the turf, which offers every promise of being in time quite equal to that of its neighbor, the Garden City Golf Club.

Below are given the distances of the several holes:

1st hole	523 yards	10th hole	420 yards
2nd "	310 "	11th "	420 "
3rd "	166 "	12th "	180 "
4th "	283 "	13th "	286 "
5th "	352 "	14th "	370 "
6th "	266 "	15th "	190 "
7th "	415 "	16th "	134 "
8th "	395 "	17th "	380 "
9th "	380 "	18th "	420 "

It is quite within the bounds of probability that the opening of the new course and the unfolding of its possibilities may suggest to the powers that be of the older club the wisdom of taking a leaf out of Salisbury's book and making additional improvements in the older course—in short, copying some of their ideas, just as the Salisbury club copied certain ideas from the Garden City Golf Club. With the latter's already matured turf, which is unequaled

anywhere in this country and unsurpassed abroad, its magnificent distances and present system of hazards, it needs only some finishing touches to make it absolutely first-class in every respect—the addition of some thirty or forty pot bunkers designed, not to worry the average player, but to make the class player "sit up and take notice."

RINGING AND ITS EFFECTS

BY CUTTING out a narrow ring of bark from the stem or branch of a fruit tree or grape vine, the grower sometimes adds to his profits. Early fruits and those of exceptional size often bring high prices; and ringing, in some cases, aids in securing such products and even increases the total yield for the season. The operation may also make barren plants set fruit.

This process of ringing is effective because of a peculiarity in the sap circulation of exogenous (outside growing) plants, such as are all our fruit trees, vines and bushes, most of our vegetables and many of our cultivated flowers. In such plants the sap, with its supply of crude food materials absorbed by the roots, moves upward to the leaves largely through the outer portions of the old wood; while the descending currents, loaded with the starch and other foods elaborated in the leaves, pass through the inner bark and the growing new wood, or cambium layer, just beneath it. If a ring of bark and cambium be removed, the rise of the sap can continue almost as before; but the downward flow is checked and the food remains in the parts of the plant above the ring. This additional supply of food stimulates these parts so that they may become productive or bear earlier and larger fruits.

It must be remembered, however, that the parts of the plant below the ring will suffer through lack of the food stored above. Ringing must, therefore, be used with caution. On theoretical considerations it would seem to promise good results with such soft-stemmed plants; but from experiments on tomatoes and chrysanthemums conducted at the New York Experiment Station, it seems doubtful whether such will ever be the case. The plants treated showed a visible loss in vigor and no compensating gains.

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