



THE GOLFER

By "Follow Through."

THE measure of success achieved by a team of Surrey amateurs against a strong combination of Surrey professionals last week not unnaturally attracted some attention. The amateur team was far from representative of Surrey, Mr. Wethered and a contingent from Mid-Surrey being absent, but, on the other hand, it was reinforced by several good players whose association with the county is not historic. Surrey is exceptionally rich in courses, and, with so many clubs now eager to offer honorary membership to those who might increase their match-winning powers, should be able to produce an "all-star" team. It has been generally said that if they could be granted first call on any member's services, Mid-Surrey alone could produce the strongest team in England or Scotland. Time was when the strongest side offered by the Royal and Ancient club would have been unbeatable, and there was a day when the normal Royal Liverpool team was a hideous affair to tackle. You were faced with John Ball, Jack Graham, Harold Hilton, Charles Hutchings and C. E. Dick in the first five, and there were plenty more who were not very much worse. It is a pleasant habit, and a privilege, of the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society to tour in Lancashire every other year. Their journey, of course, takes them into Cheshire, where, year after year, they mustered the best team available, but it was not until 1920 that the Hoylake men were beaten on their own course, though the Society had previously beaten them in a match on Westward Ho! The Royal Liverpool Club was then finding its feet and looking for its young players after the war period; whereas the visitors brought as strong a team as ever represented them, including R. H. de Montmorency, C. J. H. Tolley, R. H. Wethered, B. Darwin, and H. D. Gillies. The order of play was so difficult to decide that Mr. Croome ordered each member to write down what he considered should be the correct order, the points were added up and so the eventual order of merit was the result of the considered opinion of the team as a whole. The voting

of Cambridge—before this issue is published, there will once again be the match against the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society, followed by the Army meeting and, then to cap all, the Open Championship. The Hoylake links has,

there since its demise, and can only say that I never saw a more lively or charming corpse. Hoylake was and still is quite good enough for any possible form of golf; in fact, it is very much too good for some people. Of the actual

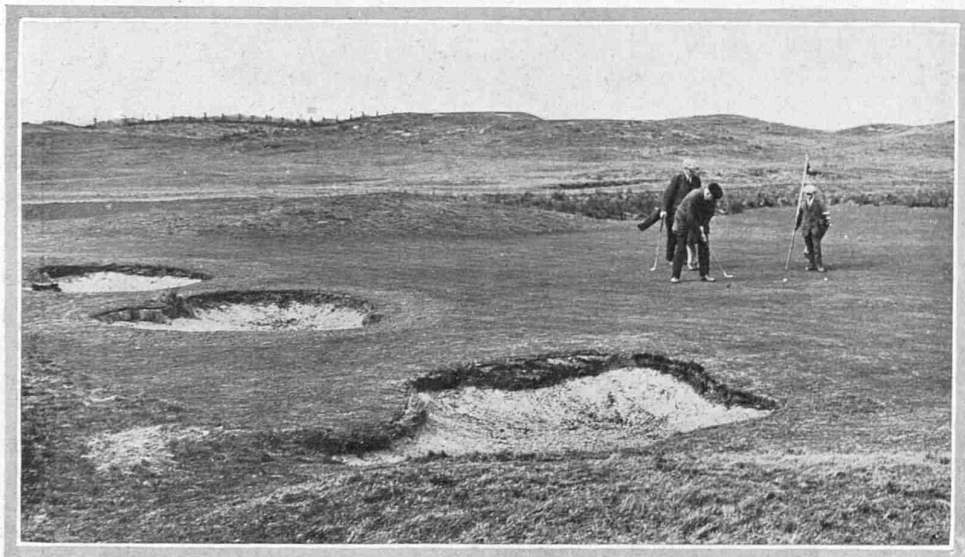


ALTERATIONS AT HOYLAKE: THE NEW 9TH TEE: BROUGHT NEARER THE RIVER DEE TO PREVENT AN OLD RUSE OF DRIVING OUT ON TO THE 8TH FAIRWAY.

Many more pictures are given on pages 716 and 717, showing the changes effected on these links.

perhaps, given people more opportunities to talk nonsense than any other green in the kingdom. It has been criticised from every possible point of view, and on the slightest provocation dismal jimmies have thrown out melancholy suggestions that it has gone beyond recovery. The number of times that the Hoylake links has died only to recover is nothing short of miraculous, and if accounts are true it is once more in a state of resurrection. Half the re-

structural alterations, I cannot speak so cheerfully. They are the work of a distinguished architect, who, one knows full well, would not have worked sacrilege where he could avoid it, but it must be said at once that to most of us the Hoylake of old has gone. Possibly one or two bits of it are better gone; no one even in their most sentimental moments really thought the Alps was a good hole, and the invitation to drive on to the wrong fairway from the 9th teeing ground was a common cause of discontent. But when it comes to substituting pot bunkers for the traditional Hoylake Cross-bunker, as has been done at the "Dun" hole, then I begin to think golf architects are not so terribly clever as they would have us believe. All the long way from Euston have I many times turned over in my mind the pleasures, the characteristic features, of Hoylake—and the "Dun" hole, dull though some may think it, is undoubtedly one of the sharpest. But now when next I go there I have no more to look forward to than some pot bunkers, the like of which I am tired of hacking out of round London. We go to Hoylake to get away from the usual, the stereotype, and the powers that be have now denied us our little bit of fun. No one in the world could ever utterly ruin the short 7th or "Dowie" hole; so long as the ground remains there, so long it will be an object-lesson in Nature's kind provision to golfers. As a natural short hole it had no serious rivals, and it can still hold up its head, even though it has been dressed up in strange clothes that bulge with large pockets. But to my mind the saddest affair of all is the passing of the old "Hilbre" hole, where the long, flat approach on to a slightly running green with the pond behind provided one of the most marked tests of the golfing stroke on the links. Well, well, they have done their best, and I have no doubt they will provide an excellent entertainment for the experts, and we can at least be thankful that the first hole, one of the very best holes in the entire world, will remain unaltered. If that hole had been messed about, then not even the cheer of a Hoylake luncheon could make me face a mutilated friend.



NEW HAZARDS AT HOYLAKE: POT BUNKERS AT THE LEFT OF THE 6TH OR "BRIARS" HOLE: PREVIOUSLY THE OVER-STRONG APPROACH TO THIS GREEN WAS UNPUNISHED.

Other pictures dealing with this subject appear on pages 716 and 717. The Oxford and Cambridge golfers held their annual competitions this week at Hoylake.

on that occasion gave Major Gillies the honour of playing against John Ball. Hoylake will once again figure prominently in the year's events, for, after the inter-university match which will have been decided—surely in favour

ports that shoot southward about the terrible condition of Hoylake are utterly untrue, though it is admitted that the Amateur Championship of 1921 and the universal hot summer did not improve its condition. I have, however, been