

as many as one hundred and fifty players start off during an afternoon and cause no confusion or congestion on the course.

This summer a combination team of Oxford and Cambridge players is planning to come over to play matches against Yale, Harvard, Princeton and Cornell. If this visit can be arranged it will give a great stimulus to

American college golf; and at the same time help the strong friendship between colleges in this country and Great Britain. *Too much cannot be said regarding the intended visit of the Oxford-Cambridge team and the good effects it should produce.* I'm sure that when they play the Yale team on the Yale course, they will find that college golf over here is on a par with that in Britain.

The Alumni Use of the Yale Golf Course

By R. SELDEN ROSE, '09

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THE moving spirits in the construction of the Yale Golf Course were George Adee, '95, Mortimer Buckner, '95, and Dean Mendell, '04. Their aim was to build a great course for the use of the alumni and the University alike. They had ready to hand ideal terrain in the Ray Tompkins Memorial tract in Westville. Charles E. MacDonald laid out the course and the late Seth Raynor built it. This able group collaborated to build a masterpiece of golf architecture.

The third season has just opened as this article is written, with such a rush of undergraduate play that the Course seems to have established itself already as a University institution. Play promises to be even heavier than last year's daily average of ninety-two for the Spring and Fall terms. Before the Yale Course was built probably forty undergraduates played under special arrangement at Race Brook (out Derby Avenue) and at the New Haven Country Club (out Whitney Avenue); now there are between 350 and 400 golfers in the University who play regularly on their own course.

Its advantages were obvious at once. The first tee is only fifteen minutes from Yale Station, out Whalley Avenue to Westville and through the woods of the Tompkins Memorial property. There is no congestion even on days when play is heaviest. The Course itself from the short tees is ideal for beginners, the regular course from the middle tees is a good, fair test for the average game, from the back tees it is a severe test of championship golf. There are problems for all sorts and conditions of golfers. A word of advice—do not try the back tees unless other people, as well as you yourself, consider you a first-flight player. They are not the place for the merely ambitious with no record of achievement.

Clubhouse facilities are simple, almost primitive, but they are adequate. The log cabin, seventy-five by thirty feet, contains a large dressing room with showers, a generous shop for Ben Thomson and his assistant Frank Peebles, and a relatively small lounge. Great stone fireplaces are the only heating apparatus. The "restaurant" is a cabin in the woods a few yards away. It provides sandwiches, hot-dogs, milk and coffee. The Golf Committee is agreed that it is to the best interests of all to furnish only a magnificent course, a bath, a towel and very solid food. In addition to Thomson and Peebles the club house staff consists of a starter-clerk-caddymaster and a night watchman who closes the gates of the property at sundown.

The Athletic Association is fully aware of the necessity of maintaining a really great course as near perfection as possible. It has been liberal with funds, and William E. Perkins, '17 S., the superintendent, with the aid of my fellow-committeemen E. S. Bronson, '00 S., and C. A. Lohmann, '10, spends them wisely. He grew up with the Course, helped build it, in fact, and has developed into one of the best men in New England in coping with the many problems of construction, maintenance and development. His greens are superb, the fairways are excellent for their age, and he is completing an ambitious program of tee expansion which was made imperative by unexpectedly heavy play.

SUMMER PLAY

The most serious problem confronting the Golf Committee is to bring revenue up to maintenance costs. We think

it can be done. Under the Athletic Association's program of athletics for all, fees for University members must be kept within the reach of all and sundry. The result is that maintenance charges cannot be met with our maximum membership of 450. The Committee, however, is convinced that as maintenance costs decrease with further maturity of the Course, the revenue from summer play will increase greatly, even to the point of meeting all expenses not covered by income from the University body. The Yale Course is slowly winning recognition as one of the few great natural courses of the United States. Evidence of this is the fact that the New England Golf Association has just asked for and been granted the use of the Course for the Connecticut-Massachusetts-Rhode Island Interstate Matches scheduled for next September.

During the University year the undergraduates are already using the Course almost to the limit of its capacity. The nature of the Course and the teaching of Ben Thomson have combined to raise the standard of play to a very high level. Even from the back tees the undergraduates make the Course look easy.

The alumni on the other hand, except for a group of devoted regulars, have shown a surprising lack of interest. Many of them do not know that there is a Yale Golf Course; and others, I think, were frightened by badly-taken photographs of its water hazards. They gave us unfortunate publicity. The Course, however, has lived down an undeserved reputation for long carries and undue severity. Recognition from the alumni body is coming slowly. The same foursomes turn up unfaillingly on Saturday mornings through the Spring and Fall. They finish their round about noon and lunch in the rough. The habits have learned to bring their own things. They carry them off to their pet places in the sun or in the woods, and make themselves comfortable there until it is time to go in to the Bowl or Yale Field. The Course, by the way, is only ten minutes by motor from the parking space at the Bowl. Now these groups are beginning to come to New Haven in time for a round on Friday afternoon and then stay over Sunday. The more recent graduates who knew the Course as undergraduates are coming back for entire week-ends in New Haven. There are no restrictions and a great variety of memberships to choose from.

The Athletic Association hopes that the alumni will use the Course more and more every year. It goes without saying that they are welcome, because it is really their own course.

The sudden appearance on Monday, in Professor Phelps's care, of Gene Tunney, world-champion in the Ring and also in the Book world, as a lecturer on Shakespeare in Harkness Hall, produced a stampede of the students and a rousing Campus reception. Mr. Tunney spoke interestingly on his own pleasure in Shakespeare and urged his audience to do their own reading and thinking about him, rather than let an instructor do it for them. He lunched and played golf with Professor Phelps and Registrar A. K. Merritt, '93, and then returned to New York, escorted to the train by a large part of New Haven's population, to go into training. He was probably the highest paid lecturer who has yet spoken on a Yale platform.