

GOLF.

NEW LINKS AT SANDIWAY.

Golfers in **Cheshire** have good reason to feel proud of the links in their county and of the improvement that is continuously in progress. Years ago nearly all the first-class courses were on the Wirral coast, but whilst the players at that end of the county can still boast about Hoylake, Wallasey, Leasowe, Heswall, and Prenton, those farther east can point with justifiable pride to Delamere, Stockport, Prestbury, Ringway, Timperley, Wilmslow, Sale, and Sandiway.

Sandiway, the most recent addition, is such a good test that the scratch score—the basis on which handicaps are allotted—has been fixed at 76. The course is a mile from Hartford Station, and the temporary clubhouse is close to the road and on a small hill from which there is a fine view of wooded scenery. The course is in an old park, the turf of which has not been disturbed for centuries, and it has been laid out in such a way that there are no trees on the line of play. The land at every hole is undulating, but only two holes are of the "blind" variety, and even at them the outlook from the tees is pleasing. The original plan was drawn up by Edward Ray, and now that many acres have been cleared of bracken the turf on the fairways and on the spacious greens is all that a golfer could desire. The lengths of the holes are as follows:—

1.	418 yards	10.	159 yards
2.	415 ..	11.	380 ..
3.	450 ..	12.	342 ..
4.	178 ..	15.	170 ..
5.	410 ..	14.	430 ..
6.	144 ..	15.	210 ..
7.	452 ..	16.	491 ..
8.	350 ..	17.	434 ..
9.	322 ..	18.	334 ..
	<u>3,139</u>		<u>2,960</u>
	Total, 6,099 yards.		

At the first hole the land falls from the tee and rises to the green, and as the second is in the contrary direction a good driver will be able to play his second from a fine valley with a good chance of reaching the plateau green. The land to the third is uphill, and two wooden shots and an accurate pitch are required for the registration of satisfactory figures. The fourth requires an iron shot, and as the green is at the bottom of a hill and is splendidly guarded a man who escapes punishment for a poor stroke will be lucky. From the fifth tee another valley ought to be reached, and only a very long second will reach the green, which is on high ground. The short sixth is guarded by a row of sand-scrapes, and at the next—one of the best holes amongst many—out-of-bounds on the right has to be avoided from the tee, and even after a good second the triangular green below cannot be reached except by an accurate pitcher. The first half is completed by two holes of moderate distance which give the straight player every encouragement.

The tenth is an excellent one-shot hole with the green on a hill, and the eleventh provides the opportunity from a second shot which, if successful, will arouse elation that will probably last during the remainder of the round. Accuracy is demanded at the next two, and at the fourteenth a well-made brassy shot will leave the player a pitch from or over a hill. The long hitter has a great chance at the fifteenth provided he keeps straight, and then comes another very pretty hole at which length and accuracy must be combined. The drive has to be made to the bottom of a hill between clumps of trees, and a five will be missed unless this is followed by another good shot with wood and a lofted mashie stroke. Another long hole ends with a pitch over undulating land to a green on a hillside. A fairly easy hole finishes the round, and the man who has played well will realise that the scenery has helped to make the distance covered seem much shorter than it has really been.

The president of the club is Sir John Brunner, and the hon. secretary Mr. J. H. Wadsworth, of Hartford. An open meeting on the links is promised for the early summer, and officials of the **Cheshire** Union are likely to select Sandiway for a county event.