

Biltmore Golf Courses Are Praised by New 'Pro'

Compare Favorably With Best
Inland Links Abroad, Says
C. S. Butchart.

Cuthbert S. Butchart has been appointed golf professional and instructor for the Westchester-Biltmore Country Club, situated between the villages of Harrison and Rye in Westchester County. A hint of this was given several days ago in THE NEW YORK HERALD and the announcement of the engagement now has been made by John McE. Bowman, president, and Gage E. Tarbell, vice-president, of the Westchester-Biltmore. Messrs. Bowman and Tarbell gave careful consideration to the selection, for they wanted a practical man and one who knew the game of golf from A to Z. In Butchart they have found the man. He has played on all the famous courses of Europe with nobility and taught the greatest men in Europe the game of golf.

Great progress is being made on this wonderful project. The rattle of the electric steel drill can be heard every day. The steel skeleton of the main building has reached a height of seven stories, with two more to go. The process of building has reached the stage of construction where progress is visible each day. The 600 acre stretch rolling ground, located in one of the most ideal spots of Westchester county, is gradually assuming the lights and shades of the picture outlined by the skill and genius of Warren & Wetmore, the architects.

The new instructor Butchart when only a lad of 11 was already swinging the clubs in Scotland. He is a stockily built man with a ruddy complexion. The health of the winds and rugged weather of outdoors shows in his face and frame. In his experience he has instructed some of the most noted men of Europe and has turned out many of the greatest players of the game.

Began to Play Early in Life.

He is identified with every feature of the popular sport. He has made champion players and has himself played the game. He has laid out many of the famous courses in Europe. He was born in Carnoustie, Scotland, on May 19, 1876. The love of the game lured him to the links when a mere schoolboy, and before he was 17 he was playing in Carnoustie club team matches against St. Andrew's, Montrose and Menfieth clubs. When 18 years old he played plus 8 in the Montrose Mercantile Club.

Long before this his ability as a club maker had been recognized in England as well as Scotland. He was 21 years old when he accepted the position as professional to the Pollok Golf Club in Glasgow, and a year later left for Newcastle, County Down, Ireland. While in the Emerald Isle he planned or reconstructed many courses, among them the Newcastle, Bunderan, Antrim, Banger and Fort William.

He went to Germany in 1909 and constructed golf links for Count Oppersdorf and then accepted the position of professional with the Berlin Golf Club. Here he met members of the imperial family, coaching them and playing with them regularly. He played with or coached members from all the foreign embassies. Of the imperial family he played with the Crown Prince, Prince Henry of Prussia, brother of the former Kaiser; Prince Frederick Leopold of Prussia, Prince Munster and Archduke Carl Stephen of Austria.

He played also with members of the suites of the American, French, Chilean, Swedish, Danish, Russian, Italian and Turkish embassies, and in England he had already played with most of the nobility.

He was preparing the plans for four new courses when the war broke out. From his high estate among the royalty and nobility he was plumped into a prison camp and remained there, interned for the duration of the war, being released November 22, 1918. He couldn't remain idle even in his internment. He had never attempted to make anything but golf clubs, but genius of invention

Played Golf With Former Crown Prince



CUTHBERT S. BUTCHART
Photo © by Underwood & Underwood

asserted itself in the making of silver cups and bowls and other articles of service, and before he could make them he had to first construct the tools.

Won Championship of Germany.

But before they interned him, although he has played very little in competitions, he won the German professional championship at Oberhof in 1913, with the record score of 138 for thirty-six holes. Perhaps the former royal family deemed his internment a form of poetic justice.

Among Butchart's pupils have been Lord Clerawley, south of Ireland champion; Harold Reade, Irish champion; Frank R. Nevitt, Irish champion; Miss Rhona Adair, Irish and open woman champion, and many other prominent players. For the last two years he has been the private professional and instructor to Lycett Green and his guests at Slain's Castle, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

Butchart the other day paid a visit to the Biltmore courses and what he saw there impressed him greatly.

"My visit to the Westchester Biltmore Country Club grounds was a very agreeable surprise," he said. "I was greatly impressed with its general features, beauty of situation and wonderful surroundings. Naturally, my interest centered principally on the golf courses, and let me frankly confess I was tremendously impressed by them.

"They bear evidence of having been planned by a master hand, and the construction leaves nothing to be desired. When finished and ready for play they must take a foremost place among the golf courses of any country. Of one thing I am certain: they are not surpassed by any of the inland courses in Britain.

"They will afford not only pleasure to the great army golfers in this country but will prove a very exacting test to the best players. The planning of the long holes has been well thought out, and the alternative lines of play will make the place a veritable paradise to the moderate player as well as to the mighty slogger.

"The short holes are cleverly conceived and will be a very searching test of iron play. The putting greens are wonderful in their variety, and when trimmed up in the spring will be of the true golfing texture.

"In conclusion I can safely prophesy that the Westchester-Biltmore course will be the scene of many doughty struggles in the golfing history of America."