



THROUGH THE GREEN

IN SUPPORT OF THE RULES

The proponents of increasingly lighter penalties for the Rules of Golf will always be able to present a popular case. Golf is a game based on fair play; therefore, they say, why inflict penalties of such magnitude that they place one player at a greater disadvantage than he may have deserved from his play? Furthermore, today it is popular to make everything easier.

The case of the traditionalist is not so simple. His position is that golf will cease to be a great amateur sport when it is no longer played under a balanced code or when its penalties become so light that they encourage the player to recover from his misadventures by use of the Rule book, rather than by his skill.

It is a very simple matter to isolate any one Rule, apply it to a single situation, and thereby claim that Rule is inequitable and unfair. To make such generalizations from little evidence is dangerous. Not only can it lead to unsound conclusions but it can develop a shallow habit—a change in one Rule can lead to changes in others, with the final result that the whole philosophy of the game may be altered.

The Rules must be studied and judged on the overall basis of the kind of game we wish golf to be. They must not be judged by the operation of one Rule on a single occurrence or a single hole or a single course.

The present Rules of Golf have evolved naturally through long years of trial and error. They are a code well balanced, fair and equitable, otherwise golf could never have reached its present popularity.

What golf needs is not new Rules but better observance of those we have.

Richard S. Tufts
Former President USGA

Claims for Golf Balls

Advertisements in New York newspapers have claimed that Electra golf balls, which are manufactured in Japan, will "increase your distance up to 50 yards." Inquiries as to the validity of this claim have been received by the USGA.

The Association tested the impact

velocity of seven Electras in the Spring of 1960. The balls conformed with the USGA Rule limiting impact velocity to 250 feet per second with a maximum tolerance of 2%. Therefore, the USGA has no evidence that the Electra is superior in distance qualities to competitive brands.

Try, Try Again

The adage "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again" was substantiated recently by Mrs. W. J. Hines of Toronto, Captain of the Ladies' Section of the St. George's Golf and Country Club there.

While vacationing in Florida, Mrs. Hines played at the Vero Beach Country Club on February 23. At the 125-yard 18th hole, playing with a following wind, Mrs. Hines watched her 5-iron shot hit the flagstick and bounce back less than one inch from the cup.

Undismayed at the loss of her first hole-in-one, Mrs. Hines came back to the same course the next day. Noticing that the wind was blowing across at this time, she selected a 4-iron at the 18th. Her tee shot went into the hole.

Mrs. Hines did not play on the 25th, but returned to the Vero Beach course on the 26th. Because the wind was now against her, she selected her 3-iron on the 18th, teed up the same ball used for the hole-in-one, and knocked it right back into the hole.

In the ensuing excitement, a wire service mistakenly identified Mrs. Hines' achievement as three holes-in-one instead of two and a near miss.

When she returned home, Mrs. Hines explained the mistake to her friends. According to Mrs. Hines, "It has been slightly frustrating to hear people say 'Oh, you mean you only had two holes-in-one in two consecutive rounds.'"

Americas Cup Changes

The biennial schedule for the Americas Cup competition among amateur teams representing Canada, Mexico and the United States has been changed from even-numbered to odd-numbered years.

This has resulted in scheduling of a competition in 1961. It will be held Saturday and Sunday, October 21 and 22 at the Club Campestre Monterrey, A.C., in Monterrey City, N.L., Mexico.

The change in schedule was made to avoid time difficulties in view of the fact that the World Amateur Team Championship is played in even-numbered years. The Americas Golf Cup competition is sponsored by the Royal Canadian Golf Association, the Mexican Golf Association and the USGA.

Use of Tape on Clubs

The USGA has been queried about the use of lead tape on clubs for purposes of weight adjustment. The question about the application of lead tape to iron clubs was raised during the Open Championship last year. It was ruled that there was no objection to the use of such tape if it were applied in such a way as to seem to be an integral part of the club and so as not to be readily removable.

Some players have accomplished this result by buffing the edges of the tape into the metal on the back of the club.

However, it is clearly a violation of Rule 2-2b for either the club to be capable of adjustment or for the player to change its characteristics during a round of play. This applies not only to application or removal of lead tape but also to similar treatment of weights in any part of a club.

1962 Junior Championship

The 1962 Junior Amateur Championship will be played at the Lochmoor Club, Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan. The dates will be Wednesday through Saturday, August 1 through 4.

The 1961 Junior Championship is scheduled for the Cornell University Golf Course, Ithaca, N. Y., from August 2 through 5.

Selective Thieves

By piecing together accounts of some winter thefts, amateur detectives might deduce that a band of selective thieves specializing in golf equipment is operating on a national scale.

All the flags and flagsticks were stolen from the Manchester Country Club in Connecticut one night. They were returned a few days later with a note reading, "Sorry, we couldn't use them."

Meanwhile on the West Coast a set of clubs and 26 balls were stolen from a Country club. They turned up later abandoned in a post office substation with this note: "The Santa Ana police will be interested in these. Please return the clubs and balls to the owner. They're no use to me as I am left-handed. Besides, the balls have writing on them, causing me to be distracted when I attempt to club one. Thanks. The Phantom."

Elder Statesman



Art Theler

Arthur L. (Art) Theler must hold some sort of record for continuous service in golf administration. His 42 years of membership in the Board of Directors of the Greater Cincinnati Golfers' League covers a large part of the history of organized golf in America.

His career began as a delegate from the Wyoming Golf Club to the Cincinnati Golfers' League in 1919. For almost 30 years he served as chairman of the tournaments conducted by the League, including all of the sectional qualifying rounds for the U. S. Open and U. S. Amateur Championships.

From 1948 to 1957, Art served as a director of the Ohio State Golf Association and was thereafter elected an honorary member.

He was a founder of the Tri-State Golf Association in 1939 and has been serving as a director ever since.

All of these official duties, however, did not dull his competitive golfing spirit. He played in many of the tourneys conducted by these associations. Although he did win many invitational tournaments, including five during the 1927 season, and was a semi-finalist three times in the Cincinnati District Championship and a quarter-finalist on several other occasions, it was not until late in Art's golf career that he won his first tournament of importance, the first District Senior Championship in 1951.

Last October his many golfing friends game him a testimonial dinner for his

years of unselfish and devoted services to golf, which did so much to strengthen the organization of the game in the Cincinnati area. The United States Golf Association joins in paying tribute to a fine friend of golf.

—John W. Fischer

1963 Open At Brookline

The 1963 Open Championship will be held at The Country Club, Brookline, Mass., on June 20, 21 and 22. The tournament will coincide with the 50th anniversary of one of golf's most memorable events, the victory of Francis Ouimet in the Open at The Country Club in 1913.

The Country Club, one of five charter members of the USGA, has been the site of seven other USGA Championships as well as the Walker Cup competition in 1932.

Ouimet's victory in 1913 contributed immeasurably to the popularity of golf in the United States. The dramatic success of the 20-year-old American against the British masters Ted Ray and Harry Vardon in an 18-hole playoff brought the game to the attention of large numbers of his countrymen for the first time.

It was announced earlier that the 1962 Open will be played at the Oakmont Country Club, Oakmont, Pa., on June 14, 15 and 16.

Necrology

It is with deep regret that we record the death of:

Innis Brown, golf editor and writer, who had resided in DeLeon Springs, Florida, since his retirement some years ago. He formerly was managing editor of the American Golfer magazine, and has been associated with the United States Golf Association in Rules of Golf matters and in publication of the USGA Journal.

Ralph A. Kennedy who claimed a world record for the number of courses on which he had played. Mr. Kennedy donated his collection of more than 3,150 scorecards to the USGA for display in its Museum in 1957. He had served as a member of the Museum Committee since 1952.

Milton B. Reach, a retired official of A. G. Spalding Bros., Inc., who designed many of the golf clubs manufactured by that firm.