

# Anyone Can Make a Hole-in-One

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An individual who makes a hole-in-one is rewarded with a sensation of thrilling satisfaction that has remained undiluted since first a Scottish shepherd knocked a rounded pebble into a pothole in the pasture with his crook. The rarity of a hole-in-one, however, has declined as the number of players has multiplied, and it is estimated that 1,500 holes-in-one are now made each year in the United States and Canada.

In order for a player to achieve any enviable amount of prestige in holing a tee shot, he must do it under most unusual circumstances or in duplicate. This in spite of the fact that the chances against a hole-in-one are about 10,000 to 1 each time a player steps to the tee of a one-shot hole, or 2,500 to 1 each time he starts a normal 18-hole round.

## The Most Dramatic Ace

No one has ever matched, for pure drama, the hole-in-one made by Jamie Anderson on the 17th hole at Prestwick in the second and last round of the 1878 British Open. After he had set up his ball on the 35th tee, Andy Stuart, his marker, remarked that it was outside the teeing ground. Anderson reteed his ball and holed it. The ace sealed his victory with a 36-hole score of 157.

In the absence of such a dramatic setting, either length or frequency is required to endow a hole-in-one with memorability.

The longest was entered in the records by a chap named Cardwell on the 425-yard ninth at the old Hillcrest Golf Club in Winston-Salem, N. C. The Golfer's Handbook, which lists this record, does not give Cardwell's full name or the date, and the feat is now difficult to confirm.

A woman, Marie Robie of Wollaston, Mass., is credited with the next longest. She reported holing a tee shot on the 393-yard first hole at the hilly Furnace Brook Golf Club last September 4. This fairway runs downhill to the green, but

Miss Robie had to drive 200 yards to catch the roll.

The player who claims the most holes-in-one is Arthur J. Wall, Jr., of Honesdale, Pa., twice Pennsylvania Amateur Champion. Wall, who is 26, claims 28 aces, and no one has challenged his claim or dares predict how many he may make, at that rate and granted a long life in his new role as a professional.

The late Sandy Herd and Jim Braid, both professionals and winners of the British Open, made 19 and 14, respectively.

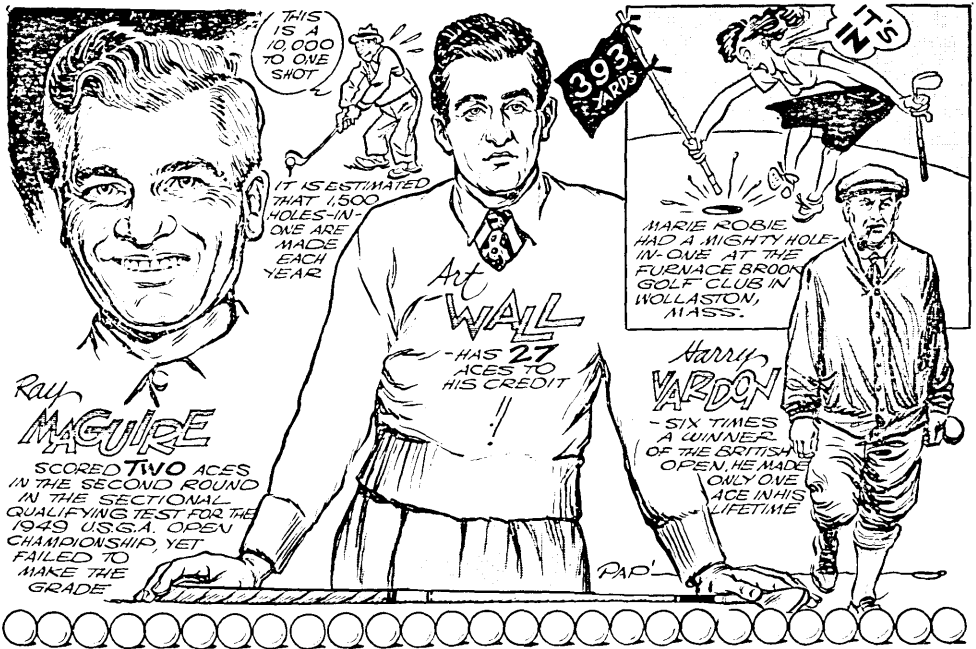
Herd made many of his holes-in-one with a jigger. One afternoon he was following a game, carrying the jigger in his hand. A player asked if he might try it, and he, too, holed an unofficial ace—a feat which transferred a certain amount of awe from Herd to the jigger.

Among Braid's 14 were six on the sixth hole at the Walton Heath Golf Club in Surrey, where he is both professional and an honorary member.

Golfers who are endowed with such artistry or good fortune, of course, dwell on Olympus and need not mingle with ordinary 14-handicap men. It is more likely that mortals will stir up excitement by making two holes-in-one in the same round.

Cpl. Bob Halverty, for instance, reports that he aced two consecutive holes at Recreation Park in Long Beach, Cal., in August, 1945. He made one on the 308-yard 15th and another on the 130-yard 16th. His achievement, though, only duplicated the record of Alex Duthrie, a Canadian professional who also aced two consecutive holes at Vancouver Golf and Country Club in 1911.

At least twenty-three other players have reported holing in one twice in the same 18-hole round. Two holes-in-one in the same round is no guarantee of success, however. In a match at the Peninsula course near Portland, Ore., in 1931,



Marty Leptich is reported to have aced the fourth and 15th holes and lost. In the sectional qualifying for the 1949 USGA Open Championship at the Plum Hollow Golf Club in Detroit, Ray Maguire aced the fifth and 14th holes on his second round and failed by two strokes.

Eric W. Fiddian, once English Amateur Champion, made two holes-in-one during the 36-hole final of the Irish Open Amateur Championship at Newcastle in 1933. He aced the seventh hole in the morning and the 14th in the afternoon and lost to Jack McLean, 3 and 2.

A considerable number of others have made two holes-in-one on the same day. One was an Englishman named P. H. Morton, famed chiefly for his ability as a bowler, who found time for two rounds of golf at Meyrick Park in Bournemouth on Christmas Day, 1899, and holed his tee shot at the first hole each round.

In the afternoon, it is related, a friend called across a fairway to congratulate him on his morning ace and remarked:

"It'll be many a day before you do that again."

"I just did it again this afternoon," Morton responded.

Elliott C. Stauffer duplicated that feat at the Churchill Valley Country Club in Wilkinsburg, Pa., last May Day. He holed out with his No. 6 iron on the 156-yard 16th hole in both morning and afternoon rounds. G. Hebden also twice holed in one the 120-yard 10th at the Malden Golf Club in Surrey last September 18, using the same club and ball each time.

Mrs. Julius A. Page, Jr., a former Women's Amateur Champion, made three holes-in-one within 15 days at the Chapel Hill Country Club in North Carolina in the winter of 1939-40. They came on December 22, December 29 and January 6.

A chap named Turtle made three aces within 15 days on the same hole, holing in one on three consecutive Sundays on the sixth hole at Hawkes Bay, New Zealand, in 1934.

Such situations prompted Lloyd's to offer insurance against a hole-in-one. By paying a premium of \$2.50, a golfer can assure himself that a hole-in-one will bring \$50 to cushion the expense entailed.

by the custom of buying all round.

An alternative is to make a Scottish hole-in-one. The term is applied to aces such as that made by Duncan C. MacClintock on the 13th hole at the Rockland Country Club in Sparkill, N. Y., two years ago. He shrewdly made his ace on Election Day while bars were closed.

#### An Ace At 85

Sometimes the age of the maker confers on a single hole-in-one more distinction than it would otherwise achieve. J. C. Hurd was 85 when his first ace was reported, on the final hole at the Woodcote Park Golf Club in Surrey in September, 1948.

On the other hand, two 8-years-olds have reported holes-in-one. The first was Peter Toogood, who holed a tee shot on the 110-yard seventh hole at the Kingston Beach Golf Club in Tasmania. Last summer, Bobby Kirkwood made another on a 98-yard hole at Albany, N. Y.

Allyn C. Jones, a Hollywood camera man, has made aces from both sides. Jones is ambidextrous. Playing left-handed on the old Westwood course in 1941, he holed a No. 7-iron shot on the 165-yard eighth. Playing right-handed on the same course a year later, he holed a No. 6-iron shot on the 175-yard second.

Aces can be made without benefit of all of one's limbs. Jim Nichols, the one-armed professional, claims seven holes-in-one, the longest 336 yards. Ken Lawson, playing on crutches, made a one on the 220-yard eighth hole at Bemus Point, N. Y., on July 31, 1949. He lost his left leg in childhood.

Sometimes a casual remark makes a hole-in-one worth talking about in the locker rooms. Last June, Fred Jones announced that he was seriously considering running for Governor of Oklahoma. Three days later, in the course of a tight match at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club, he remarked on the tee of a 176-yard hole:

"I'd rather make a hole-in-one than be elected governor."

He did, and he wasn't.

In Great Britain, a player can make a hole-in-one and lose the hole. The Royal and Ancient Golf Club has ruled that when a player abandons search for a ball it becomes "lost" and the second ball played becomes the ball in play, even if the first ball later is found in the hole.

The USGA takes a contrary view. It rules that play is completed when the ball is holed and a ball which is no longer in play cannot be "lost."

On at least ten occasions, a hole has been halved in one in a singles match, which must present a dramatic juxtaposition of emotions. One half was perpetrated by George Stewart and Fred Spellmeyer on the last hole at the Forest Hill Field Club in Bloomfield, N. J., in October, 1919.

At least twice in foursomes and twice in four-ball play, holes have been halved in one, but a more tragic instance involved Arthur Fleet, secretary of the Castle Bromwich Golf Club, and W. N. Dudley Evans. Playing as partners in a four-ball on the Warwickshire course on August 21, 1927, they had the honor on the fourth tee and successively holed in one, the ace by Evans being wasted as far as the better-ball score was concerned.

After making his 17th hole-in-one, Sandy Herd refused to concede that they were entirely flukes.

Still, the record discloses no discernible relationship between skill and the making of a hole-in-one. The late Harry Vardon, whose six victories in the British Open have never been equalled, made only one ace during his lifetime, at the Mundesley Golf Club in Norfolk in 1903, the year he won his fourth Open. Yet Gertrude Lawrence is said to have holed the first tee shot she ever struck. And Samuel T. Jones made one on the 120-yard sixth hole at the Pueblo Golf and Country Club last spring despite the fact that his glasses fell off during his backswing and his ball hit a tree and ricocheted off a water fountain.