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# THROUGH THE GREEN

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## HOW TO LOSE A HOLE WITHOUT HITTING A BALL

Many methods has the genus golfer evolved for winning a hole. Dull are many stories about many of the methods.

But he has also cooked up an endless variety of ways for losing a hole. If there seems a sameness to them, it is only because they are all shot through with poignant pathos — that is, the hole was lost! What sadder story can there be? The hole was lost! One touch of sympathy makes the whole world kin, if the Bard may be paraphrased.

This is about a rather new method for losing a hole. It came up recently in both the USGA Public Links and Junior Championships. Perhaps it would be less effective if there were a different kind of badger around (a badger being an official who wears a badge); but in USGA events you can usually depend upon the badgers being pretty orthodox.

### The Deserted Hole

The first case arose in the Public Links Championship at Louisville. It was a busy day.

A couple of young gentlemen came off the ninth green. One of them went to the tenth tee, and sat on a bench. His opponent went to the clubhouse, made a telephone call to a couple of friends to tell them when he would meet them, bought a hot dog and a soda pop, and eventually ambled toward the tenth tee.

On the way he was accosted by a badger, who had a rather stiff upper lip and an inquisitive turn of mind. He suggested that the young gentleman look down the tenth fairway. He did. He couldn't see anything but the tenth fairway. There was nobody on it — in fact, nobody in the rough, on the putting green or anywhere else on the tenth hole except the tee, where his opponent was waiting.

By this time a couple of other young gentlemen had come off the ninth green and also were ready to play the tenth hole.

So the badger showed the first young gentleman something in a little book and suggested that he and his opponent go to the eleventh tee without playing the tenth. Yes, he said, they could just skip the tenth entirely. He said something else which had the effect of making the opponent 3 up instead of 2 up, as he had been when they came off the ninth green.

Now that badger has a cousin, and that cousin soon afterwards went to the Junior Championship in Denver. And on the first day, when he was starting the players off the first tee, one boy ambled over and said he had heard that the badger was looking for him. Which was almost true, because the badger had called his name some minutes before and, not having a response, he had then proceeded to start the next match.

So the boy was told that he could just forget about the first hole and could start his match on the second hole — and, oh yes, his opponent was already 1 up.

Now there have been badgers in the past who have told dilatory young gentlemen that the tournament would just worry along without them. But the present generation of badger is permitted to perform differently sometimes.

### The Wages of Delay

The little book, you see, says that a player shall play without undue delay. If the badger considers corrective action is needed, he may call a loss-of-hole penalty in match play or two strokes in stroke play, or if there be repeated delay the player may be disqualified. Two players in the 1949 Open were penalized two strokes each for delaying play at the

first tee — they were playing 3 off that tee! The book covers the subject in Rule 2(3); and it's also a good idea to be familiar with Rule 20(1), which calls for disqualification for lateness if the committee cares to invoke it.

Now what finally happened to the two young men in the sad, sad stories above? Well, the one at Louisville (Arthur Clyde Ellis, Jr., of Albuquerque) was 3 down after he unwittingly lost the tenth without hitting a ball; but he won the match on the 20th. The lad in the Junior Championship at Denver (Lester Kelly, of Atlanta) had never seen the course before, was 3 down after four holes, and finally won the match 2 up, with an estimated 70 if you conceded him a 4 on the first hole where he scored 0.

In each case, the second most pleased person in the vicinity was the badger. For a badger is only a golfer, and if you were to get him started he could tell you some heart-rending tales about how to lose a hole.

Now, once upon a time...

### Salutes

... To Bobby Locke for winning the British Open Championship with a new record score of 279, at Troon, Scotland.

... To Chandler Harper for his victory in the Championship of the Professional Golfers' Association of America, at Scioto, Columbus, Ohio.

### Quiz Question:

What clubs have entertained the greatest variety of USGA competitions?

The Country Club in Brookline, Mass., and the Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton, Ill., have entertained the Open, the Amateur and the Women's Championships and the Walker Cup Match.

Eight Clubs have entertained the Open, Amateur and Women's — Baltusrol Golf Club, Springfield, N. J.; Brae Burn Country Club, West Newton, Mass.; Merion Golf Club, Ardmore, Pa.; Onwentsia Club, Lake Forest, Ill.; St. Louis Country Club, Clayton, Mo.; Shinnecock Hills Golf Club, Southampton,

N. Y., The Country Club and Chicago Golf Club.

### Speed

Richard D. Chapman and Edward Martin are reported to have sped the first 18 holes in 2 hours 25 minutes in the final of the Massachusetts Amateur Championship, which Rapid Richard won on the 37th hole.

### Passing of W. C. Fownes, Jr.

William C. Fownes, Jr., who passed away last month, was long a real leader in American golf. He was mainly responsible for development of the renowned Oakmont Country Club course near Pittsburgh, as well as for some of the present standards affecting golf balls and clubs.

The following resolution expresses the sentiment of the USGA Executive Committee and records some of Mr. Fownes' achievements:

"The officers and the Executive Committee of the United States Golf Association wish to express their sense of loss occasioned by the passing of William C. Fownes, Jr. and to extend their sympathy to his family.

"Mr. Fownes strove always to develop the game of golf toward its highest standards. He greatly enriched the sport in an unique variety of ways.

"As a competitor, he set a strong example as Amateur Champion in 1910, as Captain of the first Walker Cup Team in 1922 and as a member of the Team in 1924.

"As an administrator, he gave generously of himself as President of the United States Golf Association in 1926 and 1927 and as Vice-President in 1924 and 1925.

"As a friend and a sportsman, he bequeathed to his fellows a spirit which will live always."

### Golden Anniversary

It's the Golden Anniversary USGA Amateur Championship at the Minneapolis Golf Club this month.

How did the first one come about? Well, in September, 1894 the Newport Golf Club, Newport, R. I., held a 36-hole stroke play tournament which ostensibly was for the amateur championship of the country. William G. Lawrence, of Newport, won with 188.

But there was question whether it was a real championship, so the St. Andrew's

Golf Club, Yonkers, N. Y., decided to hold an amateur championship at match play, and Newport acquiesced. The winner was Lawrence B. Stoddard, of St. Andrew's. In each event the runner-up was Charles B. Macdonald, of the Chicago Golf Club.

There still was not complete satisfaction. Objectors felt that a real championship should have a national organization behind it.

This led to formation of the United States Golf Association on December 22, 1894, with Henry O. Tallmadge as a guiding spirit.

Although the game has undergone many changes and great growth, the purposes of the USGA have remained constant.

The first USGA Amateur Championship was played at Newport in October, 1895, and Macdonald was the winner in the 36-hole final over Charles E. Sands, of St. Andrew's.

H. B. Martin, in his book "Fifty Years of American Golf," published 1936, records that the championship was originally scheduled for September but was postponed a month because of the international yacht races for the America's Cup.

"This championship," wrote Mr. Martin, "was not without its humorous situations. Among the contestants was the Rev. William Rainsford, rector of a New York Episcopal church, who had learned his golf abroad. He was paired against Richard Peters, a Newport clubman, who insisted on carrying around a billiard cue and using it on the putting greens. Peters was not clowning and he believed that this was the very best means of getting results on the green... He naturally produced much merriment when he assumed all kinds of grotesque positions on the improvised billiard table. Evidently it availed him nothing and did not even disturb the quiet and peaceful minister, who went about his task of winning the match as if nothing out of the ordinary were happening."

## SPORTSMAN'S CORNER

Tad Pfister went up to the Denver Country Club from Prescott, Ariz., for the USGA Junior Amateur Championship with all the enthusiasm a 15-year-old is supposed to have, and perhaps a little more for good measure. When he was called over the amplifying system shortly before his first-round match was scheduled to start at 8:24 A.M., he bolted for the teeing ground and teed up his ball without looking right or left.

Donald Hinken, of St. Bernard, Ohio, was scheduled to play Tad in the first round, but Donald was not there. He was originally an alternate qualifier, and only 36 hours earlier he had been notified that a place in the field was available for him. Donald and a friend were driving to Denver, and had telephoned that, try as they would, they couldn't reach the Club until early afternoon.

Officials intercepted Tad just as he was about to play his tee shot and explained the circumstances. Tad agreed to wait. He waited until the last pair teed off at 2:30 P.M., practicing his iron shots, chipping, and moving around nervously.

"I'm getting kinda tired," he explained finally. "How much longer should I wait?"

The officials let him name a deadline.

"I'll still wait until three o'clock," he said.

A moment later Donald telephoned again. They were 30 miles from Denver now. Could Donald still play?

"Tell him I'll wait till he gets here." Tad said.

At 3:48 P.M. Tad and Donald finally drove from the first tee, Tad a wreck from his day-long expenditure of nervous energy and Donald a wreck from his swift automobile trip from Ohio.

Tad could have protested the delay and possibly gone into the second round by default. He was nervous enough and tired enough to be tempted, but his appreciation of the other fellow's problem remained paramount. Tad won a good deal more than a 3-and-2 victory.

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## Clubs Approved

A new sample head of aluminum "woods" produced by Wilford Wehrle Golf Equipment Co., Louisville, Ky., meets USGA specifications because a weight-adjustment feature of previous models has been altered.

In the new model, the weight cannot feasibly be adjusted in the course of play.

## OKLAHOMA GIRLS



Finalists in the first Oklahoma Junior Girls' Championship were Joan Middaugh and Jane McKinney in the consolation flight and Nancy Rawlinson and Ann Ervine in the Championship. Miss Middaugh and Miss Ervine were the respective winners. All live in Tulsa.

A well-rounded junior golf program provides for the development of girls as well as boys. The Women's Oklahoma Golf Association appreciates this fact and recently inaugurated its first Junior Girls' Championship.

Mrs. Ira J. Dietrich, of Tulsa, President of the Association, was so successful in stimulating interest that 19 girls, all under 18, teed off in the qualifying round at the Tulsa Country Club. Jo Ann Grimes, 15, won the medal with a 92. Three days later it was Ann Ervine, 17, also of Tulsa, who won the tournament.

There is considerably more to the Oklahoma program than the Championship, however. The Association also has established a working relationship with the Board of Education in Oklahoma

City through which 200 girls receive instruction at four clubs. Golf will be a part of the athletic curriculum in the public schools there next year.

The motif of the Championship was a paraphrase of Grantland Rice's poem: "It's not who won or lost that counts, but how you played the game."

After the qualifying play, the girls were guests of the Tulsa Country Club at a play, a swim and a picnic. As a result, Mrs. Dietrich says:

"We feel that our junior girls' tournament, which we endeavored to run in full tournament fashion to the great delight of the youngsters, filled a great need, and our possibilities as to number of entrants and quality of golf in succeeding years are atomic."