

In some manner I always hit it too hard, or not hard enough, or off the line. Moreover, I acquired the asinine habit of mentally saying, "I'll miss it."

### Forget the Ball

I began to put the subconscious mind idea into my putting—to forget the hole, or that there was a hole; to give no thought to break or speed—and put my entire conscious mind on the manner of swinging the putter, swinging it just as if there were no ball in its path. It has paid off. Much to my surprise and

delight, however, the nervousness on the first green or two has completely disappeared and my hands no longer have "the shakes."

If any average golfer will merely glance at the hole and the ground intervening between it and his ball, and naturally ground the putter behind the ball, he will unerringly set the face of it on the exact line of the "break" of both ground and grass.

The foregoing is an extract from a book by Mr. Handy not yet published, and is printed by permission.

## A Cross-Handed Putting Grip

Methods of coaxing the ball into the hole are endless in variety. Some new ways have appeared in the last year, among them the cross-handed grip described below.—Ed.

By FRED HAAS, JR.

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I crossed my hands on the putter in the hope I would standardize my stroke.

I started playing golf as a wrist putter and had fairly good success on slow Bermuda greens where a hit was required rather than a smooth stroke very delicately applied. Consequently, on fast greens I became lost, and in the big championships my confusion led to tension which seemed to be most noticeable in my wrists.

When I tried an orthodox putter grip

(whatever in the world that is, I don't know) with my hands in approximately the same position as on my irons and woods, I found I could not hit through the putt when I immobilized my wrists. I seemed to be hitting against my left elbow and I could not take the crook out of my left arm.

So I just dropped my left hand below the right in a cross-handed position and I was able to get a freer swing and follow through.

Since my main object was to get away from using my wrists, I had to use my shoulders as the hinging point, and whenever I feel them working smoothly and I have no conscious sensation of the head of the putter moving, my putting has been true and decisive. There is not as much tendency for the putter head to roll as in a wrist stroke.

However, I can truthfully say I am still experimenting to find the exact stance, grip and stroke which will produce 100 percent confidence. But by working on a T-square principle of lining up shoulders square, feet on 90 degree angle, hands in a normal comfortable position, and the ball directly under my eyes, I feel I have the best chance to sink putts.

### Birds in the Snow

(Continued from Page 9)

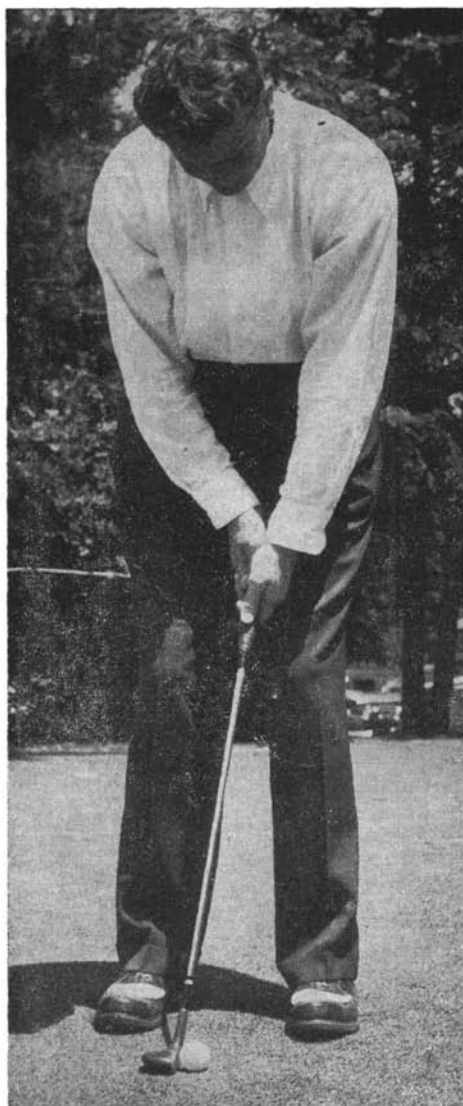
better, because the frozen ball has less life. Some Snobirds carry pocket-warmers for that very purpose."

The tournament draws 30 to 40 contenders a year, depending upon the weather. All told, 85 signed up this season. But it is not necessary for a man to brave chilblains and frostbite to be a Snobird. Some members only come to the club, post their names, and play cards or watch television: these are known as "Rocking Chair Snobirds." Two prizes go to the rocking chair brigade each Sunday, as well as to the more hardy Snobirds of the golfing breed.

## Ways of Holing Out

### Where Is He Headed?

Edward Freeman photo



Above, Freddie Haas and his cross-handed putting grip, described on opposite page. He plays right-handed. Upper right, putting grip of Miss Jeanne Bisgood of 1950 British Curtis Cup Team. Lower right, Leo Diegel's odd but well-known style.

### Distaff Grip

Alex Bremner photo



"Swingtime"

Associated Press Photo