

Playing From Trouble

by RICHARD R. D. CHAPMAN

1940 USGA AMATEUR CHAMPION, 1951 BRITISH AMATEUR CHAMPION

The expert generally has few recovery shots to play while the average golfer is faced with many in a single round. For the latter, fear of disaster causes the muscles to stiffen, and relaxation, a **MUST** throughout a ny stroke, vanishes. With the necessary "know-how" your visits to the timber and waste lands will be far less frequent.

Once there, however, your problem is to recover as rapidly and safely as possible. One mistake can often be remedied, but the old adage, "two wrongs do not make a right", still applies. Bobby Locke has very wisely advised his friends and pupils to accept calmly the penalty for a poor shot and not to try to make up for it on the very next stroke or several mistakes in succession may result. When in trouble, play to the most advantageous position from where you can make your next good shot.

When playing from the rough or sand here are some definite points to remember. The swing controls the physical problem and the eyes the mental. Take a shorter grip than normal and hold the club very firmly, especially with the left hand; with the hands ahead of the ball at address, open the clubface slightly and keep it that way throughout the stroke, otherwise the thick or tall grass will close it at impact, causing a hooked or smothered shot. Lift the club away sharply from the ball so that the path of the swing will be **DECIDEDLY** up and down. Be sure to follow through with your hands finishing high and keep your eyes on the impact spot until you have completed your swing.



Dick Chapman

The upright arc of the swing for trouble shots calls for a great amount of wrist action. As the arms near the end of the backward and upward motion, the wrists cock; this delayed action puts snap into the bottom of the swing and lofts the ball sharply from hazards. Most players feel they can best elevate the ball from trouble by attempting to lift it. This thought causes a flat arc which more often than not results in a half-topped shot.

All golfers have an innate fear of hazards; they are naturally curious about the outcome of trouble shots. Keeping the head in position until the swing is complete will overcome the tendency to look up before the ball is struck. Train yourself to keep your head down by counting one - - two - - three - - slowly before observing the result.

Masters of the Wedge

In bunker play, Willie Turnesa, Gene Sarazen, Paul Runyan, and Johnny Revolta stand out as masters of the wedge. I shall attempt to outline the basic points: The stance is opened 45 degrees from the line to the hole. The ball is addressed off the left instep with the clubface open and facing the hole. The feet are anchored firmly in the sand and the knees are quite relaxed during the entire swing to permit the feet to remain on the ground. At the start of the downswing, the right elbow must move to the inside of the right hip. The follow-through, with hands high, is most important; the clubhead **MUST NOT** finish in the sand or close after impact.

Explosion shots interest all golfers; the difficulty in making this type of shot rests solely in the mind. If you will regard it as a regular rather than extraordinary shot, you will approach the ball with much more confidence. The generally accepted theory for trap play is: "The more sand you take, the shorter distance

(Continued on Page 20)

The Why of Amateurism

By ROBERT T. JONES, JR.

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The basis for the distinction between an amateur and a professional golfer has always been that the latter, by reason of his "unlimited" opportunity for playing the game, might be expected to acquire greater proficiency. It is by reason of this distinction that competitions like our Amateur Championship, from which professionals are barred, came into being.

In each decade, at least, of our golfing history we have had one or more amateur golfers capable of competing on equal terms with the best professionals. There have been many more, and there will be many in the field at Saucon Valley, so capable if they had chosen to step into professional ranks.

Some of the truly great champions of the game have achieved their glory as professionals after only mediocre success in amateur competition. It is these who have proven the validity of the distinction. Among them are Tommy Armour, Denny Shute, and, in Great Britain, Abe Mitchell.

At this time, when so many sports are suspect, it is comforting to reflect upon the strict requirements of the USGA for

the retention by a player of amateur status, and the fervor with which insistence upon fulfillment is made.

The fact that our amateurs must observe the highest ideals of amateurism has been the most potent influence in bringing about the present most satisfactory condition of both professional and amateur golf.

Because no man without some means, or a good job, can play a lot of golf as an amateur, many youngsters of good capabilities and good character have chosen to pursue golf as an honorable profession. On the other hand, because of rigid restrictions, there has been no temptation for the amateur to attempt encroachment upon the prerogatives of the professional.

More than in any other sport, the amateur and the professional in golf are mutually dependent and mutually supporting.

In the truest sense, the championship at Saucon Valley will be a real Amateur Championship.

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PLAYING FROM TROUBLE (Continued from Page 15)

the ball travels and, vice versa, the less sand the greater distance."

Contrary to this accepted teaching, my belief is that distance is obtained from the amount the clubface is opened or shut; as the clubhead is straightened for distance, the stance becomes less open and the ball is played nearer the center. I like to visualize the ball standing in the sand on two matchstick legs and that the club cuts these legs in half.

The explosion shot means only one thing to me: the shot for the buried ball. In this case it is much better to take a 9 iron or pitching-wedge, since the flange of the sand-wedge, projecting downwards as it does, causes the clubhead to bounce

before it can go sufficiently deep under the ball, thus spoiling the stroke. The stance and clubface are square, with the ball to the left of center, and the player must aim slightly to the right of the hole to compensate for the adverse pull on the left hand by the weight of the sand. Be sure to aim at least two inches behind the ball, hitting definitely under and through the ball or the shot will be ruined. NEVER leave the clubhead in the sand. It is almost impossible to obtain any stop on shots of this type unless the sand is wet.

