
THROUGH THE GREEN

Who Killed the Stymie?

Now that the stymie is really dead, some attention is being given to the manner of its demise.

One British school of thought seems to hold to the opinion that the stymie did not just die of natural causes — it must have been killed. This is a rather natural assumption when one reflects on how many years the old fellow existed, despite amputations, attacks, stonings and, for occasional brief periods, even banishment.

Viscount Simon seems to be a leader of this school. Having been Chancellor of the Exchequer, he would have some knowledge of departure by another's suasion.

For the edification of his fellow-members of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Viscount Simon constructed a theory of the whole procedure, complete from murder to epitaph. He presented it during the R. and A. meeting last September and, perhaps to lessen the sting of the tragic thing, he did it in rhyme.

To appreciate this theory, one must first meet the cast of characters, who are: DR. HAROLD GARDINER-HILL, Chairman of the R. and A. Rules of Golf Committee. SIR GEORGE CUNNINGHAM, then Captain of the R. and A.

ROGER WETHERED, former Amateur Champion, who said he liked playing stymies, but agreed they should be abolished.

GENERAL THORPE, who said abolition would ruin golf.

BERNARD DARWIN, the Golf Correspondent of the London Times and former Chairman of the R. and A. Rules of Golf Committee.

And here is how it happened, according to Viscount Simon, who advises that when you read you should keep in mind "Who Killed Cock Robin?":

"Who killed the Stymie?"

*"I," said Dr. Gardiner-Hill,
"With my patent, poisoned pill,
"I killed the Stymie."*

"Who put it in its grave?"

*"I," said George Cunningham
(Holing a cunning one),
"I put it in its grave."*

"Who preached the sermon?"

*"I," said Roger Wethered,
"I thought it better dead;
"I preached the sermon."*

"Who'll be Chief Mourner?"

*"I"—the voice was General Thorpe's.
"Without Stymies golf's a corpse;
"I'll be Chief Mourner."*

"Who'll write its epitaph?"

*"I," said Bernard Darwin,
"It'll be something alarmin';
"I'll write its epitaph."*

Octogenarian's Ace

What is the most advanced age at which a golfer has made a hole-in-one?

S. C. Wortham, of Greensboro, N. C., holed a tee shot last June shortly after his 82nd birthday.

This ought to be something of a record, in the opinion of George Corcoran, professional to the Greensboro Country Club, who has started a research project on the matter.

Delaware Newcomer

Welcome to the newest member of the family of golf associations — the Delaware State Golf Association.

First officers are: President — Alvin L. Dollins, Newark C. C.; Vice-President — William F. Ward, DuPont C. C., Wilmington; Secretary-Treasurer — Grover T. Surratt, Newark C. C.; Assistant Secretary — H. A. Turner, Jr., Wilmington C. C.

Friends of Caddies



At the Annual Meeting in Chicago of the Western Golf Association, which has pioneered in caddie scholarship programs: left to right — Stanley A. Van Dyk, new Western Director and recent President of Chicago District Golf Association; the late Maynard G. (Scotty) Fessenden, former President of Western and Chicago Associations, whose recent passing is mourned by countless golfers; Jerome P. Bowes, Jr., holding plaque presented him upon completion of two successful years as Western President; Gordon E. Kummer, of Milwaukee, new Western President.

Ninety-eight deserving caddies are currently enrolled in college under the Western's sponsorship of the Evans Scholars Foundation. George Hurd, freshman Evans Scholar from Buffalo, N. Y., Country Club, scored a brilliant straight-A average during his first semester at Northwestern. It is the first perfect record for a freshman scholar in recent history. Allen Gan, from the Presidio Club in San Francisco, has been accepted by the Stanford University medical school; he has been a top Evans Scholar for the last three years. Robert Opeka, from Old Elm Club near Chicago, has received the Chicago Tribune proficiency award as top-ranking cadet among the 400 freshmen in Northwestern's Air Force unit.

During Jerome Bowes's two-year tenure as the Western Association's President, gross income to the caddie fund more than doubled, and last year totaled \$99,068. The Western had 13,567 individual members in 1951.

Golf in Braille

Among the material in "Golf House" Library is a booklet in Braille, titled "A Blind Golfer Breaks 80." The article was written by the late George Trevor, and originally appeared in February, 1935 in GOLF ILLUSTRATED, an American magazine which has since ceased publication.

The article is extremely interesting. The story of the Braille booklet in our Library is just as interesting, in its way.

Morrie Talman, who has been professional at Whitmarsh Valley Country Club, near Philadelphia, for more than 30 years, has a number of blind pupils.

Morrie remembered that article by Trevor and felt it would be an inspiration to his sightless golfers if they could read it.

Talman knew that Dr. Robert J. Smith, of Buffalo, a member of the USGA Museum Committee, had an extensive golf library. He wrote Dr. Smith last March and asked if he could locate the article. It was no small assignment, as Morrie could not recall exactly where he had read it.

But Dr. Smith found the story.

He did not stop there. At his own expense, he had about 200 copies transcribed into Braille, and many blind golfers have had the enjoyment of reading it, through his generosity.

Etiquette?

We did not try to investigate the story behind the plaintive question below; it came from a lady, and it was about a match between two gentlemen, one of whom apparently wasn't. You may fill in your own gaps:

"I don't suppose there are any rules governing a person's conduct or his profanity during a match.

"I suppose this would come under the rules of a gentleman, who, being old enough to play golf, should be old enough also to be a gentleman."

There is an answer. We first heard it from a former member of a British Walker Cup Team. Someone was telling him a tale of a harrowing match he had just had with an unsporting opponent.

"Why," said the Briton, "Rule 66 covers that."

"Rule 66?" said the other man. "There is no Rule 66."

"Oh, yes, there is: — 'Thou shalt not play with a cad'."

Golf Course Architects

Some interesting putts were holed at the annual meeting of the American Society of Golf Course Architects in Belleair, Fla.

A Senate defense spending investigation committee had recently criticised golf programs in the armed services as being "too expensive" although admitting that golf courses might provide recreational and morale-building advantages. Well, the architects pointed out that the cost of building military courses is derived solely from a percentage of profits of PX stores, and that these courses are self-supporting from nominal green fees paid by military personnel and the public.

Figures were presented to the effect that 50,000,000 rounds of golf were played in the United States in 1951, of which 69% were played on public courses.

New officers of the Architects' Society are: President — William P. Bell, Pasadena, Cal.; Vice-President — William F. Gordon, Doylestown, Pa.; Secretary-Treasurer — William H. Diddel, Carmel, Ind.

Jim Standish



Now he is a member of the Advisory Committee of Ex-Presidents of the United States Golf Association, and that is quite a fancy title, to be sure. But he thinks of himself as Jim Standish, and that's the way golfers over the country think of him.

He has slipped quietly out of the position of USGA President after two years of service. Presidents change — the USGA goes on. But all of us ought to stop a moment and reflect on what Jim Standish has given to golf.

And yet a moment is all too short to do it, for the contributions of this Detroit golf-lover have been boundless over many, many years. Just to cite part of his USGA record, he was a member of the Executive Committee 1921-22-23-24-25-26-27, then again from 1946 until this year.

He was the father of the Amateur Public Links Championship back in 1922 and gave the trophy for it. He was . . .

But what's the use of trying to detail a life which literally spilled over in its love for golf.

You'll undoubtedly hear more of Jim Standish in other roles in golf. For the moment, we simply record the real gratitude of the USGA.

Indecision*"He that doubteth is damned."*

Romans 14:23

Said Bobby Jones, the golfing great . . .
 "Just miss 'em quick," don't hesitate . . .
 If you step up and putt your ball . . .
 Into the cup 'twill likely fall . . . Than
 if you hem and haw and sight . . . Or get
 all tense or shake with fright . . . Do
 something! Move! Take action, Man!
 . . . Accomplish quickly all you can . . .
 For more is lost through indecision . . .
 Than bad approach or false precision.

JULIEN C. HYER

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Resolved for 1952 . . .

That we, the golf playing members,
 will:

Replace divots promptly.
 Smooth footprints in traps.
 Police the greens.

Refrain from tramping around the
 cup.

Keep caddies off the cup.
 Refrain from needless practice
 swings (irons especially).

If slow, wave following players
 through.

Try to use a caddie.

Not leave drinking glasses around
 the course.

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USGA Championship Notes

OPEN — Prize money for professionals in 1952 will be approximately \$15,000, same as was awarded the last two years. First prize again will be \$4,000.

AMATEUR — As a matter of regular policy, the match play draw for the Amateur Championship will be a blind draw, except in years of Walker Cup Matches, in which case members of the British and the American Walker Cup Teams will be distributed throughout the draw.

PUBLIC LINKS — Only the defending Champion will be eligible for exemption from sectional qualifying.

Sportsman's Corner

The time was 1911. The place was the Baltusrol Golf Club, in northern New Jersey. The occasion was the final match for the USGA Women's Amateur Championship.

Principals were Miss Lillian B. Hyde and Miss Margaret Curtis.

At the particular moment in history of which we write, Miss Hyde's ball had found its way into a bunker. A bunker is a hazard.

More than that, the ball was obstructed by a loose bough lying in the bunker.

Under the Rules, Miss Hyde was precluded from moving the bough before striking at the ball.

But up spoke Miss Curtis: "Wait a minute—let me move it. You can't, but I can."

Miss Hyde: "Why can you and not I?"

But before an answer came, Miss Curtis had removed the bough so that her opponent might play without obstruction.

Hat in the Ring

William C. Campbell

A year ago William C. Campbell, strapping young resident of Huntington, W. Va., was polishing up his golf game preparatory to representing the United States in the Walker Cup Match with Great Britain.

Now, for the foreseeable future, he says he can be considered among the ex-golfers. Reason: he is a candidate for Congress as Representative from West Virginia's fourth district, subject to a Democratic primary election in May.