
THROUGH THE GREEN

Question

The following query has been received from a lady golfer, indicating that it is now open season on the Rules of Golf and each quivering paragraph is susceptible of being shot down without warning:

"If, because of a shortage of caddies, I am sharing a caddie, am I disqualified if our caddie tells me something about my opponent derogatory to her?"

"Can't I shut my ears and not listen?"

Briton Wins with Our Ball

How does the larger United States-size golf ball compare in performance with the British-size ball? A comment on this was given by Leonard Crawley, former British Walker Cup player, in a recent article in the British publication "Golf Monthly". Writing about the competition for the President's Putter at Rye, England, which he won, Mr. Crawley had this to say:

"Having convinced myself that the larger ball, as used in America, is easier in winter conditions even at Rye, I used it in all seven rounds at upwards of 75 per cent of the holes I played, and not one of my opponents noticed it, or at any rate none of them commented upon it. I used our little ball against the wind at the long holes, but never at the long 14th where the lies on the fairway are always very difficult. Our greens at Rye at this time of year are terrifically fast, and if there is one factor more than any other that helped me to win round after round, it was that with the shorter irons and the big ball, I was much more accurate than any of my opponents."

Sir Guy Campbell, writing in "Golf Monthly" of March 1952, heartily applauded Crawley's use of the American ball and seized the opportunity to comment:

"In using the big ball Crawley was no

doubt influenced by what he had seen in America as well as by personal experiment.

"The fact that he did use it in competition against his peers playing the small heavy 1.62 in. and 1.62 oz., yet with no sense of handicap, but to the greatest demonstrable advantage, is as significant as it is heartening. For it is the first real blow at a missile, generally unsuitable, that has dominated British golf for over thirty years.

"A ball that without bringing any good to the game has added materially to its cost in the continued increase in distance and maintenance charges of links and courses.

"A ball that ought never to have been admitted, and should be ruled out as soon as possible.

"If Crawley's example is followed by other first-class players and thereafter by players of all handicaps, I have sanguine hopes that the big heavy ball will be generally preferred to the small heavy type.

"That will lead to the disappearance of the latter—as great a contribution to the good of the game as its introduction was a disservice.

"In fact, it may well point the way to the standardization of another missile that, in playing qualities and economy, satisfies the ideal still being sought; an ideal I hope to see realized before I die."

May and August

The Merion Golf Club has kept track of the number of rounds played on its two courses for several years and therefore has a statistical basis for the assertion that more rounds are played in May and fewer in August than in any other months during the Philadelphia season. This, of course, is in line with the theory that enthusiasm in the East is highest in the spring and that city dwellers most commonly select the hot weeks of August for vacations.

Last year 26,590 rounds were recorded on Merion's two courses (and undoubtedly a number of rounds on the detached West course were not recorded). This compares with 26,450 in 1950 and 24,516 in 1949. "As usual," Merion reports, "the least golf was played in February (281) and the most golf in May (3,889). Fewer rounds were recorded in August than in either April or October, bolstering the theory that August is *the* vacation month."

John English Back with USGA

John P. English has returned from a military leave of absence to his position as Assistant Executive Secretary of the United States Golf Association.

He had been recalled by the Navy in the late summer of 1950 and served in Washington until his release from active duty in February, 1952. During his last tour of duty Mr. English was promoted to the rank of commander in the Naval Reserve.

He is a native of Boston, was graduated from Williams College in 1932, and



Harris & Ewing

John P. English

served as Golf Editor of the Boston HERALD and as an Associate Editor of TRUE Magazine before joining the USGA staff in the spring of 1949.

Are You Guilty?

The Teaching Committee of the Professional Golfers' Association has appealed to America's golfers to help eliminate one of the game's major problems, slow play. The Committee urges all players to:

1. Be ready to play in turn, to make up their minds what club they will use while their companions are playing and then play their own shots without delay.
2. Give up unnecessary practice swings. The Committee points out they will do final scores more harm than good.
3. When playing with double caddies, take a club, or optional clubs, and replace their own divots if the caddie must follow the other player.
4. Allow faster players to play through, and ask slow-playing groups if you may play through.
5. Eliminate the habit of practicing putts after holing out, particularly if other players are waiting to play to the green.
6. Do scorekeeping at the next tee, not on the green while other players are waiting to play.
7. Give up the "Mulligan," wherein a player who drives poorly from the first tee is given a second try.

Help!

The collection of USGA Rules of Golf booklets in the Museum and Library at "Golf House" is not complete, and the donation of any issues now missing would be greatly appreciated. The booklets desired are those for any year prior to 1920, except 1905, and those for the years 1924 and 1925.

To Prestwick

The British Amateur continues to hold a strong appeal for United States golfers. Richard D. Chapman, of Pinehurst, N. C., plans to defend his title at Prestwick,

Scotland, and entries also have been filed by Charles Evans, Jr., of Chicago, James B. McHale, Jr., of Philadelphia, Robert W. Knowles, Jr., of Aiken, S. C., Edward E. Lowery, of San Francisco, J. E. Bernolfo, Jr., of Salt Lake City, Louis B. Stoner, of Hartford, Conn., Clark Espie, of Indianapolis, and William L. Harmonay, of Mamaroneck, N. Y. The Championship will start May 26. Mr. Lowery plans to play also in the French Amateur, and Mr. Bernolfo has entered that and several other continental championships.

A Friend Retires

After 15 years as a real working member of the Public Links Committee, Ed Miles, of Atlanta, Ga., has decided to retire, and as always when our loyal friends make such decisions we experience a sense of loss tempered only by our high regard for his successor.

Miles joined the Public Links Committee in 1937, before the present system of sectional qualifying rounds was instituted, and has seen the Championship grow to its record of 3,586 entrants in 1946. He shared in the gratification when Wilfred Crossley, representing Atlanta, won the Standish Cup and Atlanta the Harding Trophy in 1947 and when the competition was brought to Atlanta, for the first time, in 1948. It was a full and useful 15 years.

"Having headed sometime since into the wrong side of the 50-year mark," Miles explains cryptically, "I feel I should turn the task over to a younger and more ambitious worker. 'Pop' Herrington, you see, is just a little past 70!"

. . . in One Generation

Gayle Talbot, of The Associated Press, came up with some significant observations in discussing the victory of Jack Burke, Jr., in the Texas Open last winter, with a score of 67-65-64-64—260. The victory was the first of Burke's remarkable string on the winter tour and it

SPORTSMAN'S CORNER



Alex T. Kyle

Alex T. Kyle, of Boroughbridge, Yorkshire, England, has won many honors in amateur golf, including the British Amateur Championship in 1939 and membership on three British Walker Cup Teams. Yet none of these earned him greater distinction than his conduct in the last Yorkshire Open Championship.

Although Kyle has been playing winning golf since the late Twenties, he never developed a truly Damon-and-Pythias relationship with the Rules of Golf and in the Yorkshire tournament he had his caddie hold back a growing branch so that he might have a free swing at his ball.

A week later, over a dinner table, Kyle and some golfing friends were discussing episodes of the game and Rule 17-3, which prohibits such moving, bending or breaking of anything fixed or growing, was injected into the discussion.

"Why, I did that very thing the other day when I won the Yorkshire tournament," Kyle exclaimed. He then wrote to the tournament committee, insisting that he be disqualified, and returned the prize. Honor, it is clear, can derive from defeat as well as from victory.

prompted analogy to the also excellent play of Burke's father a generation ago.

"It indicates," Talbot wrote, "that in one generation, from club-making father to exhibitionist-entertainer son, the art of

golf has improved approximately seven strokes to the round. That is, better clubs, better balls and incessant play have transformed sonny into a scoring machine the likes of which his pappy could not have dreamed.

"This is a case where the figures may be nailed down. Exactly 26 years ago, over the same Brackenridge Park course in San Antonio, crusty Macdonald Smith won the fifth annual Texas Open with a score of 288. And playing with him in perhaps the most harrowing, hilarious finish of all golfing history were Jack Burke, Sr., and little Bobby Cruickshank.

"That was the memorable day when Wild Bill Mehlhorn climbed the tree overlooking the last green and shouted well-meant encouragement to Cruickshank — something like 'Sink it, Bobby.' Wee Bobby, who a moment before had first money as good as banked, jumped and got the trembles and took four strokes from the edge of the green to finish an exceedingly angry second.

"The only point in recalling the oft-told tale is to haul in the fact that Burke, the elder, was among those present and to emphasize that he was at that time one of the country's best golfers. Six years before, he had finished in a four-way tie for second place in the United States Open, one stroke behind the leader."

Uncle Joe Dickson

The new president of the Kentucky State Golf Association is Joseph S. Dickson, of the Seneca Golf Club in Louisville. His election is somewhat more interesting than you might assume at first glance because he represents a public course and has long been a member of the USGA Public Links Committee. And in our opinion it proves once again that the game is the thing, not the course.

How to Run a Rules Clinic

The other day we received a letter from a member of an old-line golf club. He wanted to know whether in match play a lost ball automatically meant loss of the hole. There used to be a Rule to that effect, but it expired in 1920.

It is strange to contemplate the number of 1952 golfers who play the game under 1920 Rules, give or take a few years. It is strange to realize how rare is the average club member who has a clear understanding of the Rules.

Some golf committees are aware of this rather general ignorance, and now that an entire new Code of Rules is in effect they are holding clinics and discussion periods about the Rules for their members.

The Rules contain so many rights and privileges for the golfer that every golfer ought to be informed on the basis of self-interest. The Rules contain so many provisions designed to produce fair play for the other fellow that every golfer ought to be informed for the pure and simple sake of sportsmanship.

How should a golf committee go about bringing the gospel to its members? Here are a few ideas on how a little clinic could be held:

First, the person holding the clinic should have a clear understanding of how the Rules of Golf are set up, that is, their arrangements by sections and the general scheme of order. The Rules are not a hodgepodge but are rather closely inter-related as a result of a good deal of study.

Second, the principles underlying the various sections should be stressed before details of the individual Rules are gone into. For example, there are general principles governing the subject of penalties, and you will find that there is uniformity among penalties.

Third, invite questions and give answers and try as much as possible to stick to one section of the Rules at a time; jumping about is apt to produce a confused impression. It is preferable to have questions written in advance and submitted to the person conducting the clinic. In this way the questioner is more nearly apt to ask sound and sensible questions, and the conductor has opportunity for a studied reply.

Fourth, decisions on actual cases, as published in "The Referee" section of the USGA JOURNAL, could be studied profitably.