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# THROUGH THE GREEN

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## But There Is No Guarantee

Ray Porter, of the Wykagyl Country Club, New Rochelle, N. Y., has become one of the firmest supporters of the Rules of Golf. Absolute compliance with the Rules provided him with one of his most rewarding experiences in golf.

The occasion of this experience was a Club competition in which the Upper Locker Room matched its skill against the Lower Locker Room. Mr. Porter's opponent was Dr. Ralph Capalbo, and they were even going to the fourteenth hole. As Lawrence Robinson told the story in the New York WORLD-TELEGRAM AND SUN:

"Both hit fair drives and followed them with overhit second shots. Apparently both balls went out of bounds. Proceeding to the green, it was discovered that Porter's ball was definitely out but that Dr. Capalbo's ball had ricocheted from the stone wall in bounds.

"The doctor told Porter to drop a ball there to save time and embarrassment. But Porter had been reading about the necessity of playing by the Rules and trudged back. He made sure he was being honest by dropping back at least ten yards beyond where he had been when he had hit his ball out of bounds, and he then let fly with a number three wood.

"What do you think happened? The ball holed out. It gave him a gross 4, even with the stroke-and-distance penalty, and a net 3, and that beat Dr. Capalbo."

## The First One?

Competition among golf-equipment manufacturers is keener than you may appreciate unless you are close to the major-tournament picture, but we had considered it a comparatively recent development until we heard this tale about Johnny McDermott, the first United

States-born professional to win the Open Championship.

McDermott came off the last green at the Chicago Golf Club in 1911, having tied Mike Brady and George Simpson over 72 holes in the first Championship he was to win.

"What kind of a ball were you using?" two eager, competing golf-ball salesmen asked.

"I don't know yet," McDermott responded. "What are you two fellows offering?"



Officers of the American Society of Golf Course Architects: William F. Gordon, of Doylestown, Pa., Vice-President; William P. Bell, of Pasadena, Cal., President; William H. Diddel, of Carmel, Ind., Secretary-Treasurer.

## Honors at Brookline

There was a private dinner at The Country Club, in Brookline, Mass., this spring to celebrate two occasions which are of considerably wider interest.

The purpose of the dinner was to honor Harold W. Pierce for his twenty-five years of service as Chairman of the Golf Committee. Mr. Pierce was President of the USGA in 1940 and 1941.

Francis Ouimet, the Captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, was invited to join in the tribute and was happy to accept. The



key, stands in an unbroken line of twenty-four winners, which started with A. E. Paterson, who scored an 80 with the old gutta percha ball in 1895. A. Lucien Walker, Jr., once intercollegiate champion and formerly a member of the USGA Executive Committee, won it fourteen times. John B. Cornell, Jr., set the scoring record in 1946 when he won with a 68. Each winner is rewarded with a replica, and his name is inscribed on a gold bar and attached to a ribbon of club colors holding the original medal.

We are indebted to Mr. Frank L. Markey, himself a five-time winner of the Hunter Medal, for drawing our attention to it.

### Hagen Reminisces

Walter Hagen was peering reflectively out of a clubhouse window not far from the eighth green at the Oakland Hills Country Club during the Open Championship last year. He had, he recalled, four-putted that slippery green in the same Championship 27 years earlier.

"My first putt rolled ten feet past the hole," Walter related. "I went for the second putt and knocked it five feet beyond the cup. I went for that, too, and hit the ball two feet past the hole.

"Get a grip on yourself, Walter," I said, "or they'll think you're just mowing the green."

### Two Clubs in One

An inventive chap has come up with a two-sided club, the loft on one side being that of a putter and the loft on the other being that of a chipper. To play it effectively, of course, one would have to be ambidextrous, but a good many persons are.

Now a question has been raised as to whether this club conforms to the Rules Governing the Form and Make of Golf Clubs. Mr. Charles B. Grace, the Chairman of the Implements and Ball Committee, in his answer, says:

"We would consider that such a club would violate Rule 2-2; we would further

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### SPORTSMAN'S CORNER



Phil Farley

A leaf, a large, brown, autumn-telling leaf, lay on the sand in the flat bunker to the left of the tenth green, tossing vagrantly back and forth on its spine in the light wind.

It was the final round of the 1951 Canadian Amateur Championship at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club. Phil Farley was in the trap. Walter McElroy was not only on the green but 2 up.

There was that leaf, just eight inches ahead of Farley's ball. It stopped moving, and he prepared to hit. It moved again. And so on. Finally Farley concluded autumn leaves were not going to change their ways for him this day, and he played and lost the hole.

Farley didn't shake his head to invite the crowd to witness his hard luck then, or the dozen times when his ball caught bad lies, or when he was twice stymied, or when McElroy's hooks somehow bounced straight, or when his putter betrayed him twice, appallingly. He did not display disgust or despair, and when he was the mountainous total of 8 down with 16 to play, he was still taking pains and playing to win. The man who had twice before been runner-up neither beseeched the crowd with spaniel eyes nor set out ostentatiously to be the "good loser" with loud remark and studied gesture.

McElroy was too good to beat and won modestly and deservedly. But seldom has so persistent a parade of bad luck as Farley's dogged anyone, and it is doubtful whether anyone has ever possessed, not merely shown, a finer blend of sportsmanship in the face of such ill fortune and the cup's elusiveness.

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consider such a club unacceptable because it could readily be used to violate Rule 3, limiting the clubs carried to fourteen. A club with a putter loft on one side and a chipper loft on the reverse would be a substantial departure from the traditional and accepted form and make; further, either one side or the other very likely would not conform with the clause in Rule 2-2 entitled 'Attachment of Shaft.' "

### Chick Evans Honored

The Golf Writers' Association has chosen Charles Evans, Jr., of Chicago as the winner of the William D. Richardson Memorial Trophy for the outstanding contribution to golf in 1951.

Mr. Evans, of course, won both the Amateur and Open Championships in 1916, won the Amateur again in 1920, played on three Walker Cups teams and continues as an active competitor at the age of 61. Yet he was honored not for his record as a player but for his part in establishing the Evans Scholarship Foundation, under the Western Golf Association. This Foundation has since 1930 assisted more than 200 former caddies in obtaining college educations. One hundred of these are today enrolled in 27 colleges.

### Fred McLeod

Fred McLeod, who won the Open Championship away back in 1908, recently celebrated the seventieth anniversary of his birth and the fortieth anniversary of his connection with the Columbia Country Club, in Chevy Chase, Md., and the members did not let the occasion pass without notice. Far from it. The little Scottish professional was the honored guest at a club dinner, and at the conclusion of a series of laudatory remarks by Washington and golfing dignitaries, he was presented a check for \$4,000 to be used for a vacation trip to his native Scotland.

### Where to Place the Cups

The loosening-up season is about at an end now, and the formal competitions are under way. New tournament chairmen and golf committee chairmen are beset by a multiplicity of problems. One of them is where to place the cups on the putting greens in order to separate the men from the boys and at the same time insure a fair competition. Last year, a harried chairman sent us a formal question on the subject, and here, for the benefit of harried chairmen all over the country this year, is our formal answer:

**Q:** How far from the edge of the green should the cup be, and how far from an undulation or ridge?

**A:** The Rules of Golf do not cover.

A former Chairman of the USGA Championship Committee has said:

"It is almost impossible to set up any fixed rules, as there are many factors that can affect a cup location, with the result that the first consideration should always be the use of good judgment in deciding what will give fair results under the given condition.

"We generally start with the requirement that, for an area of from two to three feet around the cup, the putting surface be in good condition without any steep slopes or, if possible, any changes in the degree of slope. In other words, the green should be flat, if possible, but it does not have to be exactly level.

"Next, we try to start, if possible, at least five paces away from the edge of the surface especially prepared for putting. If a trap is close to the edge of the surface, the distance should be greater, especially if the approach to the green is over the trap.

"Other than these, there are no general rules. You have to consider the holding quality of the green, the length of the shot to the green, the probable prevailing conditions for play for the day, and the design of the hole.

"Cup locations for the early rounds can be simpler, and as play proceeds the various architectural features of the course be brought more sharply into play, always keeping in mind that the location should be fair."

The USGA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP MANUAL, issued to guide clubs in preparing to entertain USGA competitions, provides in part:

"In no case should cups be located in tricky places, or on sharp slopes where a ball can gather speed (a player above the hole should be able to putt boldly for it)."