

The Little Things that Count

It was Mark Twain who remarked that many people talk about the weather but very few do anything about it. The same view may be taken of slow play. L. B. Peterson, Secretary-Treasurer of the Virginia State Golf Association, is an exception, however. He has figured out in concrete terms how players might cut thirty to forty-five minutes from the time required for a round of golf, without running. Here are his suggestions:

1. Tee up immediately. The man who has the honor should make it a point to reach the tee immediately and play without delay. Each player should tee up as soon as the man ahead of him has hit. Balls should be washed prior to the player's turn to hit. Approximately one minute could be saved on each tee,

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us, but he's been kind enough not to say so yet.

"We liked what we saw of Mr. Ward pretty well ourselves. He has a nice personal way of talking to his ball. On the first hole he said to his ball, "Git up! Git up!" On the fourth hole he urged it along in the third person by saying, 'Git it up! Git it up!' On the fifth hole he said to his ball 'Roll. Roll some mo'. Roll some mo'. The ball did roll some more, too. On the tenth hole, when Mr. Ward fluffed a shot out of a sand trap, he said aloud to himself: 'Oh, for gosh sakes, Ward, what a shot! Ward, you can do better than that!'

"Another man might have screamed out in anger that someone had breathed two holes away or that someone had rustled a paper bag back at the clubhouse. But not Mr. Ward. He accepted the responsibility and put the blame where he thought it belonged.

"Charles' idol does not have feet of clay."

which should result in a saving of fifteen or twenty minutes on each round.

2. Reduce the number of practice swings. Practice swings can be taken while other players are likewise preparing to play. Also, it should not be necessary to take more than one or two practice swings. Many good golfers take only one or none.

3. Select a club while others are putting. A player need not always wait until it is his turn to play before going into a long conference with himself and his caddie to decide which club to use. He can usually be ready to play as soon as it becomes his turn if he gives the matter some thought in advance.

4. Each player can usually line up his putt, at least provisionally, while other players are lining up theirs. It is seldom necessary to wait until it is one's turn to putt before starting this process.

5. Each player should be considerate of his fellow players and make every effort not to be moving or talking or swinging a club when another is making a stroke. If this is done, the player will not have to delay his stroke.

6. Pick up your ball immediately after holing out and step back so the next player can putt. Whenever possible, repair ball marks which are removed from anyone's line of play between putts. Walk to the next tee immediately after the last player has holed out.

7. Invite faster players to play through. This is as it always has been, but it should be emphasized, especially when there is a clear hole ahead or when a ball has been lost.