

IT'S YOUR HONOR

Mengert's Reaction

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE USGA:

Thank you for the very kind letter you sent me concerning my turn to professional golf. I read your letter over and over, especially the part about sportsmanship in the game of golf.

Playing in the Phoenix Open last winter I had occasion to take your advice. On the third tee I looked in my bag and noticed I had 16 clubs. I had driven a long way to play in the tournament and it was very discouraging to see that my caddie had forgotten to take out the extra clubs. I played out the round shooting a 69 to tie the lead, and then announced to the committee that I was disqualifying myself. I remembered your words, "The value of companionship and sportsmanship are really more important than the play of golf."

I will always remember what you have told me, Mr. Heffelfinger, and I want to thank you and the USGA for teaching me that it isn't how well you score that is important but how you play the game.

AL MENGERT
MAMARONECK, N. Y.

Word to Rules Critics

TO THE USGA:

Some of your correspondents who criticize unfavorably the present Rules of Golf seem to this old-timer to show with unfortunate clarity that they cannot have played by the former Rules, at least since 1898. My acquaintance with them does not go back further.

I cannot find anything new in Rule 16, which one correspondent indicates is being considered new by some golfers, nor in the penalty stroke for a ball which moves after address, against which one man rebels. As for the frustrated feeling of the duffer who cannot keep on a narrow course and whose ball in the rough is usually in an unplayable lie, if one wishes to play *golf*, one must endure this discouragement. Life

is that way, and some believe that the game of golf should imitate life, which also is dour and harsh and even unfair. Unusual courses need not, and in fact cannot, alter the basic Rules of Golf.

There is a widespread impression that the Rules of Golf should be framed to allow an indifferent player to play 18 holes, stroke play, in the 90s. There is always a remedy for those who merely wish to whack a ball from a perfect lie—simply do not call the game "golf" at all but give it some other name such as "outdoor tiddly-winks."

AUSTIN Y. HOY
WESTPORT, CONN.

Re the Museum

TO THE USGA:

Please accept my congratulations for the wonderful success to date in establishing "Golf House." Also, add the contribution enclosed.

In time, our national museum of golf history will be unsurpassed by any other country in all ways except its antiquity. Certainly all true golfers of American nationality will be extremely proud of Golf House.

JOHN B. HICHBORN
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Donation From Japan

TO THE USGA:

Enclosed you will find a contribution which my father, Komyo, asked me to deliver as a donation to "Golf House."

My father is a member of the Rules Committee of the Japan Golf Association. He is still very active in golf affairs and loves to play golf. However, because of his age, he cannot play so well as he did when he took the Japan Amateur Championship, back in 1928.

KOSHO OHTANI
KYOTO, JAPAN

Editor's Note: The USGA Journal invites comments on matters relating to the welfare of the game and will publish them as space permits.

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