

IT'S YOUR HONOR

A Crutch on the Green

TO THE USGA:

I should like to make a suggestion for a change in the Rules of Golf which I confidently feel warrants consideration.

It concerns the stick, pole, or what have you, in the cup on each green. My belief has always been that the pole with the flag showing the number of the hole is there primarily to show the location of the hole, not to assist in sinking putts.

Unfortunately, in antithesis to not only the letter but also the spirit of the Rules of Golf, many players are utilizing the stick as a crutch or aid on fast greens, on downhill putts, and as a possible assist when chipping from off the green. I have seen some players request the "pin in" when lining up flat 5-foot putts, even shorter ones. It's sickening.

Although the old rule of penalty for hitting the pin or flag does not have to be revived and should not, my contention is that a new rule should be promulgated providing for a two stroke penalty when the pin is struck by a player's ball which has been putted from on the putting surface.

No penalty would be imposed for a ball that hit the pin even though a putter (or other club) has been used when the ball was struck from a position not on the actual green. The net result of the imposition of

the suggested rule change would be that players either would putt with the pin out or with the pin attended.

The stringent Rules of Golf, based on Fair Play, should not be abridged or diluted by permitting players to use the stick as a help in their putting. I am sure all bona fide golfers will agree.

JULES M. LIEBERTHAL
New York, N. Y.

Rough at the Open

TO THE USGA:

I personally think there should be more rough in the Open Championship. It rewards shot-making and correct thinking, rather than being able to hit every green from the rough. The rough was very short and thin at Oakland Hills as it was at the last six Championships.

The Open Championship should be a Championship for all types of shot-making and thinking and not just hitting it far and wide. If a shot is wide, it should then take good shot-making and correct thinking to hit the next shot on the green—not just being able to smash it on the green after a wild shot off the tee.

Anyway, these are my views, hope the Open Championship remains for all types of shot making.

JACK FLECK
Los Angeles, Calif.

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