



THROUGH THE GREEN

Backspin Tests

As a result of tests conducted to determine the effects of clubface roughness on the backspin imparted to the golf ball, the USGA Implements and Ball Committee has decided it would be impractical to ease or to eliminate the present regulations which control the markings on iron clubs.

The Committee, after hearing reports that clubface roughness had little or no effect on backspin, had a series of ultra-high speed motion pictures taken of balls struck, first with a very smooth-faced iron club, then with a very rough-faced one.

Clarence W. Benedict, Chairman of the Committee, reported at the USGA Annual Meeting that "Although it is apparently true that a smooth surface can produce equivalent or even greater backspin than a rough one in individual cases, the average backspin is much greater with the rough-faced club."

Balls struck with the smooth-faced iron attained a backspin of 62.5 to 261 RPS (revolutions per second). When struck with the rough-faced iron the backspin attained was from 206 to 250 RPS.

This showed that, although it is possible to get as much backspin with a smooth-faced club as with a rough one, the average is much higher with the rough-faced one and the results much more consistent. In these tests the smooth-faced club gave an average of 166 RPS for all shots and the rough-faced club 224 RPS.

The Need for One Code

The need for a universal Rules of Golf was never more vividly illustrated than during a recent tournament which paired outstanding men and women professionals as partners.

Miss Patty Berg, playing with Sam Snead, incurred a two stroke penalty when she failed to mark her ball on the putting surface with a coin as stipulated by one of the variations to the Rules of Golf currently in use on the PGA tour.

The Ladies PGA adheres to the Rules of Golf in its competitions. Miss Berg's penalty, therefore, came about as a result of her failure to conform to a stipulation she was faced with for the first and only time during 1961.

The point is: if one of the game's most respected figures, who certainly knows the Rules of Golf, can become confused by these variations, what would happen to the weekend player and his understanding of the game if more than one code of rules became common?

Rhode Island, Beware

If all the golf courses in the United States were to be rolled together and dropped on New England they would cover 89% of the State of Rhode Island.

According to the National Golf Foundation, a record number of courses, 409, were opened during 1961, an increase of 48% over the previous high year of 1960. The new courses include 247 of standard

length, 76 additions to existing courses and 86 new par-3 courses.

The latest Foundation statistics tell of 6,623 courses in the United States, 4½ million golfers who play at least 15 rounds annually; \$1,556,000,000 invested in land, courses, facilities and furnishings; \$138,000,000 spent annually to maintain courses and grounds; and a total of 87,562,000 rounds played during the year.

The resort states of California and Florida are experiencing the most rapid growth in number of courses. Thirty-one standard length courses opened in California during 1961. Florida was next with 22.

Not Specified

It has come to the attention of the USGA that some new golf courses are reported to have been "built according to USGA specifications."

The Association does not promulgate specifications for golf course construction. The Association's Green Section has, in recent years, recommended specifications for ideal composition of putting greens only. However, such specifications are not likely to be of use if the club does not have laboratory analyses of soils used for the greens.

New USGA Agronomist

Holman M. Griffin has joined the staff of the USGA Green Section as a Southwestern Agronomist. He had been a Park Maintenance Supervisor for the Dallas Park Department since 1958.

A native of Dallas, Griffin is a graduate of Texas A & M College where he majored in Agronomy. He served as a Lieutenant in the U. S. Army from 1956 to 1958.

Griffin replaces James R. Kollett, who has resigned, on the Green Section Staff. Charles E. Croley, who has been a Southwestern Agronomist at the Green Section office on the Texas A & M campus, has been transferred to the Northeastern Office at Highland Park, N. J.

Golf Accident Survey

Accidents at golf clubs occur at a rate of 2.8 accidents per club each year, accord-

ing to a recent survey made by the Institute for Safer Living.

The survey, based on data supplied by 232 clubs, shows that 57.6% of all accidents are caused by persons being hit by balls. Injuries sustained through accidents with golf clubs account for 11.4%, and heat prostration is a cause of 9.5% accidents.

More than half the accidents (52%) are sustained by players. Caddies are involved in 25% of the accidents and workers in the remaining 23%.

Based on its survey, the Institute has produced a safety poster which it offers free of charge to clubs. It is available at any office of the American Mutual Liability Insurance Company.

Scholarship Prizes Banned

As of January 1, 1962, it is no longer permissible for an amateur golfer to accept a scholarship as a prize in a golf competition.

Although this was permissible before January 1, 1962, the Rules of Amateur Status have been changed to conform with a policy of the National Collegiate Athletic Association which provides that scholarships to NCAA member institutions must be awarded by the institution's regular committee or other agency for the awarding of scholarships and that such committees must have the final determination of the student athlete who is to receive an award.

Since a scholarship is the equivalent of money, this prohibition applies to all scholarships, not just to those valued at more than \$200.

A Tourist's Stroll

Golf, according to the Russian publication Nedelya, is "similar to a tourist's stroll with a stick and a ball."

Nedelya, an illustrated journal published by Izvestia, the official Russian Government newspaper, explained to its readers recently that in golf "the one who hits 36 holes first is the winner."

The Russian article said golf was originated in Denmark in the 15th century, and that players cover the court twice over 18 grass fields. On each field, reported to be 100 to 500 meters in length, there is one hole. A meter is 39.37 inches.

According to the author, "Both men and women play golf; mostly people who are well off. That is why the play is conducted with comfort. Players can begin early and stretch it out till darkness. The rules provide for breaks for lunch, dinner and time out for smokes."

Participants, the Russian audience was told, do not hurry from one field to another. Behind them are boys who carry 12 different sticks and "when it is necessary to hit a ball a considerable distance, they select a stick that is heavier and thicker."

Lady Pros in Britain

Chalk up another victory for the feminists.

Early in February the Professional Golfers Association of Great Britain announced that women would be admitted to its ranks.

Col. Harry Reed, Secretary of the British PGA, said "Instead of waiting for the inevitable to hit us, we are going forward to meet it."

This means women theoretically could compete on the British tournament circuit, and what appears more likely, can be hired as club professionals.

Women never have had the opportunity to be hired as club instructors in the past although several women players have relinquished their amateur status because of connections with equipment manufacturers.

Mrs. Jessie Anderson, one of Britain's prominent players, indicated she might enter professional tournaments but was skeptical about her chances.

"Candidly, I can't see women competing successfully with men from men's tees," she said. "But from women's tees we might get somewhere."

USGA Staff Changes

Frank Hannigan has been appointed Tournament Relations Manager of the USGA, replacing Robert C. Renner who resigned to become Assistant Sports Editor of the Indianapolis News.

Hannigan had been the USGA Public Information Manager for the past year. Eddie L. Ervin will replace Hannigan. Ervin was formerly Associate Editor of GOLF WORLD magazine.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE USGA

REGULAR

Ariz.	Maryvale Men's Club
Ariz.	Show Low Country Club
Calif.	Buena Vista Golf Club
Calif.	Jurupa Hills Golf Association
Calif.	La Quinta Country Club
Fla.	Bay Hill Club
Fla.	Cape Coral Country Club
Fla.	Rolling Hills Country Club
Ill.	Mt. Carmel Golf Club
Ind.	Morris Park Country Club
Md.	University of Maryland Golf Club
Mass.	Pleasant Valley Country Club
N. J.	Jersey City Police and Fireman's Golf Club
Okla.	Boise City Golf Club
Ore.	Hidden Valley Golf Club
Pa.	Yardley Golf Club
W. Va.	Green Hills Country Club

ASSOCIATE

Fla.	Mid-Florida Golf Course
Fla.	University Park Country Club
Tenn.	Sewanee Golf and Tennis Club

Books Reviewed

Golf in Europe, 1962, edited by H. T. Ostermann (distributed in U. S. by GOLF DIGEST, \$3.00). A handbook listing details on courses in 19 European nations.

Knave of Clubs, by Eric Brown (Stanley Paul & Co., London). The autobiography of the outstanding Scotch professional.

The Secret of Holing Putts, by Horton Smith and Dawson Taylor (A. S. Barnes and Co., \$4.95). A heavily-illustrated book co-authored by a renowned professional, Smith, and by an amateur player.

Necrology

It is with deep regret that we record the death of:

Bernard Darwin, London, England, for 39 years golf writer for the "London Times" and author of many books on the subject. He was a member of the 1922 British Walker Cup Team.

John D. Hoblitzell, Jr., Clarksburg, W. Va., a member of the USGA Junior Championship Committee since 1952.

Robert A. Stranahan, Toledo, Ohio, a member of the USGA Executive Committee in 1944-45.

Alfred C. Ulmer, Jacksonville, Fla., a member of the USGA Senior Championship Committee from 1955 through 1960. He won the Championship of the United States Seniors' Golf Association in 1950.