

The Importance of Proper Treatment of the Rough

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Many courses with fine fairways and putting-greens neglect their rough, leaving it in such condition that balls reaching the rough are very likely to be lost. Lost balls are not a desirable feature in the game of golf. A lost ball delays the immediate players, often for several minutes, and it usually delays the following pairs for a minute or two, for there are few players who do not wait a little while for players ahead of them to search for a lost ball. This may "gum up" the whole course, annoying many players. But delay is not the only objection to lost balls. A lost ball is an irritating thing to the one who played it, and his opponent has no satisfaction in winning a hole through his enemy-friend's misfortune. Then, too, playing the rough is part of the game, calling for elements of skill that are an important part of golf; but a lost ball is not played.

On different courses different criticisms may be made of the treatment of the rough. The writer has in mind five southern courses planned by one of America's greatest golf architects, several of them being under his supervision for upkeep. On all of these courses the rough is left unraked and full of dried leaves, chiefly oak leaves. A ball getting into these leaves is more than likely not to be found. The writer thinks of three New England courses open to exactly the same criticism, but, on the other hand, he remembers three in which rough of a similar character is sufficiently cleaned up so that lost balls are rare. In northern New York there is a much-frequented course which illustrates two other undesirable sorts of rough. On one hole an alder thicket comes to the edge of the fairway throughout most of its length and a sliced ball is lost beyond all hope of finding. On another hole of this same course the approach shot is a blind one over the crest of a high transverse ridge and down to the green. Immediately beyond the green and coming to its edge is thick, high red clover and Alsike clover, in which no ball can ever be found except by pure good fortune. Clover in the rough is always an assurance to losing balls and should always be removed.

There are many sorts of rough that give a full fair penalty without inviting lost balls. Two of these kinds, easy to obtain, may be mentioned. One is a thick heavy turf cut with an ordinary hayfield mower. A good example of this is seen along several fairways of the Potomac Park public course in Washington. A ball does not sink out of sight into this turf, but it lies usually with about half its diameter below the surface of the turf, almost precluding the use of brassie or spoon, and requiring accurate play of a lofted metal club to get any distance. But still better rough is found on some of the Michigan courses with light soil. On some of these courses the rough is thin Canada bluegrass, thin because of the sandy soil. In this sort of rough a ball is readily found but hard to play. A newcomer on the course is likely to attempt to play out with a spoon or even a brassie, but he finds that the wiry stalks of the grass wrap around his club head and make his shot a complete failure. Next time he probably takes an iron, but after a few experiences he resorts to his niblick or mashie-niblick, which lets him come down on the ball from above and lifts the ball at once above the grass, giving no chance for the wiry grass to

hinder either club or ball. A rough of this character is a great asset to a course.

Golf is a sport and is for pleasure. A lost ball is an irritation; it is no part of the game, for it cannot be played; it's a hindrance to the match directly involved and probably to several following pairs. Lost balls are a source of income to the golf professional; but this is a fault, not a virtue. A great majority of the lost balls are lost because the rough has received insufficient attention.

Public Golf Courses of the United States and Canada

There is no better index to the popularity of golf than the number of public courses, which is rapidly increasing. The following list of public courses is believed to be nearly complete. It enumerates 116, divided approximately as follows according to size: 18-hole, 54; 9-hole, 41; 6-hole, 3; 12-hole, 1; no data available on the remaining 17. If any courses have been omitted from the list, the information concerning them will be appreciated.

CALIFORNIA

Municipal Golf Course, Long Beach, 18 holes. Golden Hill Golf Course, Balboa Park, San Diego, 18 holes.
Griffith Park Golf Course, Los Angeles, 18 holes. Lincoln Park Golf Course, San Francisco, 18 holes.
Del Paso Park Golf Course, Sacramento, 9 holes.

COLORADO

Municipal Golf Course, Colorado Springs, 18 holes. City Park Golf Course, Denver, 18 holes.

CONNECTICUT

Beardsley Park Golf Course, Bridgeport, 9 holes. Goodwin Park Golf Course, Hartford, 18 holes.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

East Potomac Park Golf Course, Washington, D. C., 18 holes.

FLORIDA

Municipal Golf Course, Jacksonville. Palma Ceia Golf Course, Tampa, 18 holes.
Municipal Golf Course, Hialeah, Miami. Rocky Point Golf Course, Tampa, 18 holes.

GEORGIA

Piedmont Park Golf Course, Atlanta, 9 holes.

ILLINOIS

Budlong Farm Golf Course, Chicago, 18 holes. Palos Park Golf Course, Forest Preserves County, 18 holes.
Columbus Park Golf Course, Chicago, 18 holes. Glencoe Community Course, Glencoe, 9 holes.
Garfield Park Golf Course, Chicago, 9 holes. Harlem Golf Course, Harlem, 18 holes.
Jackson Park Golf Course, Chicago (two courses; one, 18 holes; one, 9 holes). Highland Park Community Course, Highland Park, 9 holes.
Lincoln Park Golf Course, Chicago, 18 holes. Dixmore Golf Course, Homewood, 18 holes.
Marquette Park Golf Course, Chicago, 18 holes. Municipal Golf Course, Jacksonville.
Evanston Community Course, Evanston, 18 holes. Lawrence Grove Golf Course, Norwood Park, 18 holes.
Edgebrook Golf Course, Forest Preserves County, 18 holes. Madison Park Golf Course, Peoria, 9 holes.
Bunn Park Golf Course, Springfield, 18 holes.
Winnetka Community Course, Winnetka, 9 holes.

INDIANA

Ellenberger Golf Course, Indianapolis, 9 holes. Riverside Park Golf Course, Indianapolis, 18 holes.
Highland Golf Course, Indianapolis, 18 holes. South Grove Golf Course, Indianapolis, 18 holes.

IOWA

Credit Island Golf Course, Credit Island Park, Davenport, 12 holes. Waveland Park Golf Course, Des Moines, 18 holes.
Grandview Golf Course, Des Moines, 18 holes. Byrnes Park Golf Course, Waterloo.

KANSAS

Wichita Municipal Golf Course, Sun Park, Wichita, 9 holes.

KENTUCKY

Cherokee Park Golf Course, Louisville, 18 holes.

LOUISIANA

City Park Golf Course, New Orleans, 6 holes.