

GOLF.

A Weekly Record of "The Royal and Ancient Game."

"Far and Sure."

[REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER.]

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Fixtures.

DECEMBER.

- Dec. 19 and 20.—Brighton and Hove: Winter Prize Meeting.
Dec. 20.—Disley: Second Winter Handicap.
Royal Epping Forest; Gordon Challenge Cup.
Formby: Sweepstake Competition.
Epsom: Monthly Medal.
Dublin: Monthly Medal Competition.
Redhill and Reigate: Club Medal.
Whitley: Emmerson Prize.
Birkdale: Club Medal (2nd round).
Dec. 23.—Royal Isle of Wight: Christmas Meeting.
Whitley: The Joicey Cup.
Dec. 26.—Bembridge: Gold Medal, Eaton Memorial Putter and Fisher Prize.
Clapham: Challenge Handicap Cup.
Felixstowe: Club Prize, value 2 guineas.
Southport: Club Prize.
Seaford: Monthly Medal.
Dec. 26 and 27.—Guildford: Christmas Meeting.
Dec. 27.—Buxton and High Peak: Monthly Competition, under Handicap, with Sweepstake.
Felixstowe: Monthly Challenge Cup.
Royal Ascot: Mr. Haig's Prize.
Royal Epping Forest: Gordon Challenge Cup and Captain's Prize.
Royal Liverpool: Winter Optional Subscription Prizes.
Haydock Park: Legh Challenge Cup.
Royal Wimbledon: Monthly Medal.
Dec. 27 and 29.—Ashdown Forest and Tunbridge Wells: Christmas Meeting.
Dec. 29 and 30.—Royal Eastbourne: Winter Meeting.

1891. JANUARY.

- Jan. 1.—Prestwick St. Nicholas: Club (scratch) and Handicap Medals.

- Jan. 1.—County Antrim: Handicap Hole Competition (Open).
Lanark: The Orchard Shield.
Jan. 2.—Country Antrim: Handicap Stroke Competition (Open).
Jan. 3.—Disley: Annual Meeting and Dinner; Competition for the Annual Cup.
Jan. 6.—Birkdale: Ladies' Prize (3rd round).
Jan. 10.—Whitley: Wyndham Cup.
Wiltshire and District: Gray Medal.
Disley: Third Winter Handicap.
Jan. 13.—Whitley: The Joicey Cup.
Pau: Arthur Post Medal and Pendant, and the Brooke Challenge Cup and Badge.
Jan. 15.—Pau: Brooke Challenge Cup, and the Anstruther Shield and Badge.
Royal Musselburgh: Quarterly Competition.
Jan. 17.—Royal Liverpool: Winter Optional Subscription Prizes.
Lytham and St. Anne's: Captain's Cup Competition.
Birkdale: Club Medal (3rd round).
Whitley: Emmerson Prize.
Jan. 24.—Birkdale: The Captain's Cup.
Whitley: Crawley Prize.
Jan. 27.—Whitley: The Joicey Cup.
Pau: Macnab Cup.
Jan. 31.—Seaford: Monthly Medal.
Prestwick St. Nicholas: Bailie Wilson's Medal.
Royal Liverpool: Winter Optional Subscription Prizes.

FEBRUARY.

- Feb. 3.—Birkdale: Ladies' Prize.
Feb. 7.—Whitley: Wyndham Cup.
Birkdale: Mackenzie Cup.
Lanark: Quarterly Competition for Gold Ball and other Prizes.
Feb. 10.—Pau: Town of Pau Gold Medal and St. Andrew's Cross.
Whitley: Joicey Cup.
Royal Epping Forest: Kentish Cup.
Feb. 12.—Pau: Town of Pau Gold Medal and St. Andrew's Cross.
Feb. 14.—Whitley: Crawley Prize.
Lytham and St. Anne's: Captain's Cup Competitions.
Feb. 17.—Pau: May Jubilee Medal.
Feb. 18.—Royal Epping Forest: Kentish Gold Medal; Noakes Cup.
Feb. 21.—Whitley: Emmerson Prize.
Birkdale: Club Medal.
Prestwick St. Nicholas: Meikle and McLaren Prizes.
Feb. 24.—Whitley: Joicey Cup.
Feb. 28.—Birkdale: The Buckley Cup.
Seaford: Monthly Medal.
Royal Epping Forest: Gordon Challenge Cup; Captain's Prize.
Royal Liverpool: Winter Optional Subscription Prize.

WANTED.—A Professional Player and Green Keeper for the Wimbledon Ladies' Golf Club. Wife to take care of Club and attend to Members. The Club will start with about 200 Members and Associates.—Apply, by letter only, to the Hon. Sec., J. Franklin-Adams, Grange Cottage, Wimbledon, London, S.W.

MARRIAGE.

The marriage between Mr. George Gordon Robertson, C.A., Edinburgh, and Miss Maud Anderson, daughter of the Rector of St. Baldred's Church, North Berwick, is arranged to take place on January 6th, 1891, at 11 45 a.m.

Both these young people are golfers; Mr. Robertson having lately come well to the fore, both at North Berwick and Gullane. He is one of the longest drivers on the links. Miss Anderson was champion lady golfer at North Berwick in 1885.

THE EMPLOYMENT OF CADDIES AND CADDIES' BENEFIT FUND.

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club at its autumn meeting in September, 1890, adopted a report as to the employment of caddies, presented by the Committee of Management. The chief provisions in this report were as follows:—

"1. That the club authorise the payment of an officer, through whom the members of the club shall be required to engage their caddies.

"2. That a register of caddies be kept by him.

"3. That the list of registered caddies be hung up in the club-house."

The club remitted it to the Committee of Management to carry out its recommendations in detail. For this purpose two sub-committees were formed; one to adjust the rules for the proposed registration of caddies and the duties of the officer, the other to mature the scheme for the caddies benefit fund.

The reports of these sub-committees are now printed for circulation amongst the members of the club. Both reports have been unanimously approved and adopted by the Committee of Management.

The first explains the rules for the employment of caddies, which will come into force on the 1st of January, 1891, when the new club officer, Mr. Nicholas Robb (late R.N.) will enter on his duties of superintending the caddies, keeping a register of them, &c.; and it is earnestly hoped that every member of the club playing Golf at St. Andrews will assist the committee in enforcing these rules, which have been drawn up for the comfort of the players, as well as for the benefit of the caddies.

The second report can only become practical if subscriptions are sent in to enable the committee to carry out the benefit fund. There is no doubt, however, that each scheme will help the other. The caddies may be expected to conform more readily to the new rules if they see that their employers are anxious to aid them, in a reasonable way, in sickness and old age.

The benefit fund is meant to be administered as an ordinary charity, in cases of real need. It is also intended to foster habits of forethought and thrift among the caddies, as they are asked (and induced) to be themselves subscribers to the fund. It is hoped that the regulations adopted by the committee under this head will commend themselves to the members of the club.

But the committee must necessarily rely for the success of this scheme on the private generosity of the members of the club. That it is a worthy object for philanthropy every one will admit; and as the fund will be carefully administered, it may be taken for granted that only deserving caddies will receive benefit from it.

It is expected that, by the joint operation of the two schemes—the one laying down new rules to secure good conduct and orderliness, the other providing help for those who have come to need it through misfortune or in old age—the status of the caddies in the future may be raised.

Subscriptions of various amounts have been already promised. It is proposed, in the meantime, to limit them to sums ranging from £50 to £1. They may be intimated to Mr. C. S. Grace secretary and treasurer of the club, who will duly acknowledge their receipt; and they may be either in the form of donations, or of annual subscriptions. *Bis dat qui cito dat.*

WILLIAM KNIGHT.

St. Andrews, 13th December, 1890.

REPORT BY SUB-COMMITTEE AS TO EMPLOYMENT OF CADDIES.

I.—DUTIES OF OFFICER.

1. The officer to be called the club officer, to be under the orders and control of the Green Committee and two other members of the Committee of Management.

2. To be in attendance at the club-house at such hours as the committee may fix.

3. To keep in proper order and duly written up, all such books, registers, and other documents as the committee shall from time to time consider necessary.

4. To supply a caddie from the register to any member of the club who may apply; but members to select any particular caddie from the list whom they prefer.

5. To receive payment from members after supplying them with a caddie, according to the tariff fixed by the club, and give an initialed receipt for the same.

6. To receive the clubs of members who have been playing from the caddie who has carried them, and pay the caddie on delivery of the clubs.

7. To supply a professional to any member of the club on application at the rate of remuneration fixed by the club.

8. To keep the front and sides of the club-house clear of caddies, and to maintain order amongst them; to report to the Green Committee any misconduct, breach of rules, or other irregularities on the part of registered caddies, also to keep a book in which to record any such cases, and how they have been disposed of.

9. To have a general superintendence of caddies on the green, and to prevent damage of any kind being done to the green, and generally to maintain strict discipline, according to the rules and regulations of the club.

10. To assist the committee of the caddies' benefit fund in making inquiries regarding the circumstances, state, &c., of registered caddies applying for help.

11. To act as hall-porter when not actually employed in duties connected with the caddies. To assist the Green Committee and secretary in carrying out the arrangements on medal days, &c. To assist members in their clubs and boxes, and see to the despatch of clubs on members sending for them.

II.—REGISTER OF CADDIES, TARIFF, &c.

1. A register of those caddies who have been approved by the committee to be put up in the hall and other rooms of the club, in the Golf club maker's shops, and elsewhere as may be found necessary.

2. The register to contain the names of caddies in alphabetical order, and members of the club are required to select their caddies from the register through the officer, in accordance with Rule 1, 4, and 5, duties of officer.

3. A separate register of professional players, who have been approved by the committee, to be kept; but professional players to be also allowed to have their names entered in the caddies register and to carry clubs.

4. The tariff for caddies to be as follows:—1s. 6d. for the first round, 1s. for the second and every subsequent round. During the spring and autumn medal week, 2s. for every round, except the medal round, for which the tariff is to be 5s. For professionals, 2s. 6d. for each round, in addition to his caddie's fee when playing with a member; and 2s. 6d. for each round when teaching a member.

5. A registered caddie engaged for the week, or month, or longer (short of a year), to give notice to the officer when thus engaged, and also to report to the officer every morning when not required to go out with his employer, that he may be eligible as an ordinary caddie for that day.

6. The payment of caddies engaged for a time to be according to the club tariff; but it shall be open to members to make any special arrangements with a caddie when engaging him for a year or longer.

7. Caddies not to be allowed to stand in front of the club-house, or to importune members for employment anywhere; and the officer to be empowered to pass over the name of any registered caddie so offending, and to suspend him from employment by any member of the club for the day.

8. The committee to have power to suspend a registered caddie who shall, after due investigation, be found guilty of misconduct or breach of rules, for a period to be determined by them; and in grave cases of misconduct to remove a caddie's name from the register.

ALEX. D. FORDYCE,

Convener of Sub-Committee on Employment of Caddies.

REPORT BY SUB-COMMITTEE AS TO BENEFIT FUND.

I.—OBJECTS.

That its objects be:—

1. The relief of caddies, or professional golfers, who, from old age, illness, or accident, are incapable of regular work.

2. The temporary assistance of the widows and children of caddies or professional golfers who have been left destitute.

II.—MEMBERSHIP.

1. That only those whose names are on the authorized club register shall receive aid from the benefit fund.
2. That caddies who themselves contribute to the fund should have a preferential claim on any grant which the Committee of Management may be able to make during their illness, or in old age, in proportion to the amount they have paid in.
3. That a caddie, whose name is from any cause removed from the club register, shall receive no grant from this fund, but in the event of his name being restored to this register, his privilege in connection with the fund shall be restored also.
4. That any caddie, who voluntarily ceases to subscribe to the fund may, if the committee see fit, receive back his past subscription, exclusive of interest.
5. That any subscribing caddie whose name is removed from the registered list, by order of the committee, should be entitled to receive back a portion of the amount he has subscribed to the fund, such portion not to exceed three-fourths of the sum subscribed.

III.—FUNDS.

The committee suggest :—

1. That the club should make an annual grant towards this benefit fund.
2. That a circular letter be drawn up, stating the objects and aims of the fund, and sent to the members of the club, asking for such subscriptions as each may be disposed to give.
3. That in handicap matches and golfing sweepstakes (the papers of which are exposed on the club table) one-tenth of the whole amount collected shall be devoted to the benefit fund.

IV.—CADDIES' CONTRIBUTION.

The committee suggest :—

1. That the amount which the caddies themselves contribute should be at the rate of 3d. per week.
2. That this be paid to the officer who has charge of the register.
3. That it may be paid by the week, or month, or year.

WILLIAM KNIGHT,

Convener of Sub-Committee on Benefit Fund.

A GOLF SCORE-BOOK.

Bovril (Limited) have just issued a Golf score-book, which for completeness and artistic finish it would be difficult to excel. Indeed, the illustrations copiously besprinkled throughout its pages, from the frontispiece to the last page, are, if anything, too good for such an ephemeral publication as a scoring-book; and certainly for their humour and grotesque suggestiveness of many of the ups and downs of the game, it would be difficult to match them anywhere, even in the columns of *Punch*. The frontispiece will bear a minute inspection, with the familiar looking, but curiously-shaped bottle, containing Bovril extract, buttressed on each side with a set of Golf clubs, and a ball on the top of the cork, while a procession of golfers, each with club on shoulder, sets out in opposite directions from the top of the page and meets below, the attitudes of the figures seeming to indicate that they are beating time to a kind of exhilarating rhythmic Golf march. Double columns of nine holes each are provided on each page, with a space for the links over which the game is played, and the date. At the top of each page there is a little seasonable advice for the benefit of the player who is keeping his record, varied occasionally by short poetical extracts which certainly show that the compiler of the volume is familiar with a wide range of golfing literature, and knows exactly where to lay his finger on the weak spot of most players when in the hurly-burly of a match. All the illustrations are charming. "Golf as played in Scotland, from a Cockney point of view," showing a brawny Highlander in kilts striking off with a weapon resembling a giant's club, while a little boy, also in kilts, stands ruefully in the rear staggering under the load of about forty such pre-historic weapons, and deer scampering along a cliff in the distance, is really funny. It is the best thing of the kind we have seen.

JOHNSON'S FIRST OUTING.

In a recent number of a North of England paper, the "funny man" relates his first experiences as a Golf player. It appears that he was invited by a golfing friend to "take a round" on the Whitley links, and we extract the following from his article :—

"It was the friend who began the game, making a fairly good stroke from the tee. 'The tee!' cried Jobson, when he first heard the word; 'that's why you call the man the caddie. Tea-caddie. See?' The remark was deemed frivolous. Indeed, it fell upon the party like a gliff of the east wind in spring. So the Plumber was requested to go on with the game. The first stroke he made missed the ball altogether, while the second erred so much in the opposite direction that the ball was accompanied on its short flight by several square inches of sand and turf. The pastime proceeded for a few strokes more without any incident worthy of record, except that Jobson lost two balls in the whin-bushes, sent another flying into the sea, and bunkered a fourth in one of the ravines that crossed the course.

"These little mishaps, which only increased the old Plumber's enthusiasm for the game, were of small importance when compared with what followed. Whilst vigorously endeavouring to retrieve the disaster in the ravine, Jobson had the misfortune to smash the head off one of the smaller clubs he had been using. Jobson's friend, witnessing the misfortune, and wondering what his medical acquaintance would say when he came to hear of it, suggested, as a matter of grace and favour, that the old man should take his ball out of the bunker and begin afresh on the other side of the ravine. It was now that Jobson's interest and excitement became as intense as an outside dog's at a dog fight. Placing the ball exactly where he thought he could do the best execution, and asking the caddie to give him a club which would be most suitable for the purpose, he aimed at the little object with so much force that he nearly ruptured himself. The club itself went swinging round with so much far-reaching velocity that it 'yawped' the caddie on the side of the head—in such a manner, too, that the poor man for the moment lost control of his temper. A personal encounter would probably have followed the occurrence had not Jobson rapidly apologised and promised compensation.

"But the most remarkable event of the day was to come a little later. Jobson got his ball near the edge of the cliff. Here it was necessary that he should exercise uncommon vigour in striking it against the wind. So he called for the heaviest club the caddie was carrying. Then he placed himself in the attitude of a Grecian statue, and took a terrible swing with the club, like a champion throwing the hammer at the Highland games. Unhappily, the club, missing its mark, took affairs into its own hands, twisted Jobson round and round, made him feel like a peg-top, and finally broke away from him, speeding before the western wind into the North Sea. As for the venerable striker himself, he lost his balance, was caught by a sudden gust of the tempest, and toppled over the bank among the sands and surges below. There happened to be a high tide at the time, which was perhaps fortunate, since the sea helped to break the Grand Old Golfer's fall. Dazed and dripping, the aged P. was rescued without great loss of time by his two companions. The saviours of Jobson hurried him back to Monkseaton Station, where, during the time he had to wait for the next train to Newcastle, he dried himself before the waiting-room fire.

"The old man's opinion of the game is not much in its favour. 'It's the fondest thing I ever heard of,' he said, while lying in bed. 'Why, if I wanted to put a ball in a hole, which is all there is in the whole business, I could do it much more easily with hands or feet without going to the trouble of using clubs at all. But why does anybody want to put a ball in a hole? The ball is just as useful outside, and the hole is quite as well satisfied without the ball. And when you've got it there, what's the good of it? It has only to be taken out again and put in some other hole. Bah! Don't talk to me about Golf. If it hadn't been for that blighted game, I shouldn't have been lying bunkered here.' And then he ordered Sarah Josephine to rub his chest with Boe's Liniment, and give him another dose of cough mixture."

THE SPREAD OF GOLF IN AND AROUND CAMBRIDGE.

IT took a considerable time before Golf "caught on," to use a slang term, in England, but directly it took root it grew and spread, and is still spreading with gigantic strides all over the country, from the Bonnie Tweed to the English Channel. For a long time after its foundation at Cambridge, in 1875, it hung fire, and twice nearly died the death; but from 1882 it began to grow rapidly year by year, until this year, 1890, there have been elected, in about five weeks, the surprising number of ninety-two new members to the Cambridge University Golf Club, thus bringing up the list of members to about 300; and the cry is, still they come. This very rapid increase in the number of members has rendered better accommodation absolutely necessary, and a handsome new club-house is going to be erected, at once, containing two large rooms, a dressing-room, professional's quarters and workshop, with the usual sanitary offices—the present club pavilion to be attached to the back of the new club and used exclusively as a box-room. The club has from time to time spent a large sum of money on improving the common, and the recent drainage has greatly benefited both golfers, commoners, and rifle-men—whose butts adjoin the Golf course.

Nor is the spread of the Royal and Ancient game confined to Cambridge alone. Huntingdon possesses a nice little nine-hole round, while at St. Neots the newly-opened links bids fair to make, in the future, a capital eighteen-hole round. A commencement has been made with nine fairly long holes, and a professional is in residence.

Several enthusiasts have, at last, begun to play on Royston Heath, which is the best ground I have seen round this country, and I hope shortly to be able to go and lay out a course there for them. It would be a great boon to Royston, Baldock, Hitchin, and the villages around, where there *must* be, or ought to be, golfers. It is not so long ago since the good folk of Swaffham proposed to lay out a green there, and I also hear rumours of a small links at Mildenhall. At Brinkley, near Newmarket, there is a small private links, while at Newmarket itself Golf is occasionally played. I suppose it would be deemed awful sacrilege to say so, but the Beacon course would make a good Golf course.

Fulbourne Common would do for a links, and so would Cottenham. I hear from one, who ought to know, that there is very suitable ground for the game at Wisbech, and in the neighbourhood of Ely and Six Mile Bottom.

In country towns, or villages, where the requisite space is available—and many such possess extensive commons or heaths—Golf should certainly be started, and it would prove a perfect blessing to the inhabitants.

Golf has this advantage, that, unlike other out-door games, it can be played all the year round, in all weathers, and yet never become tedious or monotonous. It is a game, also, suitable and delightful alike to all classes of persons; to young

and old, rich or poor, the grand Scottish national game supplies every opportunity for getting plenty of fresh air, and invigorating arm, leg, and brain exercise.

W. T. LINSKILL.

GOLF AT HEMSTED PARK.

Hemsted Park, near Staplehurst, the seat of Viscount Cranbrook, now enjoys a Golf links. By Colonel Gathorne Hardy's desire, Tom Dunn, of Tooting Bec, visited the ground recently, and planned out an eighteen-hole round.

The starting point is immediately in front of the house. The first hole is a long one. The drive from the tee encounters a hazard of fir trees; the second shot a cluster of whins; and then a full drive with the cleek is needed to reach the hole. The second hole is about the same distance as the first, and the hazards are very similar, with the addition of a dense bed of furze in front of the hole. The next hole is a very sporting one. A large bed of furze, extending about forty yards wide by about twenty yards deep, guards the hole which lies immediately at the back of it; the distance from the tee to carry the hazard measuring 160 good paces. The drive for the fourth hole requires to be a long one to enable the player in his next stroke (a cleek or brassy) to cross a ravine freely dotted with whins, which become very thick as the hole is reached on the left-hand side. The fifth hole is across a ravine about eighty yards wide, entirely covered with furze, and although short (an iron shot), it is the beau ideal of a sporting hole. To miss the tee shot almost inevitably means a lost ball; whilst a heeled ball is caught by oak trees on the right, and a hooked ball lands one in the ravine, which curves forward to the left. Playing to the sixth hole, the ravine has to be again crossed further on, a good drive landing one on a fine clear open space; then a second ravine and oaks have to be negotiated with the iron before the hole is reached. Driving to the seventh, more trees and still another deep ravine have to be faced, a good drive taking one far enough to reach the hole in the next stroke with the cleek. This shot requires some care, however, as there is a pond immediately at the back of the hole. The eighth hole lacks the sport of the preceding ones, there being no hazards. There is, however, a large oak to drive over in a line for the hole, which is reached with a short iron stroke. The ninth is a long hole, requiring two drives and an iron, the hazards being a pond to the left and a clump of trees close at the back of the hole. It takes two very long drives to reach the tenth hole. The first of these requires to be played to the left to avoid a number of trees. On the right of the hole, and close to it is a large pond. There is not much sport in the eleventh, with the exception of a fosse at the back of the hole, which adjoins the pleasure grounds; but the twelfth requires some play. After a good drive from the tee, a fine iron shot is needed to clear a long stretch of whins, in order to reach the hole. The next hole, which takes a drive and an iron, requires some care, the hole being placed to the left of a big cluster of furze beyond which is a road. Leaving this hole and playing to the next, the fourteenth, this same large bed of furze has to be crossed from the tee; after which an easy approach with the iron reaches the green. The drive to the fifteenth is perhaps the *pièce de résistance* of the round. To reach the hole in one shot a long drive is necessary to carry over a pond, beyond the hole being a ravine. Striking for the next hole, another fine sporting stroke over a ravine and between oaks, lands one in safety; but an equally good shot over another ravine covered with whins, is needed before the hole is reached. The seventeenth and the home hole are pretty plain sailing, with the exception of some trees to drive over or avoid. These both require a drive and an iron in order to reach the greens.

Throughout the entire course the turf is excellent, most of the ground is very undulating, and the sporting character of the majority of the holes would gladden the heart of the most experienced golfer. No time is being lost in making the putting-greens and teeing grounds playable. Scything has already been commenced; and weather permitting, the course will be in a sufficiently advanced state to permit of play by the house party during the Christmas holidays.

TRUTH AND GOLF AT WIMBLEDON.

A correspondent writes:—I send you the following paragraph which appeared in last week's *Truth*:—"Members of Volunteer Corps using the ranges at Wimbledon write to deprecate a proposed extension of the London Scottish Golf Club-house. The Golf is already very unpopular among the non-golfing residents in the neighbourhood, who object, as they have every right to do, to a track across the best part of the Common being for three days in the week given over to this business—or pleasure (I am not quite clear which it is). The proposed extension of the London Scottish Club-house has consequently evoked serious opposition, which might easily end in an agitation to sweep away golfers and volunteers altogether."

All golfers must naturally regret that a paper of such influence should spread a harmful suggestion about a game which has now become so popular in England, and about which upon its own showing it frankly confesses it knows nothing. Well may we exclaim with the Roman governor, "What is *Truth*?" But if Henry of the *The Truth* would only take the opportunity of a slack day, to run down to the Wimbledon Golf Club, one of the few places near this great city where Golf is obtainable, and where, I am sure, the members would gladly give him warm welcome and lunch, he would be able to see what an enormous benefit this game confers on many overworked Londoners, both professional and business men. Nay, Henry, I do believe that, if you would only take to the game yourself, you would find it would suit you almost better than the weary, unsatisfying grind of politics. It would do you real good, and the mirror of truth, as reflected in the pages of your weekly, would be brighter and more cheerful. Try it, Henry; it is the most harmless and innocent recreation, provided only you can keep your temper.

As to the rights of golfers over the Common, they are, I suppose, as good as those of the other recreative amusements and exercises, such as cricket, football, riding, and the drilling of large squadrons of cavalry—which are allowed.

In earnest, Henry (it's wrong, I know, to contradict *Truth*), but you will excuse me for saying that you don't know what harm you are doing when you talk about the golfers being swept away from Wimbledon Common. Why, if such a thing were attempted, it would simply mean that the very ends for which the Common was granted would be defeated: viz., to provide an open space where the hardworking and industrious of London of all classes may have an opportunity of obtaining good, healthy exercise, and fresh air, both alike necessary to the exhausted frame and weary mind. There is plenty of room on the Common for every one, to obtain *these* blessings in their own particular way; and, I am sure, there is no more healthy game, beneficial alike, as I have already said, to body and mind, and harmless to all created life, than Golf.

Try the game, Henry, try it, it will do you a power of good, and I will bet *The World* that if you will only persevere for but a few short weeks, *Truth*, harmonising with our own motto of "Far and Sure," will yet be the golfer's very champion.

At a meeting of golfers convened at Mr. Tudhope's office, Barnato Buildings, Johannesburg, South Africa, to consider the formation of a club in Johannesburg, only half-a-dozen persons put in an appearance, and after an informal talk-over, it was decided to write to the other golfing centres for information, and beat up another meeting. Mr. Tudhope presided at the adjourned meeting and there were a dozen present, and in addition seven names were handed in of persons willing to join. It was decided to form a club, to be called the Johannesburg Golf Club, the members who had signified their intention of joining to be the foundation members. A committee of five was elected, consisting of Messrs. Tudhope, Greenlees, Stirling Schlessler, and McFarlane; Mr. Tudhope to be chairman, and Mr. McFarlane, secretary. The subscription was fixed at a guinea. The committee were instructed to see about a ground, frame rules, and call another meeting to report progress.

The St. George's Club at Sandwich is full, and ere long it will take a considerable time to get admitted to its roll of members. Already some 200 golfers, including many of the scratch players, have signified their intention of joining the proposed new club.

Tee Shots.

Long-suffering green-keeper, whose temper has at last given way under the persistent neglect by strangers of the request—surely not an unreasonable one—that golfers should see that cut turf be replaced, floors one of the fellest offenders with the following—"Man, ye'd, maybe, like me tae gi'e ye a lift back wi't!"

* * *

Again, following the trail (as was, indeed, by no means difficult) of another such, who had been hacking, hewing and excavating his godless way to evil fame, the righteously indignant keeper smote the common foe with the staggerer—"Eh, mon! Can I no gi'e the len' o' my bit spadie?"

* * *

We offer an appendant (golfing, of course) to the inimitable old yarn of the two drouthy Fife cronies, who had been treated by the celebrated Dr. Andrew Thomson's father to an eloquent dissertation upon the undesirability of looking upon the wine when it is red in the cup, and its disastrous effects upon head, heart, purse and (the divine, no doubt, added) personal appearance. Graphic it, certainly, must have been: for, quoth one of the old reprobates—"Deed, Davie, I'm thinkin' he's been a lad himself in his day: or he couldna kent sae weel about it!"

* * *

It is on recent record that a mirthful youth from the South (probably from the Fen Country—where, though admittedly human, the inhabitants display to a perfection, in itself admirable, the great gift common to fish and man) who had when at lunch not confined his attentions to Bovril or such equivalent beverages, humorously suggested to the staid old cleric, his partner, that he hoped he might not see two balls.

"My boy, don't let that bother you. I say—advisedly—aye aim at the yin forrit!"

* * *

Musselburgh caddies over a pipe.

"Aw'm sayin', Dawvit, div'ee ken wha' inventit they *dumb caddies*?"

"Weel, they tell me, it wis an English body o' the name of Squeers, o' Dae-the-boys Ha'."

"The —!"

* * *

"Amy, I hear you are golfing this afternoon with Captain Bullseye?"

"Yes, Aunty, dear; and Grandma is to walk round with us."

"But, my dear, she surely will never, never be able to walk so far."

"O, Aunty, darling, don't you know that's the reason we asked her?"

* * *

There is a possibility of the inhabitants of Deal and Walmer being done out of their proposed golf club, owing to the difficulties placed in the way by one or two holders of little plots of land. This will be a pity, as it will drive away golfing visitors to Sandwich, where it is contemplated, in the event of the negotiations with the land-owners near Deal falling through, to establish a new golf club contiguous to the splendid St. George's links; and, with a club-house at No. 2 Battery, to work that end instead of the Deal end, thus leaving the latter town and its over-grasping land-owners out in the cold. Should this be done, which is most probable, it is understood that a company is ready to erect a marine hotel on the sea front, near Sandwich, and that a number of villas will be at once put up in its vicinity. In a short time, therefore, a flourishing watering place would be established some four miles from Deal.

* * *

Mr. Gilmour, of Montrave, has let on a nineteen years lease that part of Leven Links between the "Mile Dyke" and Lundin Mill to the Thistle and Innerleven Golf Clubs as an extension to their already large golfing greens. Mr. Gilmour has been good enough for many years to allow Golf to be played on the portion of the links in question, and he has now allowed the Thistle, Innerleven, and Lundin Links Golf Clubs to lease the links for nineteen years.

Mr. Cumming Macdona has been adopted as the Conservative candidate for Rotherhithe division of London. As it is a safe seat he hopes to be able to play for the House of Commons against the House of Lords in Lord Winchelsea's great Golf match at the summer meeting, at Haying Island next summer.

* * *

On a golfing-green within an hour's rail of Edinburgh, where the medal course consists of two rounds of the green, there is a hole which has occasionally been done in one stroke. During a recent competition the secretary was met by another player who made the remark, "You had better pull up: Mr. D. has been round twice, and has holed the third in two ones." Great was the secretary's joy that something of special interest, even though it were a ghastly fluke, had occurred to distinguish the meeting; but when cards were called and examined, a different tale was told. The two ones certainly stood on the card, but they were side by side, and totted up to eleven.

* * *

After a long inquiry, Mr. George Pemberton Leach, one of the Assistant-Commissioners of the Board of Agriculture, and a keen golfer, concluded last week the consideration of the scheme for the protection of Mitcham Common and other open spaces in the neighbourhood, known as Upper Green, Lower Green, Figg's Marsh, and Beddington Corner. Under this scheme it is proposed to place the common, and the other lands mentioned, in the hands of a board of twelve conservators representing Mitcham, Croydon, Beddington, and Wallington. The extent of these open lands covers an area of about 600 acres, but, during the inquiry which has been held in Mitcham and London, the scheme has been strongly opposed by, among others, the lords of the manors of Biggin, Tamworth, and Mitcham, who claim the freehold of the soil, and value their rights at £30,000. In the event of the Board sanctioning the scheme it will be subject to the approval of Parliament before it can become operative.

* * *

Not long ago a party of golfers from Tooting prospected Mitcham Common in order to see whether anything like a Golf course could be obtained there. Had it not been for the exceedingly prevalent manner in which the whole of this beautiful common has been "skimmed," and large quantities of gravel taken out of the soil, one of the finest 18-hole courses could easily have been made—much better and more varied in point of hazard than Wimbledon. But it was found that there was practically no soil. There was a very thin coating of turf over the gravel, with the result that when one played an iron shot the club jarred heavily on the stones beneath. What a pity! In its present condition it is neither a recreation ground nor anything else; it is so much waste land with ugly yawning gravel pits all over it.

* * *

Mr. J. S. Gilliat, M.P. for Clapham, having intimated that it is not his intention to seek re-election at the General Election, a meeting of the council of the Clapham Conservative Association was held on Monday night, when it was resolved to recommend the adoption of Mr. Percy M. Thornton, of Clapham Common, as the Conservative candidate for the division at the next election. Mr. Thornton has lived in the constituency all his life, and is a member of the firm of Messrs. Williams, Deacon, Thornton and Co., bankers, of Birch Lane. Mr. Thornton, a well-known figure at Lords, has been a first rate cricketer, and is now a keen golfer. When at Cambridge Mr. Thornton was noted as being one of the best runners of his day. Not only has he written several interesting and scholarly articles in GOLF, but in general literature he has made his mark by a work on Indian affairs, and more recently by a volume of hitherto unpublished letters from the library at Windsor Castle, together with other historical data, dealing with the romantic personality of Queen Mary Stuart. We heartily wish him success in his candidature.

* * *

GOLF CLUB FOR CHESTER.—A meeting was held at the Grosvenor Hotel, Chester, on Friday evening last, to consider the advisability of forming a Golf club for Chester and neighbourhood. After some discussion it was unanimously resolved

that a club should be formed, and a committee was appointed with Mr. Alf. Barker as hon. treasurer and Mr. F. Evans, Eastgate Buildings, Chester, as hon. secretary. The ground chosen is at Brewers' Hall, Curzon Park (within ten minutes from the centre of the city by boat across the river), which has been favourably reported upon by Jack Morris, Hoylake, and the committee, under his advice, propose laying out a nine-hole course, and hope by the middle of March next to have all the putting-greens in good order, as they are well adapted for the purpose. One hundred members have already been enrolled. The entrance and subscription fees will be one guinea each.

* * *

Members' aggregate scores made at the Christmas meeting of the Ashdown Forest and Tunbridge Wells Club, on the 27th and 29th of December may be used for the "Blackheath Cup," which is to be given at their next Autumn meeting for the best two aggregate scores made at any two of the two day meetings held by this club between the Autumn of 1890 and 1891 inclusive.

* * *

A well-attended meeting was held on Thursday night, the 11th, in the Pavilion, Lord's Cricket Ground, "to protest against the proposed scheme to construct a railway through St. John's Wood." Mr. F. Seager Hunt, M.P., presided, and was supported by a large number of influential gentlemen, resident in the neighbourhood. The chairman moved: "That this meeting of residents in St. John's Wood desires to record its strongest protest against the proposal of the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway Company to extend its railway into London through its proposed route, thereby entirely destroying an important residential suburb without affording any real or substantial benefit to the travelling public." The scheme, he urged, was not necessary on the part of the metropolis or the travelling public. The idea was promulgated with a view of augmenting the dividend of the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway. In the railway history of the past twenty years there had not been a greater advocate for railway extension, to his own advantage, than Sir Edward Watkin. So far as St. John's Wood was concerned, it was monstrous to suppose that this beautiful neighbourhood should be cut up, the tradesmen ruined, and what ought to be of primary consideration, the working classes displaced. Mr. Miller seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted. Resolutions were also carried urging the Marylebone Vestry and the London County Council to support the inhabitants of St. John's Wood and surrounding districts in the opposition to the project.

* * *

OVER TRAINED.—**FIRST GOLFER.**—"What did you do with that setter pup of yours—the one you were going to train?"

SECOND GOLFER.—"Oh, he got trained right enough, but a little too heavy. He got upon the railway line just as the express came by."

* * *

Cows have been known to swallow and crows to fly off with golf balls, but for real pluck the following incident from *Horse and Hound* is difficult to beat:—"One of the most remarkable incidents ever recorded in hunting annals took place on Thursday afternoon, the 20th, with Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn's Hounds. A fox had been viewed away, and hounds were in full cry, when the fox, running through a labourer's yard, scattered the lowls. Making a grab at a hen, the fox picked it up, killed it, and only dropped it after running some miles, and when hounds were close to his brush. Lord Arthur Grosvenor, Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn, and other members of the hunt were eye-witnesses of the incident.

* * *

The wonderful stories that have been told of the properties of the kola nut are more than confirmed by our Consul at Bahia, who has written a special letter to Lord Salisbury on this subject. The West African carriers at that port, who use kola and carry the bean wrapped in banana about their person, are not, physically speaking, superior men to the Brazilian negro; yet the African, through constantly masticating kola, can, we are assured, endure fatigue which no Brazilian traveller can withstand. Where it takes eight Brazilian negroes to carry a load with difficulty, four African porters carry it cheerfully, singing and chanting as they trudge along, each with a bit of kola bean in the mouth.

GOLF AT PAU.

Golfing resorts in England are mostly unpicturesque or uninteresting. France beats us hollow, for in Pau she possesses an ideal golfing place. Let us shut our eyes and dream ourselves there again in the warm bright sunshine. Let us wander down to the plain of Bilhère where the links lie by the side of the bluest of rivers, the gare of Pau, blue with the blueness of a glacier, though sometimes a turbid torrent, muddy and swollen, inundating the lowlands and filling the cellars and sometimes the kitchens of those who are foolish enough to take up their abode in the lower part of Pau. Beyond the river comes the *coteaux* hills as high as many Scotch highlands but thought nothing of here, for behind them towers the range of everlasting snow.

People must be hard to please if they cannot find enough to amuse and interest them at Pau. For the men, there is the English club and a very good club it is; then they have Golf to any amount every day; medals to play for, handicaps to win, &c. Lawn-tennis is also played down on the plain near the links, and a little wooden pavilion stands alongside the courts. Should you be tired of Golf and tennis, the master of the bounds will show you some fox-hunting, where you will get a good gallop, though there are no yawning dykes or oxers to face and get over. There is also a race-course and both flat-races and steeple-chases continually. Plenty of other amusements are got up for the benefit of the strangers—bicycle races, balloons for those who like to see what the earth looks like at a distance, picnics down the river or on the *coteaux*. There is also trout and grayling fishing, which, however, we ourselves found doubtful but perhaps others might have more skill or better luck. Then for those who shoot and like a flirtation with danger there are bears to be killed in the mountains, and there are ibex to be shot. We have heard that you sit in a pit, and wait for the bears to come having made your pit near their haunt. This must be cold work on a winter's night if the bears do not trouble to come sniffing round—but if they do, certainly there is a pleasurable element of excitement in the sport.

Golfers' wives need not complain of Pau. Balls and parties go on merrily through the season, there is a little theatre too, and some music, whilst for those who have artistic tastes, there is endless delight. Day after day sunrise and sunset flush the distant snow. Can anyone grow tired of such a view as you have of the mountains from almost any part east or west of the town, not to speak of the terrace by the river, and from the windows of those old houses near the château. There are the most charming excursions to be made into the mountains, pictures to be sketched and painted in endless variety. And then when the short winter days are over, there comes such a burst of spring; midsummer heat all at once, and flowers, masses of flowers, everywhere: red anemones of every shade from pink and scarlet to purple, violets in abundance, blossoms of all kinds. Not the least pleasurable part of the day is the half hour spent in the flower market every morning. It is a feast for the eye that loves colour. How delicious is the sunshine, and how ungrateful to draw those green shutters; but one can even have too much sun sometimes, for he makes himself cheap at Pau, and one well-known golfer was seldom seen without his umbrella in days gone by, when we used to watch him drive up to the links every day with a carriage full of handsome children.

December darkness is upon us. Will nobody lend us a balloon, or a *phone* of some kind yet to be invented, which shall carry us swiftly as a bird to bask in that southern sun, to revel in the daylight for one short hour even; and once more to play for that hole by the river, and lose our ball, and turn to mark that crimson light upon that far off snow? There is poetry in Golf at Pau—even we, who have long looked upon the game with an evil eye—we acknowledge that at Pau it becomes poetic like shooting on the moors in Scotland, or like fox-hunting: for let no one deny it, even fox-hunting has its poetic side.

Is it nothing to ride through the winter woods in the early morning? Is it nothing to ride as if for your life and conquer the fences before you? Is it nothing to jog slowly home in the twilight after that rushing gallop? Those who love it feel that there is poetry in it, though they cannot all put it into words.

Perhaps it is as well they cannot; we might get too much of the same thing, considering how many there are who hunt, and how many hunting days there are in the season. And for those who do not hunt, we can recommend nothing better than a winter at Pau, where they will find plenty of good fellows, and enjoy many a good game at Golf. The course has been considerably improved, and is now a full eighteen-hole round. Sir Victor Brooke is captain, and Mr. Morris Post secretary; and under their able management, with the strong committee to help, we feel sure that the club will have a good season.

ISMAILIA.

The season at Pau, on the sunny shores of the Mediterranean, has fairly set in. Many golfers and other English visitors, anxious to escape from the rigours of an English winter, have betaken themselves to the genial warmth of that sunny clime, and Golf, hunting, and shooting are now in full swing there. Judging from a local newspaper recently to hand the influx of English visitors appears to be considerable, and among the names which we subjoin many golfers, who are perforce doomed to stay at home, will recognise a goodly number of those who, like the swallows, come back among us in the spring to ply the hickory at Wimbledon and the northern greens. Colonel, Mrs., and Miss Acton (Châlet Lucia); James Arnold; Mrs. Ashley (Hôtel Gassion); Kar. Ashley; Miss Allison; Mrs. and Miss Alexander (Maison Sarda); Col. and Mrs. Buscarlet (Villa d'Albret); M. and Mme. Boreel (25, rue du Lycée); R. Boreel; Rev. Canon Bell (Villa Souvenir); Mrs. Henry Bell; Mrs. and Miss Bankart (Pension Colbert); Mr. and Mrs. Blair (Villa Lacroix); Dr. and Mrs. Bagnell (M. Duffau, Pension Duplâa); Mr. Hicks Back; M. and Mme. Burke (Hôtel Gassion); Miss Barwick (Pension Sarda); Sir Victor and Lady Brooke (Villa Jouvence); W. A. Bevan (Hôtel Gassion); Col. and Mrs. Bloomfield (Villa des Allés, 3); Dr. and Mrs. Bagnell (Château de Perpigna); Capt. Berners (Villa des Tours); Miss Berners; Miss Bell (1, rue Gaston Phœbus); Miss Barey (Hôtel Beau-Séjour); Rev. J. Brown (Châlet Farly); Mme. Sarah Langdon Boreel (Hôtel de France); Mrs. and Miss Blair; Lady and Miss Bolsover; Miss Chapman (Pension Colbert); Miss Cellini (Pension Sarda); Mrs. Cross (Villa Tibur); Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Campbell (Hôtel Monpays); M. and Mme. Chene; M. and Mme. Chauné; John Cuntiffel; Miss Orby Carey; Lady and the Misses Colthurst (1, rue Duplâa); Dr. and Mrs. Capes (8, rue du Lycée); Mr. and Mrs. Church (Villa Chiesa); A. Cazalar (Villa Boston); Miss Cazalar; Miss Comyng Haddoch (1, place Duplâa); Hon. and Mrs. Chetwynd (1, rue Duplâa); S. F. Caird (Hôtel Beau-Séjour); General and Mrs. de Coatpont (56, rue du Lycée); Miss Cunningham; Miss Chapman (Pension Colbert); Miss Dobson (Hôtel de Londres); J. Henrick Davies (Pension Colbert); Miss Dawse (17, rue du Lycée); Dratre West (Hôtel Beau-Séjour); Miss Dorell (23, rue des Arts); Miss Davies (1, passage de Ségure); J. Debenkar; Mr. and Mrs. Elmore (Hôtel de la Paix); Mrs. Ewing (2, place Duplâa); Mr. and Mrs. Emmons (28, rue Porteneuve); Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Elder; the English Vice-Consul and Mrs. A. H. Foster-Barham (2, Boulevard du Midi); Miss T. Fitz Gerald (Villa Souvenir); Mr. and Mrs. Bennett Fisher; Mrs. and Miss Fane (Villa Tourasse); Mr. and Mrs. F. Robert Forster (Hôtel Bellevue); Mrs. Foley (22, rue du Hameau); Mr. Francis B. Gilpin (Hôtel Gassion); Mrs. and Miss Goodrich; Henry Grey (Hôtel de France); Miss Garder (Hôtel de Londres); Mme. W. de Gale (Hôtel Beau-Séjour); Mr. F. Goldsmith (Hôtel Beau-Séjour); George Goldney (Hôtel de la Paix); Lord Herschell and family (Villa Tibur); the Earl of Howth (Hôtel Gassion); Miss Haussel; Mrs. and Miss Haddock; Mr. Hankey; Miss Hoskins (Pension Hattersley); Mrs. Hott-White (Pension Hattersley); Mr. M. Hicks Beach (Pension Colbert); Mr. and Mrs. C. Holey (Hôtel Beau-Séjour); Miss B. Hill (25, rue Bayard); Mrs. Jamesson and Sons (Hôtel de France); Mr. and Mrs. Insole (Hôtel Gassion); Mr. Joyce (31, rue Porteneuve); Mr. and Mrs. Jameson and family (Villa Irène); Miss Juiss (Hôtel de Londres); Mr., Mrs. and the Misses Jobert (Hôtel de Londres); Major St. John (2, Boulevard du Midi); General Johnson; Miss Knox (Châlet Couture); Mrs. and Miss Kane (Villa Cornelia); Mr. Kane; Mr. C. A. King (Hôtel Gassion); W. Lawrance (3, rue du Lycée); Mrs. Legh (25, rue du Lycée); Mr. and

Mrs. Hanbury Lennox; Mr. Ronald Macdonnel; Mr. D. Macnab (Hôtel de France); Hon. Sir Charles and Lady Murray (Hôtel Gassion); Rev. and Mrs. H. Marshall Jackson (Pension Colbert); Mr. and Mrs. Mellor and family (Villa Beau Frêne); Mr. and Mrs. Elton Maud (11, rue Montpensier); Mrs. Mostyn and family; Mrs. Maud and family; Mrs. and Miss Monteith (Hôtel Bellevue); Mr. Maillac Gload; Mrs. Macnamara (22, rue du Hameau); Rev. Mr. Morgan (Hôtel de Londres); Mrs. Maud (Villa Beau Frêne); Mrs. Moreton Craigie (Moreton House); Miss Mundy (Villa Salisbury); Mr. Nash (Hôtel Gassion); Mrs. and Misses Newall (17, rue d'Orleans); Major and Mrs. Newall (Villa Caplane); Sir John and Lady Nugent (rue Bayard); Miss Neilson (17, rue Bayard); Mr. and Mrs. Owen; Mr. Oliphant (Hôtel de Londres); Mrs. Malcolm Patton (1, rue Duplâa); Miss Peppe; Miss Pierce; G. Clifton Peckes (Hôtel Gassion); Major and Miss Pontifex (Villa du Lys); the American Vice-Consul and Mrs. Morris Post (53, rue Gassies); Mr. Pim Stschangnam; Capt. and Mrs. Robertson (Hôtel de Londres); Mr., Mrs. and Miss W. J. Reade; Mr. Rose; Mrs. and Misses Raza (Hôtel de Londres); Capt. and Mrs. Robertson; Mrs. Rose (Pension Hattersley); Yvon Rose; Mrs. Reid (Pension Colbert); Mr. J. Reid; Mr. Robitscheck (Hôtel Beau-Séjour); Lady Jane and the Misses Swinburne (Grand Hôtel); Mr. and Mrs. Edward Swinburne; Mrs. Story (1, rue Duplâa); Th. Smith (Hôtel de France); Mrs. S. Smith and family; Miss Shepherd (Hôtel Monpays); M. and Mrs. Scarisbrick (6, place Grammont); Mr. Sidley (avenue Porteneuve); Mr. and Mrs. Sômers-Cocks (Hôtel de Nays); Rev. and Mrs. Sharpin (21, rue Bayard); Mr. Sweetland (11, place Grammont); Miss Sanger (17, rue du Lycée); Miss Bossehaert Shuller (passage d'Alsace); Sidney Smith (Hôtel de la Poste); Miss Smith (Pension Colbert); Miss M. Stuart-George (Maison Sarda); Mr. Stanhope; Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Stanley; John Charles Storns (Hôtels Gassion); Miss Thornton (Villa Souvenir); Mr. and Mrs. Tubbs and family (Hôtel de France); Thomas Syndall Winthrop; F. Youle (Hôtel de France); Miss Yorke (25, rue Bayard); Captain and Mrs. Walker and family (Hôtel de Londres); Mlle. Elisa Wilbroum (Hôtel de la Paix); Miss Walker (Hôtel Monpays); Mrs. Masterman Williams (21, rue Bayard); Mr., Mrs. and Miss Wilkinson (25, rue Bayard); Col. and Mrs. A. de Wickenberg (17, rue du Lycée); Miss Watson (30, rue des Cultivateurs); Mr. H. Wiles (Hôtel Gassion); Georges Warre; Col. and Mrs. Woods; Thomas Wilson (Hôtel de la Paix); Mrs. and Miss Wright (7, rue du Lycée); the Misses Walker (Hôtel Monpays); Col. and Mrs. Walker; Mr. and Mrs. Lindall-Winthrop; Mr. and Mrs. Van Wyck.

For the benefit of those golfers, ladies as well as gentlemen, who occasionally lay their clubs aside for other sport, and who have enjoyed the pleasures of the chase at this delightful health resort, we also subjoin an account in French of a recent run with the famous pack of hounds.

PAU FOX HOUNDS

Au "Drag" de samedi 22 Novembre qui avait été fixé à Morlâas—retour par Bordes—ont pris part : MM. col. Talbot Crosbie (M. F. H.), Somers-Cocks (Field Master), Lord Howth, Sir John Nugent, Hon. Chetwynd, W. Lawrance, Rogers, Knowles, Mellor, H. Hutton, comte J. de Madre, baron d'Este, comte d'Every, Sir V. Biooke, lieutenant de Tuite, Barron, W. Brooke, Potter, Thorn, Dr. Bagnell et Dymes.

Amazones : Miss Florence Garner, the Misses Hutton, Miss Potter et Miss Fane.

Beaucoup de monde au "meet." Le *Tantivy* conduit par M. Boreel, décidément à la mode, a dû refuser des places.

Le Drag a commencé sur la grande lande à droite de la route de Sedzère. Les chiens sont partis d'une vitesse telle que les cavaliers ont dû les suivre à fond de train pour ne pas les perdre de vue.

Joli parcours; beaucoup d'obstacles. Laissant Espechède à gauche, on arrive à la lisière de la lande d'Andoins où a lieu le "check."

Après quelques minutes d'arrêt les chiens sont repartis, toujours bon train, dans la direction de Soumoulou.

Le renard avait de bonnes jambes, à tel point que les chasseurs ont eu de la peine à se tenir sur la piste de la meute, même de loin; heureusement le piqueur et le "Whip" qui connaissent à fond le pays, ont pu les rejoindre dans le bois au-dessus de Soumoulou où a eu lieu l'hallali.

A citer M. le baron d'Este, qui montait son excellent sauteur *Friar Tuck*, remarquable surtout aux barrières fixes et sur les talus.

Mardi *Fox day* à Serres, retour Mourlâas. Un renard a été levé au bois de Serres, l'endroit favori de nos chasseurs. Malheureusement il s'est vite terré. La chance a été contraire, ce jour-là, car un second renard, levé entre Serres-Morlâas et Andoins a été aussi perdu après un joli "run" de quinze minutes, pendant lequel les chasseurs espéraient le pousser vers le beau pays d'Andoins. Le renard s'y est refusé et revenant sur ses pas s'est terré à Serres-Morlâas.

Jeudi "Drag meet" à Bordes, retour par Bordes.

Le frisquet assez vif n'a pas arrêté les intrépides chasseurs. Quelques-uns seulement sont retournés aussitôt à Soumoulou. Ont chassé : MM. Thorn, Barron, J. Barron, W. Lawrance, Sir John Nugent, Hon. Chetwynd, comte J. de Madre, baron d'Este, Paul Larregain.

Côté des dames : Miss F. Garner, the Misses Hutton, Miss Potter et Miss Fane.

Hier samedi le "Fox Hounds" a été on ne peut plus brillant, à juger du rendez-vous. La journée radieuse s'y prêtait admirablement. Le *Tantivy*, au complet, égayait les rues par ses brillantes sonneries. A l'heure de mettre sous presse nous n'avons pas encore de détails.

EARTH STOPPER.

Correspondence.

THE RULE AS TO PLAYERS WITH CADDIES.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—With exceptions too few to be material, all golfers talk "shop," always. It follows that they all talk at once and listen only now and then. Your Red Book, therefore, supplies a recognised want, and, with your permission, I will address a larger and less audible audience than I can get by private button-holing.

I wish to impeach the rule which obtains in some clubs that parties having caddies may pass players carrying their own clubs. This regulation can, of course, only apply to members of the same club if the links are public ground (*vide* "McGinty," *passim*). Any mistaken attempt to apply to a stranger may lead to ructions.

The object of the regulations is, I presume, to prevent delay; but it is not, I think, a fact that a man carrying his own clubs usually wastes more time over the stroke than one who consults a caddy over every lie. The former may lose his ball sooner and oftener, but then he can be passed under another and more appropriate rule. Again, some men, mindful of the maxim which they translate to mean "boys owe a great deal of reverence" (*Maxima debetur pueris reverentia*) to their employers, abuse their caddy instead of their own bad play. These get on far more comfortably as far as their opponent is concerned, and usually play a much better game without any caddy. Why should they be unequally yoked to an unwilling caddy by this levitical ordinance?

I do not know how far the custom of passing could be carried. Could I, for instance, if I drew the fourth place for a medal round and had no caddy, be required to stand aside after my first drive into the barn at Westward Ho! and let some twenty-five couples pass me? If so, and if the caddies choose to boycott me, or even if the supply of caddies runs short, and I fail to engage one in time, the regulation becomes a prohibition of play. Not to exaggerate, I will put it mildly that the rule or custom tends to make caddies a trifle more arrogant and exacting than they would otherwise, or need be. To prevent mistakes, let me say that I am not complaining of the Westward Ho! caddies. They may not all of them know much Golf, and an eminent golfer has been heard to complain that his caddy, though well paid, took no interest in his game; but, as a rule, they are decent intelligent boys, far and away nicer to deal with than some I have met North. I shall not easily forget the old soldier from whom I suffered at St. Andrews, or Mr. Coon, at Prestwick, who told me, on my second offence, which occurred by pure oversight towards the end of a long day, that he was not going to stand my leaving

him to pick up a club when he always handed the clubs to me civilly.

Again, there is a certain taint of snob in the rule, and it corresponds too well with the mistaken tendency to make links the rich man's preserve, instead of the common meeting ground of all classes. If my wife and sons and daughter and I are all to have caddies, that will come in our case to some seventeen-and-six, a trying addition to our daily expenses in holiday time, and I shall be the first to have to go without a caddy. If any feeble party presume on this to pass me, I fear I may drive into them, between the second shots and the putting-green; so I conclude my indictment, in "common form," by presenting that the rule in question is against the peace of our lady the Queen, her crown and dignity.

Q. E. D.

P.S.—My daughter says, why do you call your pars "Tea Shots" when they are mostly "short puts"?

THE LAYING OUT OF GOLF LINKS.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—I see in your last issue that a gentleman (by name Mr. Stevens) is anxious to get a little information regarding laying out a Golf links. I hope you will allow me space in your valuable golfing paper to answer his question as far as possible.

1. As to the length and breadth of links. If you have so many miles of ground you can put holes down at, say, from 100 to 550 yards, varying them accordingly. The breadth may be from 50 to 100 yards.

2. Regarding the probable cost of preparing it. If the putting-greens had to be laid out, it would require £5 for each green. Then, if the course had to be cleared of gorse bushes or whins it would likely cost about £200.

3. Regarding the third question, the best way to form a club would be to get as many of your friends together as possible, and form a club; then advertise that such a club has been instituted. As to subscription, the scale of club entry money runs from 2s. 6d. to £10.

4. There is no necessity to have trees on a Golf course; large sand pits dug in the course called bunkers or a whin or two serve as a hazard to all players.

5. With reference to this last inquiry, it would entirely depend upon what the rental of the ground was, and whether it was depriving the landlord or tenant of any pasturage which he may have let.

I may state in conclusion that if the putting-greens require to be laid with turf, this is the best time of year to lay them; but you can safely lay turf at any time of the year, provided the ground is moist so as to let the turf get a hold.

I am, Sir, &c.,

TOM MORRIS.

St. Andrews, N.B., Dec. 10th.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—Your correspondent "A," in reply to Mr. Stevens' inquiries, gives some useful advice as to the laying out of Golf links. There is, however, one most important point, namely, the probable cost, upon which, with your permission, I would offer a few remarks. Your correspondent suggests that the amount of money requisite for laying out a course would amount to four or five hundred pounds. Now, as this statement of cost might possibly deter some who purpose laying out Golf greens from embarking in such a venture, I would like to reassure those by saying that my experience as one who has laid out numerous greens does not bear out these figures. It is, of course, impossible, without inspecting it, to give a fair estimate of the cost of laying out any particular green, so much depends upon natural situation and state of the ground; but I may say that of the many links I have planned not one has cost in laying out anything like the sum named; many of them, indeed, have not cost a tenth part of it.

In laying out a links, it is of the first importance to consider the question of maintaining the ground in proper condition. To overlook this point may be to unnecessarily and seriously increase the up-keep of the green. Thus, of a choice of courses, it is sometimes advisable to select that which entails the largest

expenditure to lay out, since such outlay may be more than counterbalanced by the diminished cost of subsequently keeping the green in order.

I have said that in laying out a Golf links much depends upon the nature of the ground. For example, other conditions being the same, it is much more expensive to lay out a seaside links than one inland; because on account of the sandy soil of the former the course naturally suffers a great deal from wear and tear, and if the ground is also very undulating (which I need scarcely say, ought to be one of the features in a first-class links), the injury will be increased by the necessary use of the iron. Then again, on a seaside links there is almost always a number of bunkers to be faced up, and frequently rabbit-holes to be filled in; and this, of course, adds considerably to the expense of preparing a green for play. But even in laying out seaside links I am not aware of any, with one, or perhaps two exceptions, where the cost has amounted to anything like the figures quoted by your correspondent "A;" and it may be said generally that the initial cost of laying out a good links falls very far short of that sum.

I am, Sir, &c.,

Golf Club, Tooting Bec, S.W.

THOMAS DUNN.

QUESTIONS ON THE RULES.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—Your correspondent "Stickler" propounds some questions to which, with your permission, I propose shortly to reply. It is unfortunately true that the interpretation of Rule iv. par. 12, in the St. Andrew's Rules, is not altogether as plain as could be wished, and the difficulty is felt by not a few players, practised and otherwise. It comes in the main to this, that while those with a high sense of punctiliousness rule their conduct in accordance with what is probably the spirit, others, less gifted in this respect, are content to rule theirs by the "letter that killeth."

That this is now beginning to be felt is evidenced by the fact that a motion stands on the board to be brought forward at the next general meeting of the R. and A. Club, of which the following is a transcript: "That Rule iv., p. 12, be amended so as to read as follows: When a ball lies in a bunker, road, sand, or any other hazard, the club shall not touch the ground whilst addressing the ball, nor shall sand or any other obstacle be removed before striking at the ball."

It remains to be seen what encouragement this proposed alteration will meet with, but it certainly expresses with greater lucidity of diction what I conceive to be the real meaning of the rule. Mr. Horace Hutchinson has well pointed out that it is no small advantage to ground the club in a hard bunker or other such surface, for by the guiding sense of touch thus obtained a greater measure of accuracy is obtainable than when the stroke is made, so to speak, from mid-air; it is, therefore, clearly wrong that such advantage should be snatched from the fortuitous circumstance that the bunker happens to be for the time being perhaps of an unimpressible variety. To take "Stickler's" questions *seriatim*, I should reply that in 1, 2, and 3 the club should not be grounded.

5. Such spot, though owing to accidental circumstances partaking for the nonce of the nature of a hazard, is not one of the natural hazards of the green, that therefore the club can be grounded.

6. Ditto.

7. Certainly.

Question 2 has been noticed in the preliminary remarks I have made. With regard to 5 and 6, if there is much difference of opinion, I might suggest that a special bye-law be framed to suit the circumstances, in accordance with the ascertained opinions of the majority—my own I have given for what it is worth, on the facts as I apprehend them.

I am, Sir, &c.,

H. S. C. EVERARD.

St. Andrews, N.B., Dec. 9th.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—I am greatly obliged to your correspondents, "O. P. Q.," and "Korunephoros" for their replies to my letter, and to the former for his remarks concerning it. I am glad to see that

(except in one point to which I shall shortly refer) they agree in their interpretation of the rule, and to find that that interpretation is in accordance with our own.

It ill becomes an inquirer to be also a critic, but I think "Korunephoros" has made a slip of the pen when, in answer to my second question, he says that the "strict letter" of the rule must be observed. He surely means that a strict observance of the "spirit" is required. In fact, the correctness of two at least of his answers depends upon this being the view he really takes. The *letter* of the rule speaks only of an "impression." One cannot make an impression on a dry ditch of hard mud, or on hazards of many kinds, but "Korunephoros" (very rightly, I venture to think) lays down that one must not ground the club either in a dry ditch or in such hazards. Perhaps he will kindly say if I am right in this matter. His answer will increase the value of his already most helpful letter.

Nottingham, 15th December, 1890.

I am, Sir, &c.,
STICKLER.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—Your correspondents, "Stickler" and "O.P.Q." have drawn attention to what they consider a difference between the spirit and the letter of the rule against removing sand, or other obstacles, when addressing the ball in "hazard."

But it is perfectly evident to any one who has studied the game and the rules at all, that this rule was made with a view to prevent any one putting down his club among sand or other loose ground, and drawing it back in such a manner as to clear away some of the sand, and thus improve his chance of making a good stroke. The rule was evidently framed for soft ground, otherwise there would have been no need to use the word "impression." If the idea had been that the ground was not to be touched at all, it surely would have been much easier to say so than to word the rule as it now stands. Of course, as it is almost impossible to touch sand without making an impression, it came to be generally understood among golfers that sand must not be touched, and as the words "road, or any other hazard" happen to follow, the idea that a hard road could not be touched by the club gradually gained ground. The *letter* and the *spirit* of the rule are quite at one; it is the interpretation which is put upon it by men who think they know the rules thoroughly that raises any question at all on the point.

The sole object of the rule is to prevent any player improving the "lie" of his ball. No one would, for a moment, argue that the position of a ball lying on a hard road, or on rocks, would be improved by the mere resting of the club on the ground behind it. You will find many of the best golfers, and most of those whose hair would rise with horror at the bare idea of any one resting his club on the hard bottom of a dry ditch, putting down their irons without compunction on precisely the same kind of ground, provided they can but see a sufficient number of green blades to enable them to say that the ball "lies on grass."

I admit at once the difficulty of defining the occasions where the ground may or may not be touched, on account of the absence of any definition of a hazard. Once the ball leaves the tee, who is to decide whether it is in a hazard or not, and if in a hazard who is to say whether an impression has been made in playing it? The only way out of the difficulty seems to be, never to rest your club behind the ball *except at the tee shot*. You may be lying in a small cup, where a square inch of turf has been cut away by a previous player; you are to all intents and purposes in a hazard; and if you touch the ground while addressing the ball your opponent claims the hole! Those who maintain that the ground must not be touched at all when the ball lies in a hazard are surely not aware of the *reductio ad absurdum* to which their contention leads.

I merely write to point out that the spirit of this rule and the letter are *not* at variance as many seem to suppose, and I should be very glad indeed to hear that some understanding has been come to on this point, and a definite rule framed. I am afraid, however, that in the present state of things, players will be left to do as they please, and run the risk of a hot argument with some cantankerous opponent who eagerly seizes the chance of claiming a hole and securing the match.

London, 15th December, 1890.

I am, Sir, &c.,
HUGH LUGTON.

THE CARRY OF THE SPOON, BRASSIE, CLEEK AND IRON.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR.—In an answer to "An Earnest Inquirer," I should say that the carry of those clubs depends not so much on the character of the implement itself, but on the player behind it. Some first-rate golfers, both amateur and professional, hit as far with a brassie or a cleek as they do with a driver; but for all useful purposes it may be roughly stated that the carry of the spoon cleek, and brassie are 140 to 160 yards, and the iron 90 to 120 yards.

The brassie, except in the case of the *ancien regime* of golfers, has taken the place of long spoon and mid-spoon, while the cleek has usurped the place of short spoon, and the iron the place of the "baffy." The brassie and the iron are the two most useful clubs a golfer can carry. John Ball, Jun, the champion, plays off the tee with a brassie; and there are many other first-class players who have dispensed very nearly entirely with the driver. *Chacun à son golf*, as our neighbours say.

Yours faithfully,

Dec. 13th.

M.

LENGTH OF DRIVES.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—Your correspondent, "Sceptic," in last week's issue does well to be sceptical as to the carrying of the "Cardinal," going to the third hole, at Prestwick, from the tee. The driving of the bunker is just about as likely as getting on to the green in one. That is to say, it is practically a physical impossibility. Anyone who is acquainted with the ground will readily admit that. It is not that the side of the bunker opposite to the tee is over 200 yards from the tee, but that it is 8 or 10 feet higher than the tee. It follows, therefore, that the ball to carry the bunker must still have at least that amount of elevation more than when it left the tee, and presumably still considerable forward impetus—sufficient impetus to make it on level ground a clear carry of at least 250 yards. The "Cardinal" is not one of those bunkers out of which your ball has any chance of running if once it is there. It is, on the side opposite to the tee, close piled with vertical piles 6 feet high, at the bottom of which there is a moraine of sand, at least other 6 feet high. Of course, if the hole can be carried in a single drive, the bunker would not be considered a dangerous hazard, but it is to be observed that if it were attempted to drive the hole in one, the bunker would require to be taken at a point where it is still more distant from, and still higher than, the tee. But to carry the bunker at any point from the tee is so manifestly impossible, that it is needless making suppositions about it. Balls occasionally roll, and still more rarely drop, into the near side of the bunker; but even that seldom happens, and to drive the bunker would require impetus sufficient to carry the ball at least another 100 yards.

It is sufficient to demonstrate the absurdity of carrying the hole in one when it is said that there is only one authentic instance of carrying it in two. This feat was accomplished by Mr. J. H. Blackwell, St. Andrews. After crossing one part of the bunker, there is a smooth patch of turf on to which Mr. Blackwell drove from the tee, and off which he played with his mashie hole high. In its way a more notable feat was once accomplished by an officer of the 92nd Highlanders (hence probably the myth as to the sergeant of the 93rd Highlanders). Mr. Harry Hart, the secretary of Prestwick Club, to whom I am indebted for my information, is unable to recall his name, but there is no doubt that the officer in question on one occasion drove a ball from the tee into the sand at the foot of the piles in the "Cardinal." History does not say how the hole finished, but a drive of this magnitude deserved a better fate than it probably found. We may well take it, therefore, that the sergeant as well as his drive is a myth. To carry the "Cardinal" from the tee is about as impossible an attempt as is to be anywhere found.

While on the subject of long drives I may say that Douglas Rolland, admittedly one of the most powerful drivers that ever drove a ball, though he never attempted to carry the "Cardinal," once essayed to carry the next hole, the fourth, over the wall,

from the tee with a following wind. Had the drive been in line it would have been hole high; but it was not straight, and the ball went into the Pow burn which runs on the right nearly parallel with the line of drive. This was one of the longest balls ever driven on Prestwick links.

Yours faithfully,

Avr, Dec. 13th, 1890.

J. Mc B.

[It would be useful, for the purposes of comparison, to have the measured distance of the fourth hole, and the distance of the bunker from the tee, so as estimate the length of probable carry.—Ed.]

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—This is an interesting question, and affords some who may not have the opportunity of playing with the best golfers the means of comparing their skill in this respect with that of their more accomplished brethren. It seems to me, however, that your numerous correspondents are getting rather "mixed." Some, when speaking of the length of a drive, appear to refer to both "carry" and "run," while others clearly mean "carry" (which I understand to be the distance between the tee and the spot where the ball first touches earth) only. The "run" depends on so very many things (the place where the ball falls, the keenness of the ground, or its lie or levelness, for example), that I question if a fair comparison can be made between drives where both carry and run are included, except in such a similarity of circumstances as is not at all likely to exist.

If the result of our correspondence is to be of value, let us have particulars of the carry of drives only, and that on a calm day, and on level ground. If it can also be stated whether the drive was made with a "guttie" or a "putty" (the former of which, I believe, carries the farther), our information will be still more satisfactory and reliable.

Should our observations be directed to the above points only I am quite sure we shall find, as "Celt" and "An Old Golfer" point out, that a carry of 180 yards is very seldom compassed even by our longest drivers.

I am, Sir, &c.,

Nottingham, 15th December, 1890.

W.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—In reply to your correspondent's, "Sceptic," letter about the Prestwick drive, I can assure him it actually did take place, and that the brawny Hielandman shattered his braces to pieces in the performance.

Among the spectators who witnessed the stroke was a Yankee, who bet his bottom dollar he would out-do the feat, and teeing a ball on a large mound of sand he pulled out a compass from his pocket, and took the bearings of New York City. Then grasping the club he made a mighty swing, and away went the ball at a tremendous velocity, and in an incredibly short space of time it was lost to view. That night the Yankee took shipping to America, and ten days later cabled from New York: "Found ball driven from Prestwick Links in Fifth Avenue. Brained an old woman in its fall." This, I should think, is the longest drive on record. I should mention that there was a strong following wind.

Yours faithfully,

London, 15th December, 1890.

CREDO.

NOVELTIES! NOVELTIES!! NOVELTIES!!!

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—There is no charge of course for a simple letter of warning. I mean you would not wish me to pay as for an advertisement when I only want to tell you about my patents, so as to give Park, Forrester, Forgan and Co., time to wind up their club-making business before I cut them all out. My patent clubs then are (1) The Adjustable *En tout-cas*; and (2) the Vane Driver.

The shaft of the Adjustable might, if the idea was not entirely novel, be described as telescopic, whilst the jointed head can in a few minutes by an ingenious rack and-pinion movement be adapted to any lie and any required angle of loft or curve of bulge and of course to a right or left-handed stroke. The head of the Vane Driver works freely on a pivot, and is kept truly faced to the line of desired flight by a vane at the back, which in turn is kept in position by the air it cleaves in the stroke.

The Company bringing out this club is prepared to guarantee that no ball struck with it any distance over 180 yards will pitch more than 10 yards off the line.

I have some doubt about patenting my plan for keeping sand, &c., from getting down one's boots by using a kind of muffed, because the man who told me about it said he had seen it used out shooting, but I have hesitated no longer since I learn that a gentleman has patented a croquet mallet as a Golf club. So I have taken out a patent and assigned it, for valuable consideration, to my father-in-law, a most respectable hosier at —

[We really must draw the Editorial line here, and have omitted the concluding portion of this letter containing details of price, &c. The letter is signed "Business," and concludes with an offer of a sample "adjustable" for office use—(on the boy?)—and a founder's share in the Vain Thing Company, both of which we declined.—Ed.]

WORMS ON PUTTING-GREENS.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—In reply to one of your correspondents, I think I can tell him how to overcome the worm-cast difficulty.

Some years ago our tennis-ground was simply a play-ground for worms. You fell over the casts; your ball played all kinds of tricks, your adversary, of course, having all the luck, as usual, and we were almost in despair.

A friend—bless him—told us that if we procured some of Walker's S. P. charcoal, and dressed the lawn with it in the proportions given in the maker's leaflet which he sends to any inquirer, we might rest happy.

We followed his advice, and Master Worm incontinently departed to pastures new.

I have confidence in advising "Novice" to try the same experiment, and have little doubt as to its success, for I consider myself after, all the experience gone through, as somewhat of a specialist as to worms and their ways, although on the links (alas!) only

A DOUBLY DISTILLED DUFFER.

Manchester, December 13th, 1890.

FUN IN A FOG.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—Last Saturday I went down to Wimbledon to see some good matches played. At least, I expected to see such, but I was destined to disappointment. It is all very well to talk about "fun in a fog," but I doubt whether Golf in a fog be much fun. I always thought that snow was the only thing that actually stopped Golf, and, not hailing from a foggy country, I know little of the dense London fogs.

Last Saturday, however, opened my eyes, or I might more truthfully say did the reverse. Some of the Silver Iron Foursomes had to be played, and as it was the last day for the returns, *volens volens*, they had to be played, and I hoped to avail myself of the opportunity of seeing some good play. The greens were as hard as the proverbial brickbat, and so putting and iron play were rather doubtful. The actual play in the dense fog was rather more of a curiosity than a pleasure, both to the players and to the lookers on. To give some idea of the sort of sport that went on. The first hole to be played A. and C. drove off. Both apparently made a good drive, although, owing to the fog, it was quite impossible to see in which direction the balls went. However, A., or rather his caddy, soon found his ball, but C. and his caddy and mate, after looking for their ball for half-an-hour and not being able to find it, gave up the hole. For the second hole, B. and D. driving both fooled their drives, so there was not much difficulty in finding their balls. But A., B.'s partner, happening to make a long cleek shot, never found his ball, whereas D., making a short shot, soon discovered his, and so A. and B. not being able to find their ball gave up the hole.

I may as well mention that though they had a fore-caddy, he was of little use, as it was quite impossible either to see him or for him to see the players or the ball; the only news he could give was occasionally to say he thought he heard the ball fall, but whether on his right or on his left or where he could not tell. Such was the sort of game, and these were the kind of shouts that were heard: "Jacky, my boy, where are

you?" "Have you found your ball?" "Have you seen my caddy lately?" "In which direction is the hole?" "Have they found their ball, because we have found ours, and we can't really give them more than a quarter of an hour." Then in the remote distance one heard: "All right, got ours; where are you?" "How many have you played, and where the dickens are you?" and "Where's Jimmy got to, as he is the only man who has got any baccy, and I have smoked all mine looking for this ball."

Shouts of "Fore" were to be heard going on all round from other players, whom it was quite impossible to see, even had you had a double magnifying microscope. Although this sort of thing was the result, still a good few players managed to struggle round, but for all that I do not think that playing in a dense fog at Wimbledon can be called pleasure. But I was informed it was absolutely necessary for certain heats to be played off on that day.

I am, Sir, &c.,
A VISITOR.

OUR CHRISTMAS NUMBER.—A special Christmas number of GOLF will be published, containing a series of excellent golfing sketches, a golfing story, and much other matter interesting to golfers generally. Correspondents will greatly oblige by sending communications intended for publication in the Christmas number not later than Friday the 19th inst.

Competitions.

THE ROYAL EPPING FOREST GOLF CLUB.

On Tuesday, the 9th inst., the second monthly competition for the Kentish cup took place at Chingford. The weather was all that the most fastidious golfer could desire, and the greens were in very fair condition; but only a small muster of members showed up, owing, no doubt, to the shortness of the days at this time of year. The following are a few of the best scores handed in:—

Gross. Hcp. Net.		Gross. Hcp. Net.
S. R. Bastard ... 99 15 84	Capt. Molesworth,	
Dr. H. Hawkins ... 97 10 87	R.N. 110 14 96	
J. W. James ... 109 18 91	G. Thompson ... 111 12 99	
F. F. McKenzie ... 111 18 93	J. W. Greig 109 7 102	
L. S. McKenzie ... 109 14 95		

On Saturday last the postponed competitions for the Gordon challenge cup and the Captain's Prize, were played off amidst very wintry scenes, the whole green being one sheet of white hoar-frost. In the distance could be seen many people enjoying the skating on a splendid sheet of ice on the Connaught Waters. The putting-greens were in good condition, although as hard as steel. The morning was beautifully bright, and there was a very fair muster of members, although doubtless the thick fog in town deterred many from venturing out. The following are a few of the best scores handed in:—

Gross. Hcp. Net.		Gross. Hcp. Net.
Mr. S. R. Bastard... 93 15 78	Mr. W. Somerville 98 8 90	
Mr. C. A. Tewson 101 16 85	Mr. A. T. Redmayne 105 15 90	
Mr. J. W. Greig ... 95 7 88	Mr. J. S. Pearce ... 110 18 92	
Mr. C. A. Read ... 103 15 88	Mr. R. T. Glover... 119 27 92	
Mr. Alf. Kemp ... 104 16 88	Capt. Molesworth,	
Mr. F. McKenzie ... 106 18 88	R.N. 108 14 94	
Mr. Sydney Kemp... 105 16 89	Mr. W. J. Bowyer... 124 25 92	
Mr. C. C. Greig ... 96 6 90	Mr. Jas. Anderson 120 18 109	

WHITLEY CLUB.

The Joicey Cup competition took place on the 9th inst. at Whitley. This was the second contest for the cup, which is valued at 15 guineas. The players were favoured with excellent golfing weather, but there was only a limited number of competitors. The hon. sec., Mr. J. B. Radcliffe, playing from two behind scratch, secured premier honours, his score being 89, owes 2=91. Mr. R. T. Thomson was second with 95, owes 3=98. The remainder of the players made no returns. Mr. Thomson won the first competition for this trophy, but absolute possession will be gained by a majority of individual wins in a stated number of competitions. It is proposed to offer a special prize for competition on Christmas Day.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v. ROYAL EPPING FOREST.

In the report of the match between Cambridge University and Royal Epping Forest, it was stated that Mr. G. T. Warner beat Mr. J. R. Dunlop Hill.

Mr. Dunlop Hill played and halved a close match with Mr. H. P. Frean, while Mr. Warner played with and beat Mr. G. Thompson.

TOOTING-BEC GOLF CLUB.

The competition for the monthly medal took place on Saturday, the 13th. A thick hoar frost covered the ground, causing the common to assume a very wintry aspect indeed. From the artistic point of view, the close clumps of bushes and the gaunt, bare branches of the surrounding trees, delicately fretted in the whole of their outline with silvery frost, was a pleasing picture in the extreme; but from the narrow standpoint of the golfer it was simply execrable. The tees were as hard as iron, and the putting-greens were equally as hard, and so thick with frost that puts of a foot in length were by no means so easy, as many scoring cards testified later on. In addition to this material drawback a heavy fog, chilling to the marrow, covered the common in the early hours of the forenoon. Dunn did a roaring trade in the sale of red balls. Each tee shot was dispatched, as it were, into a kind of Cimmerian darkness, to be recovered, as one best could, by a series of gropings, fumbings, and grumblings. A little after mid-day the sun was able to make headway against the fog, and it cleared off about one o'clock, rendering the afternoon play by no means unpleasant. Those players who started for their medal round in the morning were thus seriously handicapped, while those who played in the afternoon had practically a clear green and better prospects of returning a low card. Scores:—

Gross. Hcp. Net.		Gross. Hcp. Net.
Mr. J. S. Robb ... 96 9 87	Mr. J. Bell 116 14 102	
Mr. A. J. Robertson 97 6 91	Lord Granby, M.P. 122 20 102	
Mr. J. P. Croal ... 97 5 92	Dr. Leggatt 112 10 102	
Major Lindsay ... 99 6 93	Mr. W. Jeans 120 16 104	
Mr. J. D. Matthew 112 14 98	Mr. C. D. Cumming 123 18 105	
Mr. T. Legh, M.P. 116 18 98	Mr. W. Neill... .. 118 12 110	
Mr. J. Verran ... 112 12 100	Mr. W. H. Warner 128 18 116	
Mr. A. Mackintosh 120 20 100	Mr. J. Lidia'd ... 141 24 117	

Many players made no returns.

LIMPSFIELD CHART GOLF CLUB.

The return match between four ladies of the above club and four ladies of the Ashdown Forest Golf Club, was played at Limpsfield on Friday, December 12th, when the Limpsfield ladies amply avenged their former defeat. Score as under:—

LIMPSFIELD.		ASHDOWN FOREST.	
	Holes.		Holes.
Mrs. Landale	3	Miss Lee	0
Mrs. Parsons	2	Miss Birch	0
Mrs. Smith	2	Miss Andrews	0
Miss Haldane-Stewart ...	0	Miss Moore	0
	7		0

PAU GOLF CLUB.

The first Practice Handicap of the season was played on Monday, the 1st inst., in cold weather, and was won by Mr. G. H. Goldney, who, considering the rather lumpy state of the ground, must be congratulated on his fine score of 87:—

Gross. Hcp. Net.		Gross. Hcp. Net.
Mr. G. H. Goldney 87 4 83	Mr. R. J. Boreel ... 116 3 113	
Capt. Walker ... 120 30 90	Hon. W. Chetwynd 152 25 127	
Mr. J. Mellor ... 97 4 93	Mr. J. M. Post ... No return.	
Mr. H. G. Ross ... 116 12 104		

PAU LADIES' GOLF CLUB.

On Thursday afternoon a good muster of the fair sex came under Mr. Ross' orders to play a handicap, which was won by Miss Bloomfield:—

Gross. Hcp. Net.		Gross. Hcp. Net.
Miss Bloomfield ... 89 17 72	Mrs. Jones 103 20 83	
Mrs. Knowles ... 93 20 73	Miss Ross... .. 99 14 85	
Miss Newall ... 82 7 75	Miss M. Newall ... 106 20 86	
Miss Kane ... 92 16 76	Mrs. Maud 103 16 87	
Lady Nugent ... 88 10 78	Miss Potter 112 20 92	
Miss Cunningham ... 99 20 79	Mrs. Walker 125 20 105	

ROYAL JERSEY GOLF CLUB.

The competition for the silver iron given by the captain of the club was concluded on Wednesday, December 3rd. The winners each receive a silver memento badge, and divide the sweepstakes with the runners-up. The figures in brackets denote the number of strokes received.

FIRST ROUND.—Mr. C. A. Teape and Mr. D. Turnbull, and Capt. Robin and Mr. O. Belk, byes; Mr. A. H. Lushington and Mr. T. Lattimer beat Mr. T. W. Barker and Rev. H. Yorke; Major Scott and Capt. Cavendish beat Dr. Hodder and Col. Stevenson (2); Col. McKenzie and Mr. A. L. Scott (1) beat Col. Mayne and Mr. F. P. Taylor; Mr. W. Field and Mr. A. C. Salmonson (2) beat Mr. H. Spencer and Capt. Burney; Capt. Fairlie and Capt. Prendergast, and Mr. R. Lattimer and Capt. Snow, byes.

SECOND ROUND.—Capt. Robin and Mr. O. Belk (1) beat Mr. C. A. Teape and Mr. D. Turnbull; Mr. A. H. Lushington and Mr. T. Lattimer (2) beat Major Scott and Capt. Cavendish, retired; Mr. W. Field and Mr. A. C. Salmonson (3) beat Col. McKenzie and Mr. A. L. Scott; Capt. Fairlie and Capt. Prendergast beat Mr. R. Lattimer and Capt. Snow (1).

THIRD ROUND.—Capt. Robin and Mr. O. Belk beat Mr. A. H. Lushington and Mr. T. Lattimer (1); Mr. W. Field and Mr. A. C. Salmonson (3) beat Capt. Fairlie and Capt. Prendergast.

FINAL ROUND.—Capt. Robin and Mr. O. Belk beat Mr. W. Field and Mr. A. C. Salmonson (6).

GUILDFORD GOLF CLUB.

Those who played for the monthly medal on Merrow Downs, on Saturday last, will not soon forget the day. Up to twelve o'clock the sun shone brightly, and made itself felt, although there were about twelve degrees of frost, and the course was thickly covered with hoar-frost, as was every bush and tree—a lovely sight to the admirer of Nature, but a decided drawback from a golfing point of view, though not so much so as at first appeared. The greens, having been rolled, though very hard and quite white, were not difficult. Red balls were necessary, and were very difficult to find, even at first, but when at noon the mist suddenly enveloped the whole course, and nothing was visible at fifty yards distance, the difficulties of the situation became real. By sending caddies forward and making judicious drives at their voices, it was possible to complete the round; and we believe all the caddies regained the club-house in safety. The result of this state of things was that only five scores were sent in out of thirty players, and under the circumstances the returns made were very good, and are as follows:—

Gross. Hcp. Net.		Gross. Hcp. Net.	
Mr. A. A. Cammell	94 6 88	Mr. J. A. Ross	97 2 95
Mr. J. Kenrick	96 6 90	Mr. H. H. Playford	101 6 95
Mr. C. E. Nesham	98 4 94		

Twenty-five players made no returns.

Mr. J. A. Ross became winner of Mr. Davenport's prize, for the best aggregate score made in Medal competitions during the year, Mr. Davenport being second, and Mr. Kenrick third.

Mr. Davenport has presented a prize for 1891, the conditions being that the best aggregate for seven medal rounds shall win it. This will bring the prize within the reach of many more players, and will doubtless lead to severe competition.

LONDON SCOTTISH GOLF CLUB.

The monthly meeting of the above club was held at Wimbledon, on Saturday, the 6th of December. About a dozen couples left the iron house during the day. Mr. D. S. Froy won the gold medal with the score of 88, less 7=81, and Mr. A. E. Walker was second with 91, less 2=89. There was no competitor for the Lumsden Gold Medal, which is competed for by members with handicap over 18—a healthy sign! The following are the scores returned:—

Gross. Hcp. Net.		Gross. Hcp. Net.	
D. S. Froy	88 7 81	R. H. Hedderwick	105 14 91
T. R. Pinkerton	85 scr. 85	O. B. Martyn	110 18 92
W. F. Brenford	100 12 88	S. S. Schulz	103 10 93
A. E. Walker	91 2 89	T. C. Hedderwick	114 18 96
A. Tait	102 12 90	John A. Greig	102 5 97
A. B. Chalmers	103 12 91	H. C. Archer	118 18 100

Some of the members did not finish the round owing to the sudden darkness coming on.

ROYAL BLACKHEATH GOLF CLUB.

Three competitions were decided on Thursday, the 11th inst., over the club's links. A hoar-frost covered the heath, which gave it a particularly wintry aspect, while a fog overhanging the ground caused it to be, at one time, doubtful whether any of the couples would start. The chief event was the Calcutta cup, established fifteen years ago, and played under handicap, with a limit of 21. The photographic gold medal (scratch) was struck in 1860, but since 1886 it had not been competed for until Thursday last. Postponed from the 2nd inst., the monthly medal was included in the events, the whole of which, as will be seen from the table, were won by Mr. J. G. Gibson. His score in such adverse weather was good (118). There was a numerous gathering of members of this "ancient" society at the club-house, where they afterwards held their customary dinner. Scores:—

Gross. Hcp. Net.		Gross. Hcp. Net.	
Mr. J. G. Gibson	118 + 1 119	Mr. W. Morris	153 15 138
Mr. H. H. Turner	130 8 122	Mr. C. M. Baker	156 18 138
Mr. F. S. Ireland	131 5 126	Mr. W. O. S. Pell	144 4 140
Mr. R. Whyte	130 3 127	Mr. W. J. Kentish	165 18 147
Mr. W. E. Hughes	134 6 128	Mr. W. C. Johnson	171 21 150
Mr. G. H. Ireland	129 scr. 129		

Seven others made no returns.

Mr. Gibson was the winner of the Calcutta cup, the photographic medal, and the club monthly medal.

PREVIOUS WINNERS OF CALCUTTA CUP.—1875, Mr. W. H. Richardson; 1876, Dr. W. L. Purves; 1877, Mr. F. Penn; 1878, Mr. T. Marsh; 1879, Mr. J. Penn; 1880, Mr. J. H. Nelson; 1881, Mr. W. Penn; 1882, Mr. A. Stewart; 1883, Messrs. D. G. Brown and E. M. Prothero, tied; 1884, Mr. E. M. Prothero; 1885, Mr. F. Stokes; 1886, Mr. R. Whyte; 1887, Mr. G. F. Sanders; 1888, Mr. F. Stokes; 1889, Mr. G. H. Ireland.

All the matches in the third heat of the foursome competition for the Captain's cups, were decided by Tuesday, the 9th inst., as follows:—Messrs. G. Humphreys and W. H. M. Christie, receiving thirteen strokes, beat Messrs. S. Clarke and H. H. Turner, by one hole; Messrs. C. W. Harrison and F. J. Walker, giving fifteen strokes, secured a somewhat easy victory over Messrs. W. G. Barnes and W. A. Adam; Messrs. F. S. Ireland and G. O. Jacob, receiving one stroke, beat Messrs. A. Schacht and G. Spurling; and Mr. G. H. Ireland and Capt. H. Gillon, giving three strokes, beat Messrs. E. F. S. Tylecote and W. O. S. Pell, by two holes.

STAPLEFORD (WILTS) GOLF CLUB.

The first annual competition (scratch) for a silver medal presented by Mr. D. J. K. Macdonald, and two handicap prizes given by the club, took place on Saturday last. The day was rather foggy, with a keen frost prevailing, and the ground being as hard as iron and covered with rime, made play a little difficult. The greens were lumpy in spite of the attention bestowed on them by the ground man, "Bill." The following are the scores:—

MEDAL.—Rev. F. W. Macdonald, 100; Mr. C. Sidgwick, 106; Mr. J. B. Bourne, 119; Mr. A. Havelock, 122; Mr. D. J. K. Macdonald, 127; Mr. J. R. Cassell, 135.

HANDICAP.

Gross. Hcp. Net.		Gross. Hcp. Net.	
Rev. F. W. Macdonald	100 scr. 100	Mr. J. R. Cassell	135 27 108
Mr. C. Sidgwick	106 4 102	Mr. J. B. Bourne	119 10 109
Mr. A. Havelock	122 19 103	Mr. D. J. K. Macdonald	127 15 112

Messrs. Elgee, Brodie, Baynham, Heyt, and others, made no returns. The competition for the secretary's prize is postponed for the present.

UNITED SERVICE GOLF CLUB.

The prizes, made up by deducting a small sum from the entrances paid in the monthly competitions throughout the year, were played for on Saturday, Dec. 13th, in a hard frost.

Only five of the monthly winners put in an appearance, four handed in the following cards:—

Gross. Hcp. Net.		Gross. Hcp. Net.	
*Col. Maitland, R.E.	104 20 84	Capt. Hamilton,	
†Lt. Morrison, R.A.	114 20 94	R.A.	130 27 103
Capt. Stevens	117 20 97	Lt. Poole, R.A.	No return.
	* First Prize.	† Second Prize.	

LOW SCORING AT TROON.

Some very remarkable play was witnessed among the professionals at Troon on Monday and Tuesday of last week. Willie Fernie, the Troon green-keeper, on these two days played a series of four matches against the best ball played by his brother, George Fernie, and D. Walker. Willie Fernie lost the first match by 4 up and 3 to play. But the most remarkable feature of the match was that George Fernie established a record of the green which had hitherto been his brother's—73. George went round in one stroke less, the details being:—

Out	...	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	5	4=38	} 72
In	...	5	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	4=34	

In the second round on Monday there was some fine play, but Fernie was again beaten. The senior player went round in 73, and his younger brother in 74.

Tuesday's play was of a still more remarkable character, Willie Fernie's rounds being one of the most remarkable exhibitions ever witnessed. The matches on Tuesday were the same as on the previous day, viz., Fernie's ball against the best ball of the two other players, and there was a large following of spectators. The first round resulted in a halved match, and the quality of the play may be understood when it is stated that Fernie equalled his brother's record of the previous day, with an average of four's for the round, as follows:—

Out	...	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4=36	} 72
In	...	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	4	4=36	

The second round on Tuesday afternoon witnessed the defeat of the partners and the victory of their opponent, the latter confirming his score of the forenoon. Fernie won the match by 5 up and 4 to play, and his round totalled up in exactly the same way going out and coming in as in the forenoon, viz.:—

Out	...	4	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	4=36	} 72
In	...	5	4	4	3	4	5	3	4	4=36	

The total for the day's play of Fernie was accordingly 144, perhaps the most notable record for thirty-six holes ever played in a match over a green of the character of Troon, which is within a few yards of three and a-quarter miles round.

Fernie had repeatedly gone round in 73, but never twice consecutively, and this figure was for a long time the record of the green. His double round in 72 is, therefore, all the more remarkable.

Saturday was fixed for the quarterly foursome competition for prizes, but as the ground was not in good playing condition the competition was postponed.

WEST HERTS GOLF CLUB.

The winter meeting, postponed from the 29th November last, was held on the club course at Bushey, on Saturday, the 13th inst. Owing to severe frost play was very difficult, but, considering the weather, the greens were in very good condition. The scratch score, by which Mr. R. S. Clouston won the club silver medal was a most creditable one, and the same must also be said of the other winning scores. Mr. Clouston also carried off the first handicap prize, and was the first for the monthly handicap medal. Mr. J. A. Simson and Mr. W. R. Carter tied for the second and third handicap prizes, which tie will be played off on Saturday next, the 20th inst.

	Gross.	Hcp.	Net.		Gross.	Hcp.	Net.
R. S. Clouston	90	10	80	J. Glover	96	6	90
J. A. Simson	99	14	85	T. Burrel Bewick	94	3	91
W. R. Carter	110	25	85	J. E. Ewer	117	26	91
B. M. Barton	101	14	87	K. Stuart	105	12	93
A. H. Wallace	98	10	88	H. J. Cottam	113	17	96
N. B. Kenealey	111	23	88	R. André	125	29	96
A. B. Chalmers	100	11	89	E. R. Harby	121	24	97
C. H. Cordeuse	109	20	89	H. Dunkley	123	25	98
H. H. Williams	107	18	89	J. Davis	127	25	102
L. Higginson	109	20	89	W. G. Barton	139	30	109

CUMBRAE CLUB.

The members of this club held their monthly competition for the M'Farlane gold medal on Saturday. The weather was suitable for golfing but the ground was not, and the scoring was consequently above the average. Mr. T. McFarlane turned out to be the winner of the medal with 109, less 12=97.

DUMBARTON CLUB.

There was a good turn out of members for the club silver medal handicap on Saturday, and the conditions were, on the whole, favourable. The medal was won by Mr. M. Lawson, with the score of 90, less 8=82. The best scores were:—

	Gross.	Hcp.	Net.		Gross.	Hcp.	Net.
M. Lawson	90	8	82	J. Allison	111	16	95
T. Hastie	95	8	87	A. McAuslan	112	12	100
A. Duff	102	12	90	— Kyle	114	12	102
A. D. Denny	106	14	92				

GLASGOW GOLF CLUB.

An interesting competition took place at Alexandra Park, Glasgow, on Saturday, when the finals for the monthly medals of the Glasgow club, in 1890, took place. The medals are: the club medal, the Wilson medal, and the Scott medal, each of which is competed for under a different handicap. The winners in each of twelve monthly competitions were entitled to play in the final on Saturday, so that there were the elements of good play. Unfortunately, the conditions were not favourable to good scoring, the ground being very hard and bumpy from frost. On that account the cards handed in showed scores much above the average for the monthly medals during the year. Under- noted are some of the results:—

CLUB MEDAL.

	Gross.	Hcp.	Net.		Gross.	Hcp.	Net.
A. W. Wilson	89	5	84	J. V. Scott	89	3	86
W. Doleman	86	0	86	F. G. Tulloch	87	0	87
W. Milne	86	0	86	R. Philp	89	2	87

WILSON MEDAL.—W. Mitchell, 91, less 5=86; A. W. Todd, 94, less 8=86.

SCOTT MEDAL.—M. L. Macaulay, 95, less 11=84; Jas. Raeside, 101, less 15=86.

WEST CORNWALL GOLF CLUB.

The report of this club has been sent to the members, with notice of the first annual meeting on Tuesday, January 6th.

The committee state that the first year of the existence of the club has been successful beyond any expectation. Commencing with fifteen members the year closes with one hundred and four names on the roll, and, instead of the large deficiency in funds prepared for, the treasurer will place a satisfactory balance-sheet before the members. The committee during the year ending November 30th, 1890, has prepared the ground, got the putting-greens in good order, built a club-room, and provided roller, grass-cutter, and other necessaries, including twenty-six club lockers, out of the year's income; and would suggest that more attention should now be paid to the state of the green between the holes; that, if possible, the attendance of a professional player should be procured in the spring, and that some medals or trophies should be provided to secure greater interest in the competitions. The thanks of the club are due to the president, Lord St. Levan, for the payment of a salary to a professional, whose visit, however, was unfortunately cut short. The committee is informed by the steward of the Trevethoe estate that orders will be given to proceed at once with the construction of a footpath direct from the station to the links, and that the lease of the Towans will shortly be ready for execution. For the committee, R. F. Tyacke, Hon. Sec.

CORNWALL COUNTY GOLF CLUB.

The December handicap competition was played on Tuesday, the 9th inst. The day, though somewhat chilly, was a good golfing day for the time of the year, although some of the usual players appeared to think it rather too cold to put in an appearance.

	1st round.	2nd round.	Gross.	Hcp.	Net.
Mr. Melvill Sandys	59	51	101	18	92
Mr. Young-Jamieson	57	54	111	18	93
Dr. Elliot (A. M. S.)	67	69	136	40	96
Mr. B. F. Edgvean	49	49	96	scr.	96
Mr. W. P. Matthews	84	71	155	30	125

GREAT YARMOUTH LADIES' GOLF CLUB.

The monthly competition took place on the 9th inst., Miss Fitzroy winning both medal and compass. Score:—

	Gross.	Hcp.	Net.		Gross.	Hcp.	Net.
Miss Fitzroy	68	7	61	Mrs. Turner	78	9	69
Miss Palmer	74	5	69	Miss Edith Palmer	78	7	71

Mrs. Bellamy and Miss Hamilton made no returns.

COUNTY (ANTRIM), GOLF CLUB.—LINKS, PORTRUSH.

The usual monthly competition for the silver challenge cup, took place on Saturday last. There was a strong muster of members for a winter meeting, but whether owing to the peculiarly bad light, or to the increased difficulty of some of the holes, there seemed to be an almost general break-down in the scoring, the great majority of competitors making no return, and four only getting below 100 net. The cup was won by Mr. W. H. Webb, one of the most promising "Colts" of the club. The following were the four best :—

Gross. Hep. Net.		Gross. Hep. Net.	
Mr. W. H. Webb ...	99 18 81	Mr. A. D. Gausson	110 18 92
Mr. A. Crichton ...	107 18 89	Mr. R. R. Gilroy ...	99 scr. 99

Many and great improvements have been made on the course during the last few weeks, under the skillful superintendence of Mr. T. Gilroy, Dr A. Roberts Law, and other old hands. A two days' meeting has been arranged for New Year's Day and day following, both competitions being open to all clubs, and a large muster of members and visitors is anticipated.

NAIRN.

The monthly Pullar medal was competed for at Nairn on Saturday, and was won by J. Sutherland with a score of 91, less 3=88.

FRASERBURGH.

The first monthly competition for the handicap gold medal came off on Saturday. The trophy was secured by Mr. Joss, with an excellent 78, being 39 for two rounds.

PERTH ARTISAN GOLF CLUB.

On Saturday the final round of the competition for the Lamond medal and prizes presented by the Messrs. Halley and Hay took place on the North Inch, Perth. Scores.—J. Gibson, 176, 14 below; D. Duff, 153, 9 below; J. Cobb, jun., 121, 6 below; J. Reid, 138, 3 below; D. Thomson, 145, 1 below; D. M'Laren, 128, average; P. Stewart, 112, 1 below; Wm. Anderson, 123, 1 above; J. Brough, 131, 2 above; J. Bruce, 133, average.

ROYAL ASCOT GOLF CLUB.

The competition for Mr. Haig's prize took place last Saturday with the following result. The weather was absolutely atrocious, and hard frost, accompanied by dense fog, will account for the small number of starters. The club committee are getting up a meeting for Friday and Saturday, January 23rd and 24th, and due notice will be given to members when the programme is arranged.

Gross. Hep. Net.		Gross. Hep. Net.	
H. Sawyer ...	102 15 87	C. Ponsonby ...	113 15 98
E. Ponsonby ...	110 21 89	R. L'Amey ...	113 14 99
F. J. Patton ...	97 2 95	A. R. Hamilton ...	114 14 100
L. B. Keyser ...	106 9 97		

No returns from H. H. Longman, E. H. Saulez, Col. Eden, H. Eden, H. A. Garry, H. F. de Paravicini.

THE BRAIDS GOLF CLUB.

The winter competition of this club was held over the Braids course on Saturday, with the following result, viz. :—

Gross Hep. Net.		Gross. Hep. Net	
*G. S. Ranken ...	101 22 79	— McKenzie ...	89 6 83
William Murray ...	90 10 80	†J. G. Smith... ..	113 29 84
E. Rhead ...	86 5 81	†A. Black	89 5 84
D. Robertson... ..	110 28 82	†J. Cranston	103 17 86

* Medal and first prize. † Tied.

EDINBURGH ST. ANDREWS GOLF CLUB.

The monthly medal of this club was competed for on the Braids on Saturday, and resulted in a tie between George White, James Knowles, John Pearson, and William Paterson, with the net score of 42. Only nine holes were played, and this arrangement will continue during the winter months.

ELECTRIC GOLF CLUB.

The monthly medal competition of this club took place on Friday, the 12th, over the Braids, at Edinburgh. Weather conditions were the reverse of favourable, a heavy fog obscuring the flags, unless at very close range, which made play in the long game a matter of much uncertainty. The greens were also very muddy and greasy. The winner of the medal was Mr. J. C. McCracken, with a score of 93, less 8=85.

LANCASTER GOLF CLUB.

The silver quaich, presented by the club for competition monthly until next autumn meeting, was played for on the links at Cockerham, on Wednesday, the 10th. The greens were in very good order, but the frost of the previous night and the slight thaw which had subsequently set in, had rendered putting somewhat uncertain.

The quaich was won by Mr. A. B. Scholfield with a net score of 93, Dr. Forbes Dick being second with 96, and Mr. W. Stewart third with 108.

EDINBURGH "CLEEK" GOLF CLUB.

The annual supper of the members and friends of this club was held in the Imperial Hotel, on Thursday night, the 11th instant, when about thirty were present. Mr. Macaulay, captain, in replying to the toast of the evening, which had been proposed by Mr. James Meldrum, Glasgow, said that the club was instituted in 1864 at Leith originally, and resuscitated in 1882, and that the membership was now 26. He also referred to the competitions of the year. Other toasts followed, and several songs were sung during the evening.

DUNBAR CASTLE GOLF CLUB.

The competition for the monthly medal took place on Wednesday, the 10th instant. There was a very small turn-out of members. The new bunkers formed on the course lent variety to the game, and several players made acquaintance with some of them. The medal was won by Mr. A. Horne with a score of 105, less 12=93; the next best being Mr. R. M. Rogers, scratch, 98; and Mr. W. Duncan, scratch, 104.

NORTH BERWICK.

Throughout the past week the links at North Berwick have presented a fairly animated appearance. Until Saturday, however, no match of more than average interest took place. The favourable golfing weather of Saturday induced a large number of visiting and resident admirers of the fascinating game to leave the teeing-ground during the forenoon and afternoon. A splendid friendly match was that between Davie Grant (professional) and George Sayers. Grant covered the round in the fine score of 75, whilst Sayers required only an additional stroke, his register of 76 being the result of good and consistent play. George Sayers, who is a brother of the well-known Ben, was formerly a professional golfer, but is now in the 6th Inniskilling Dragoons. Among the gentlemen who enjoyed a round of the links on Saturday were General Brewster, Sir G. Clark, Colonel Outhwaite, Major Isaacson, Mr. R. G. Suttie, and Mr. Williamson. Mr. J. W. Tod and Mr. Rutherford Clark engaged, in a friendly game, Mr. David Stevenson and Mr. Kinloch, whilst Messrs. W. G. Bloxson, J. Menzies, and B. H. Blyth were also round the green together. Lady Clark, Mrs. Suttie, and a few other ladies, have been pretty frequent visitors to the long course during the past week. Considering the period of the year the links here are in remarkably good order, and the green-keeper and his assistants are energetically engaged in carrying out the work of improvement and general preparation for the spring season.

DUNBAR CASTLE CLUB.

On Wednesday, the 10th inst., the members of this club competed for their allowance monthly medal. Very few players engaged in the contest. Mr. A. Horne proved the successful competitor with a net register of 93—105 less 2, Mr. R. M. Rogers securing second place with an actual return of 98.

FORFARSHIRE.

Notwithstanding the advanced season, golfers in this quarter continue to manifest a considerable amount of activity, and have taken full advantage of the open weather which for some time back we have been enjoying. Saturday was a busy day for this period of the year, and a number of competitions took place. At Monifieth, the Broughty Club competed for the Thistle medal and other prizes, and several ties were played off by members of the Monifieth Club. A good deal of interest was manifested in the foursome between Bob Simpson, of Carnoustie, partnered with George Wright, Monifieth, and Archie Simpson partnered with W. Young, Monifieth, the first-named couple managing to pull off the match.

Should the weather permit, the holiday week will see a large number of golfers out, and many of the clubs will have competitions. The members of the Montrose Mercantile Club held a special meeting this week when arrangements were made for a New Year's competition.

By the way, the Town Council of Montrose, persist in regarding Dr Stone as the "Golf-hole member," and he seems resolved to sustain the rôle. At a recent meeting of the Corporation the doctor took one of his fellow councillors to task in respect to some encroachment on a certain street, and wanted to know how the said councillor managed to square his position in regard to that important matter with the position he lately took up in connection with the small question of a Golf-hole? "That," interrupted the Provost, "was not a square matter at all; it was a round one." The joke is not a particularly brilliant one, but by the Montrose Town Council it was evidently considered a sudden inspiration of wit, for it was received with roars of laughter. Verily this "stolen Golf-hole" has much to account for.

A portion of the Golf course of Carnoustie has long been a happy hunting-ground for poachers, and their operations have grown to such proportions that it has been found necessary to take measures to suppress them. The Police Commissioners have taken action in the matter, and no one will regret the removal of the nuisance.

A very interesting double event in connection with the Monifieth Golf Club, came off on the evening of Friday last in the Royal Hotel, the occasion being the annual supper and a presentation to Mr. Andrew Walker, to celebrate his semi-jubilee as secretary. There was a full attendance of members of the club, while representatives were present from the Panmure and Broughty Clubs. Carnoustie was worthily represented by the Brothers Simpson, and the representative of GOLF in the county was present by special invitation. Captain Moir performed the duties of the chair with genial tact. Ample justice having been done to the excellent repast purveyed by Mr. S. Macdonald, a long toast list was entered upon. For the "Army and Navy and Reserve Forces" Mr. Macdonald responded. "The Panmure Club" was proposed by Mr. J. H. Dunlop, who in doing so alluded to the new arrangements which had been made for keeping the course in good order. Mr. P. D. Mitchell, in reply, acknowledged the assistance which the other clubs had rendered towards the new scheme. Mr. F. Fairweather in giving "Other Clubs," furnished some interesting statistics to show how the game of Golf had increased in popularity in the district, and Mr. Bisset in acknowledgment of the toast extolled the excellences of Monifieth Links. Mr. Frank Boyd proposed "The Monifieth Golf Club," and bore evidence to the respect in which its members were held by the golfing fraternity, and the toast was humorously responded to by Mr. Hutcheson; for the "Industries of Monifieth," given by Mr. Barrie, Mr. David Anderson, of the Grange, replied. Mr. Anderson also gave "The Strangers" in a brief but felicitous speech, and Mr. R. Simpson, of Carnoustie, replied. In giving "The Press," Mr. A. R. C. Patterson made happy reference to the circumstance of the game of Golf being now possessed of an organ devoted exclusively to its interests. Mr. Bowman, replied. Mr. Williamson, with characteristic humour, gave "The Host and Hostess," to which Mr. Macdonald acknowledged in a few fitting terms.

The feature of the evening, however, was the presentation ceremony. The testimonial to Mr. Walker took the form of an illuminated address and a purse of sovereigns. The address, in

well-chosen and appropriate terms, gave expression to the high estimation in which the recipient was held for the zealous and conscientious manner in which he had discharged the duties of secretary of the Monifieth Club for the long period of a quarter of a century. The gifts were handed over by Mr. Irvine Drimmie, who, in the course of a neat speech, asked what the Monifieth Club would be without Andrew Walker, and expressed the hope that their secretary would be induced to reconsider his determination to retire at this time. He also put forward the suggestion that should he elect to remain at the post at their request, his labours might be lessened by the appointment of an assistant-secretary. Mr. Walker acknowledged the gifts in a brief speech full of feeling, contending, amid cries of "no, no," that he was undeserving of such splendid marks of tribute. The address, which is enclosed in a massive gilt frame, is of a highly ornamental character, and most artistic in design.

The wealth of vocal talent within the resource of golfers, both amateur and professional, was well displayed on this occasion in the success which attended the attempts of Messrs. David Anderson, I. Drimmie, Archie Simpson, Bisset, Barrie, Hutcheson, Dunlop, and Christie, the fame of some of whom as golfers is by no means confined to the district. Altogether, the Monifieth Golf Club is to be congratulated on the success which attended their social meeting.

In favourable weather, and with the greens in splendid condition, the members of the Dalhousie Club held their monthly sweepstake competition at Carnoustie on Saturday, when a large number of players started. The prizes were won as follows:—1st, P. C. Scott, 88, less 10=78; 2nd and 3rd, tied for by D. McIntyre, 88, less 7=81, and A. C. Morgan, 93, less 12=81. Some excellent scores were registered, the following being the best:—C. E. Gilroy, 82; Robert Gilroy, 85; R. B. Sharp, 85; D. Scott, jun., 88; W. Anderson, 90; H. B. Gilroy, 91; J. L. Luke, 92; J. Sharp, jun., 93; S. C. Thomson, 93; Geo. Gilroy, jun., 94; R. L. Watson, 94; and G. A. Gilroy, 96.

In the competition for their Thistle medal at Monifieth, on Saturday afternoon, there was a very small turn-out of the members of the Broughty Club, though the game was played under exceptionally favourable conditions for the season. Frank A. Begg came in the winner of the medal with 83, which was the best scratch score. Alex. Bowman and J. H. Dunlop followed with 94 each.

LOCKERBIE CLUB.

The Annandale Golf Club held a competition on Saturday for several prizes, consisting of the silver medal presented to the club by Sir Robert Jardine, M.P., of Castlemilk, to be competed for under handicap annually, and prizes presented by Mr. J. J. Keswick, Dormont House. The conditions here as elsewhere in the West of Scotland were against low scoring, the ground being hard with frost. The medal was won by Mr. D. Stewart, with 84, + 9=93. Mr. J. Halliday won the first of the other prizes with 105, less 9=96; Mr. P. Malcolm the second with 118, less 18=100. Mr. J. McClure was third.

EAST OF FIFE CLUB.

The monthly competition for the silver medal of this club having finished in a tie on the previous Saturday, was played off on Saturday afternoon, when John Claucher, Pittenweem, won the same with a score of 93, less 5=88; William Smith, jun., having a scratch score of 96.

EDINBURGH TEACHERS' CLUB.

The monthly competition for gold charm and Kerr medal took place on Saturday at Musselburgh, when Mr. A. C. Tait was found to be the winner with a score of 110, less 24=86.

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