

GOOLF.

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

"Far and Sure."

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1891.

JANUARY.

- Jan. 31.—Seaford: Monthly Medal.
Prestwick St. Nicholas: Bailie Wilson's Medal.
Royal Liverpool: Winter Optional Subscription Prizes.
Royal Epping Forest: Gordon Challenge Cup; Captain's Prize.
Haydock Park: Legh Challenge Cup; Annual General Meeting and Dinner.
West Lancashire: Deferred New Year's Day Competition.
Dublin: Monthly Medal.
Royal Wimbledon: Monthly Medal.

FEBRUARY.

- Feb. 3.—Birkdale: Ladies' Prize.
Feb. 7.—Whitley: Wyndham Cup.
Birkdale: Mackenzie Cup.
Lanark: Quarterly Competition for Gold Ball and other Prizes.
Bowdon: First Monthly Medal Competition with Optional Sweepstakes.
Haydock Park: Captain's Cup.
Aberdeen: Burgmann Cup and Scratch Medal.
Brighton and Hove: Berens Medal.
Redhill and Reigate: Allen Medal.
Minchinhampton: Monthly Medal.
London Scottish: Monthly Medal.
Feb. 10.—Pau: Town of Pau Gold Medal and St. Andrew's Cross.
Whitley: Jockey Cup.
Royal Epping Forest: Kentish Cup.
Hayling Island Ladies Club: Monthly Competition for Bath Challenge Star.
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. 14.—Tooting Bec: Monthly Medal.
Littlestone: Monthly Medal.
West Herts: Monthly Medal.
Feb. 17.—Pau: May Jubilee Medal.

- Feb. 18.—Royal Epping Forest: Spurling-Kentish Gold Medal; Noakes Cup.
Feb. 21.—Whitley: Emmerson Prize.
Birkdale: Club Medal.
Prestwick St. Nicholas: Meikle and McLaren Prizes.
Disley: Fourth Winter Handicap.
Dublin: Monthly Medal (final).
Aberdeen: Pickop Cup.
Redhill and Reigate: Club Medal.
Dublin: Monthly Medal.
Nottingham: Monthly Medal.
Feb. 24.—Whitley: Jockey Cup.
Feb. 26.—Nottingham: Monthly Medal.
Feb. 28.—Birkdale: The Buckley Cup.
Seaford: Monthly Medal.
Royal Epping Forest: Gordon Challenge Cup; Captain's Prize.
Royal Liverpool: Winter Optional Subscription Prize.
Haydock Park: Legh Challenge Cup.

MARCH.

- Mar. 3.—Birkdale: Ladies' Prize.
Hayling Island Ladies Club: Monthly Competition for Bath Challenge Star.
Mar. 5.—Minchinhampton: Monthly Medal.
Mar. 7.—Birkdale: Mackenzie Cup.
Aberdeen: Burgmann Cup and Scratch Medal.
Bowdon: Second Monthly Medal.
Brighton and Hove: Berens Medal.
Royal Liverpool: Monthly Medal and Optional Subscription Prizes.
Redhill and Reigate: Allen Medal.
Luffness: President's Prize Clubs.
London Scottish: Monthly Medal.
Mar. 10.—Pau: Duke of Hamilton's Medal and Pendant; Macnab Challenge Cup and Badge.
Whitley: Jockey Cup.
Royal Epping Forest: Kentish Cup.
Mar. 12.—Pau: Havemeyer Cup.
Mar. 14.—Pau: Annual Meeting to elect Officers.
Whitley: Crawley Prize.
Lytham and St. Anne's: Captain's Cup Competition.
Tooting Bec: Monthly Medal.
Littlestone: Monthly Medal.
West Herts: Monthly Medal.
Southport: Monthly Medal.
Nottingham: Monthly Medal.
Mar. 18.—Royal Epping Forest: Spurling-Kentish Gold Medal; Noakes Cup.
Mar. 19.—Pau: Scratch Gold Medal—Ladies' Club.
Nottingham: Monthly Medal.
Mar. 21.—Disley: Fifth Winter Handicap.
Birkdale: Club Medal.
Whitley: Wyndham Cup.
Royal Epping Forest: Quarterly Medal.
Aberdeen: Pickop Cup.
Brighton and Hove: The De Worms Challenge Cup.
Dublin: Monthly Medal.
Redhill and Reigate: Club Medal.

ADVICE TO YOUNG GOLFERS.

II.

Last article left the amateur supplied with clubs. The next item for his consideration is that of the Golf ball, and this is a more important matter, and deserving of greater attention than is generally bestowed upon it even by good players.

There are practically only two kinds of balls—the "guttery" and the "putty," as they are commonly termed. Almost every manufacturer supplies both.

The "guttery" will be dealt with first. It is made of pure gutta-percha, and of it there are two main divisions—the ordinary black (or brown) and the red, these being the colours of the material. Most local club-makers sell their own make, either hand-hammered or machine-made. Hand-hammered balls have, within the last few years, given place to the machine-made. The labour involved in hammering with the hand is very great, and, moreover, the latter are believed by many players (the writer among the number) to retain their shape better.

The "putty" ball (or the Eclipse, as it is named) is composed principally of gutta-percha, but has an admixture of other substances in it. It is not generally made by local club-makers, but only by large manufacturers, each of whom has his own composition, which is understood to have been patented.

Admirers of the "putty" ball assert that it can be driven further, that its flight is not so liable to be affected by wind, and that it will bound out of or over hazards which would entrap a "guttery" ball. This last is certainly true, but it is to be doubted whether the two first advantages claimed are real. The majority of players agree that a "putty" ball is more difficult to putt with than a "guttery," and this, coupled with the fact that it is liable to break after some play, outweighs its qualifications. In fairness, however, it must be said that these balls do not hack, with bad play, so readily as guttery balls do.

Players are unhesitatingly recommended to use ordinary black "guttery" balls. Red "gutties" last longer, but they do not as a rule fly so well. "Silvertowns" are, perhaps, rather thrifless, as the paint is liable to chip off. It is difficult to get a ball that is both good and capable of standing much play. The "Edinburgh," "Thornton's Match," and the "A 1" will all, however, be found excellent and serviceable. They fly well, and if seasoned will last as long as any ball can reasonably be expected to do. For these reasons the above three balls are recommended.

To a beginner the question of what ball he should use is not of paramount importance, because he requires to learn in the first place how to hit his ball properly, and it is only after some practice that he will be able to do this, and consequently be able really to appreciate a good ball. He should, however, use a "guttery" (red will be the thriftest), as it has quite a different feel in play from the other.

There are two ways of testing "guttery" balls to try their quality. One is by dropping them upon a stone floor or pavement, and if good they should rebound well and have a hard firm click. As a general rule, the greater the rebound the better the ball. The other method is by putting them into water, in which case a good ball ought to float well.

The most useful size of ball is No. 27½.

At some periods of the year, especially in summer, good balls are not to be got for either love or money. This is owing to the demand, all the old stock being sold, and there being none but newly-made balls in the market.

The paint should be thoroughly dry and hard, and, in fact, to be really well seasoned, a ball should be kept from six to twelve months before it is used. If kept longer the gutta-percha seems to get too dry, and is apt to crack.

"Guttery" balls that are unfit for further play can be re-made. Any club-maker will do this for about one-third or one-fourth of the cost of a new ball. One re-making, however, is about all a ball will stand, as if re-made often it gets too small, and the paint, sand driven into it in bunker play, &c., get mixed with the substance of the ball, whereby it loses its elasticity.

Golfers will find it to be a good plan to carry two balls and use them alternately. At each hole the ball used last should be sponged to remove any dirt which may adhere, and the other,

ball put down to play the next hole with. By the time the next teeing-ground is reached the first ball will be dry and ready for use, and so on. This keeps the balls cleaner and makes them last longer than if the same one is played with hole after hole. A small sponge in a tight tin-box should form part of every golfer's equipment.

A waterproof bag for carrying the clubs in is also very useful. In wet weather it prevents the leather grip from becoming soaked, and protects the clubs. These bags are specially manufactured for the purpose, and are easily obtained.

Various kinds of scoring-books are sold for keeping a record of the number of strokes played. They are all inexpensive, and one should always be carried.

There is another article which may, perhaps, be mentioned, that is, the "dummy" caddy. It consists of a stout walking-stick with a spike at the lower end, and a projecting wire in the shape of a semicircle about six inches from the handle. The spike is thrust into the ground, and the clubs are placed so as to lean against the wire at the top of the stick. When the player does not employ a caddy the dummy saves him the necessity of stooping to lift his clubs up off the ground at each stroke, but this is its only advantage.

A well-known Scotch golfer has patented a tee for placing the ball on for the first strokes. It is made of indiarubber in the form of a triangle, with a small cup for the ball at the apex. The cup is about ¼ an inch in diameter, and ¼ of an inch in height. The tee is placed on the ground with the cup next the player. Its disadvantage, however, is that where the teeing-ground is lumpy, it is difficult to get it to lie flat.

Perhaps it may not be out of place to remark that it is indispensable that nothing should interfere with the free swing of a golfer's arms and shoulders. Nothing should be worn which will impede the muscles in the slightest degree. Boots should have spikes or "tackets" in the soles, so as to take a good hold of the turf and prevent slipping. This is of the utmost importance.

J. A.

(To be continued.)

CAN BOTH PLAYERS GIVE UP A HOLE?—The following circumstance occurred at Prestwick recently, and it is an instance of one of those contingencies that no rule has been devised to provide for:—Two well-known *habitués* of Prestwick links found themselves in that "hell o' a" bunkers, "The Cardinal." As may be known to those who have had the misfortune to drive a ball into this sand-pit, two players at different parts may be quite hidden from one another, and quite oblivious of each other's doings. This happened on the occasion in question. At last, after an indefinite number of strokes, one appeared on the top of the bunker at one end ball in hand, and announced to his partner who was making his appearance out of the bunker at the other end also ball in hand, that he had given up the hole. The last comer also announced that he had given up the hole. The question is, how was the hole disposed of?

DRIVING to one of the long holes at Felixstowe, Willie Fernie once drove a ball into a passing trap which was going along the road in the direction of the drive. The trap was opposite the putting-green before Fernie got up, and the driver threw the ball on to the putting-green.

THE Bill of the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway Company, proposing an extension of their system from Chesterfield to London, with a terminus at St. John's Wood, came before Mr. Thoms, one of the examiners on Standing Orders at the House of Commons the other day. The Bill, as laid out, passes in an open cutting through a portion of Lord's Cricket Ground, and the proposal has created a great deal of interest and opposition in cricket circles, as well as among the inhabitants of St. John's Wood. The Company is, under the Bill, to be empowered to raise additional capital to an extent not exceeding £5,000,000. At this stage of the proceedings no opposition was offered, and the usual proofs of compliance with the Standing Orders of Parliament having been tendered the Bill passed the examiner. Petitions against the Bill lie for signature at Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood Road, N.W., and 45, Parliament Street, S.W., and have been forwarded to the various county cricket clubs for signature.



A correspondent, signing himself "Athelred," sends the following communication entitled, "Odd shots, off the line; Upright club v. Flat lies."

"As you say, Sir, a Golf club is likely to prove a fine weapon at a political meeting. Your readers may remember a fine picture in the *Graphic* of Mr. Balfour golfing. *Truth* referred to its lesson as, (1st) coercion only makes the resistance greater; the harder he hits the less it flies. He founders it; it skids right, left, &c. A Conservative paper wants a picture of old Joyfulpebble 'axing' to supply Balfour with shafts.

"Besides political politics we require to have Golf politics recognised. There ought to be two recognised parties. Don't be frightened, Sir. We are strong, but we are merciful. We won't start another GOLF. There is no need. A house divided against itself is the very glory of the British constitution. Why not have a separate column for each party in GOLF? Even if a house divided cannot stand, GOLF'S withers are unwrung. It wants to advance, it does—it will advance. Of course golfing politics are a little behind the age. The burning question is the Union of England and Scotland. Let all the Whigs of 1704 rally round us. There is at least one of the old party left to lead us. One well-known morganatic golfer is a consistent Whig of 1704. What better leader? In his full vigour, yet commanding veneration, for to an age sufficient to prove him twin to any man's grandfather are since added the record rings of twenty summers, and of countless rounds of Golf.

"Morganatic golfer is, I believe, quite new, and if so is offered with the author's compliments to the readers of GOLF. Of course, it applies to those golfers who persist in addressing the ball from the wrong side.

"Of course the party issue is:—

Whether it is prudent for Golf to roam,
Codeless so far away from your home;
Will England respect your hashy old features,
Or smarten you up to the style of their own pretty creatures?

"Are we to aim at having rules for golfers, or rules against golfers?"

"You suggest a question. Is 'no dogs allowed' a rule of Golf? *Apropos* of a dog, I remember to have heard on an occasion at North Berwick the terms of a bet at Golf affected by a dog. On that links A said, 'I play for ANOΞ.' B said, 'And I bet my life (which is the same thing).' A said, 'What odds?' B said, 'I'll give you two strokes.' A said, 'Very well;' but looking up at the sound of a sharp 'wah!' and seeing a doggie arriving at the pace describable as 'one, two, three, and a kick,' he continued, 'but if that d—ear little dog is coming I must have four.'

"Note.—Two strokes were scarcely the fair allowance. But the *giver* never gives too much. There is such a person as the cheerful giver, but hilarity produced by 'give thrift' is unknown.

"Might it not be well to secure a dog for Golf? This dog was a golfing dog. There are many railway dogs.

"Between two dogs I may add a pocket story. There was an old man—Scott—who held up the flag at the last hole at Musselburgh. He had once been a rich builder. Both he and some of his houses had come down in the world. The precise spot on which he tumbled was the parish. His other occupations were getting alms and being deaf. A ball played from the tee (an iron shot) fell into his top-coat pocket as he stood at the hole. He was unaware of it, &c., &c.—all as usual in this style of story.

"We ask the editor to use his discretion as to adding that we ourselves played the shot. It may give it an air of falsity (although it is in reality the case) which sometimes illuminates the gloom which the words 'it is true' casts over a story.

"The other dog was also at the last hole at Musselburgh one day. It was one of those black retrievers with which everyone is familiar. It was, as usual, curly, cheerful-looking, well fed—apparently looking for its owner, as, apparently, quite indifferent as to finding him, and scarcely attempting to conceal the fact that he was, in reality, only keeping his eye on the police, well knowing that, if caught, euthanasia was already prepared for him. It seems as if a uniform edition of black retrievers was printed off occasionally like tracts; but we have never observed them being distributed. As the dog stood thinking, 'What's the next move?' a golfer holed a ball, which passed under him, he, for the moment, serving as a bridge. It was a long gobble. Abysmal indifference settled on the golfer's features. The black dog only seemed to think, 'Where shall I go to?' with increasing intensity. The face of a witness to the putt suddenly brightens (other people were around, but had not observed what was happening), and he calls out to the putting man, 'Smith, you fool, it's a real dog.' Smith, relaxing slowly, as does the Sleeping Beauty when kissed, 'The black dog, do you mean? A dog at Christmas! Jones, you blackguard, you'll be in d. t.'s if you don't look out. There's no dog at all, man!'"

WIFE.—"George what did you mean last night by standing up in bed and yelling like a wild Indian?"

GEORGE.—"What did I say?"

WIFE.—"You yelled 'Fluffer wins by a stroke.' Then you slapped me on the back, and tore up the pillow cases into small pieces. Explain yourself!"

GEORGE (who has secretly been to the Golf match).—"I was dreaming that I was at a Church bazaar and had won a necklace for you."

WIFE.—"Poor George! How much you must think of me."

The Newcastle Caledonian Curling Club held their annual ball in the Assembly Rooms, Newcastle, on Friday night the 16th inst, and it was attended by the Mayor and Sheriff of Newcastle and upwards of one hundred couples. The affair was a great success.

The tie between Messrs. J. Wilson and J. Park for the president's prize in the Newcastle Curling Club was played off, and resulted in the latter winning by one point.

A few months ago shortly before GOLF appeared, a well-known lady golfer inquired at a railway bookstall whether the new publication was ready, a paper called GOLF. "Gough," said the stall-keeper, "I have never heard of it. I suppose it is a temperance publication!" It is hardly necessary to add that this incident occurred in England.

One day when a number of gentlemen were playing on Musselburgh Links, an old well-known golfer, Mr. Sam Wilkieson, of Lenoxlove, when playing a shot happened to hit a young cow. On being hit the cow dropped at once, and lay apparently dead for half-an-hour.

Tom Dunn, the Tooting Bec professional, has just laid out a nine-hole course on the domain of Mr. Samuel Fisher, of The Grove, Tooting Bec Common. The course affords very good sport, the distance between each hole being in many cases two good shots. Although Mr. Fisher is a comparatively recent golfing recruit he is very assiduous in practice, and gives promise of speedily developing into a good player. He is president of the Streatham Cricket Club, and has done much to foster that sport in the neighbourhood, and to make Streatham one of the most formidable teams outside first-rate county cricket.

* * *

Whilst at a country railway station in North Lancashire, on Jan. 16th, a correspondent observed a number of rooks collected round a truck in a siding. One, perched on the top of the grease-box of a wheel, was busily engaged in devouring such portions of the grease as he could reach outside, whilst others were from time to time flapping up to the level of the lid of other boxes and down again, and were obviously endeavouring to force open the lids with their beaks. One of the porters informed him that when the spring of any lid happened to be at all weak, they speedily cleared out the contents of the box.

* * *

George Standing, who is attached to the staff of Prince's Club has challenged Peter Latham, the champion racket player since he won the title in 1887, the match to be for the championship and £100 aside, and to take place at the Prince's and Queen's Clubs—the choice of court for the first rubber to go to the winner of the toss. It is suggested that the match be played in May or June.

* * *

Professor Hamilton was one day walking near Aberdeen, when he met a well-known individual of weak intellect. "Pray," said the professor, accosting him, "how long can a person live without brains?" "I dinna ken," replied Jemmy—"how auld are ye yersel?"

* * *

Dr. Guthrie, in his earlier days, also had reason to acknowledge his countrymen's sharpness of tongue. His favourite man, John, occasionally got a little elevated in the course of his peregrinations on sessional business, and was, in consequence, rebuked by the Doctor. John excused himself on the plea that the country folk pressed him so heartily to take a dram. "But" replied the Doctor, severely, "I also visit my people, but nobody thinks of pressing me." "Ay, but," said John, "that's maybe because you are no sae respectit in the parish as I am."

* * *

A hardened-looking ruffian was being tried, and his counsel, in a voice husky with emotion, addressed the jury:—"Gentlemen," said he, "my client is a poor man. He was driven by hunger and want to take the small sum of money. All that he wanted was sufficient money to buy bread, for it is in evidence that he did not take the pocket-book containing £50 in notes and gold that was in the same drawer." The eloquent advocate was interrupted by the convulsive sobs of his client. "Why do you weep?" asked the judge of the doomed man. "Begor, I didn't see that pocket-book in the drawer."

* * *

Two gallant officers playing in advance of the Chief Secretary for Ireland, courteously beckoned on the right hon. gentleman and his adversary to pass them, which they did. Just when Mr. Balfour was abreast of the Colonel and the Major, he was suddenly surprised to hear the word of command ring out from the Colonel's caddie (a Lucknow veteran): "Attention; eyes, front; shoulder arms; present arms;" which they performed shoulder to shoulder, club in hand, in strict soldier-like manner. The right hon. gentleman, much amused, duly returned the compliment.

* * *

Mr. W. P'Anson, the well-known trainer, and an ardent curler, is responsible for the suggestion that a great curling bonspiel of England v. Scotland should be played on the splendid lake at Gosforth Park, Newcastle. He thinks that at least four hundred players would enter for the contest.

British husbands, when their dinner-parties turn out failures, are apt to grumble at their wives for the cook's misdemeanours, but they abstain from the practical style of rebuking practised by the Celestials. A Chinese professor once gave a national banquet to his fellow professors, and was much put out because the cookery was not to his taste. After a time he got up, bowed solemnly, said: "Go, lickee wife," and departed, returning presently, smiling as blandly as usual, after having administered judicious chastisement to his better half.

* * *

While we were waiting at a railway junction for the south express to come in, a lot of baggage had to be transferred. The manner in which it was handled excited the indignation of a score of passengers, but no one wanted a "scene," and no protests were made until the last trunk was reached. It was an ordinary zinc trunk, well strapped, and stout enough to go around the world with fair usage. The porter in the luggage-van ended it up, gave it a twist and a fling, and it struck on end with a crash and burst open.

The owner had been quietly surveying operations, and as the climax came he stepped forward and asked—"How much will it take to repair that trunk?"

"Damfino!" was the reply, followed by a chuckle.

"Then I'll post you in your business," quietly remarked the passenger.

He was a solid, broad-shouldered man, and with one grab he had the porter by the hip and shoulder and held him aloft as if he had been a bundle of hay.

"What's the damage?" he asked, as he prepared for a heave.

"Here—stop—hold on—don't!" shouted the terrified destroyer of baggage.

"What's the damage to my trunk?"

"Ten shillings, and I'll pay it!"

"Oh, you will? Very well."

His victim had scarcely reached his feet, when he fished up all the money he had in his pockets. His face was whiter than flour, and he trembled so that he had to sit down.

"Don't you forget that a passenger's trunk has all the rights of a passenger," said the man, as he turned away to light a cigar and walk up and down.

"Who is he?" I asked of the man on my left.

"Don't you know? Why, that's Hilton, the wrestler and trainer."

* * *

A deerstalker remarked to a sportsman, who, after a series of inexcusable misses, asked, "Well, Donald, whose fault was it that time?" "Well, quoth Donald, "he wasn't more than a hundred yards away, and it's not my fault you missed him; and it wasn't the fault of the stag, for he stood still enough; and it's not the fault of the rifle, for I ken well it's a right good one; sae I'll just leave it tae ye to think it over an' find out whose fault it was."

* * *

The following conversation seems to show that the word "putt" does not belong exclusively to the golfer's vocabulary. Colonel Boothby was playing the other day with Dow, the professional, at Montrose. As they approached the "Girdle," as the green of the ninth hole is called, they perceived that it was in possession of a formidable and savage-looking bull.

DOW (*log.*)—"Keep yer 'ee on thon bull, captain, he putts."

CAPTAIN (in vernacular).—"Maybe he'd lay me deid?"

DOW.—"Gin he lays ye deid it'll no be intil a Golf hole ye'll play the neist stroke."

* * *

GOLFBALL.—"Betting is on the increase. Did you ever back anything, McBulger?"

MCBULGER.—"Only once, Golfball."

"Did you win?"

"I lost £15. I backed a horse through a shop window!"

* * *

"Do you know of any young man who is tired of life and contemplates suicide?" asked the secretary of a well-known Golf club of our editor. "No; why?" was the reply. "Oh, nothing, I merely want someone to tell one of our members, who thinks himself a champion, that he is the worst player he has ever seen—that's all."

Eminent Golfers.

1.—MR. JOHN BALL, JUN.

The year 1890 will probably be memorable in the annals of Golf. For many long years before that the professional had had it all his own way in the annual competition for the Open Championship, and this despite the fact that amateurs were obviously improving their game, and were as a class distinctly in advance of former generations; they were thus diminishing the interval, and treading more closely on the heels of their whilom superiors than these worthies perhaps cared to admit.

Still, until the year in question, the latter held the supremacy, but the end was at hand, and it was demonstrated in the person of Mr. John Ball, jun., that the reigning dynasty was defunct, and that the intrusive amateur had at length caught up and passed his professional brother in the race for the blue riband. But there are amateurs and amateurs, and Mr. Ball, if we may so express ourselves, is one of the former. A favoured few, indeed, have run him hard at one time and another, and beaten him too, for no one is invincible in such a game as Golf; but if before the last championship a plebiscite had been taken as to who was the best player, we should have had little doubt of the result. Needless to say, he has followed the game from his youth up, having learnt it entirely at Hoylake—perhaps a professional competition held there in 1872, helped in some degree to develop on the right lines the great natural aptitude with which he is endowed. On that occasion all the leading talent was represented, including young Tommy Morris, Davie Strath, Bob Kirk, and Jamie Anderson; and while attentively watching the masters of the art, he no doubt imbibed some useful knowledge, for there is nothing more improving to the spectator, who has eyes to see, than a study of the methods of acknowledged leaders.

Mr. John Ball, jun., was born on Christmas Eve, 1862; his family have lived in the same parish literally for centuries; his grandfather was over eighty-four years of age when he died, and his father has been in his present quarters at the Royal Hotel for twenty-six years. He also, though beginning late in life, is a golfer of no mean eminence, and many a time has he made his mark on the home green; rarely can a player be found who exhibits in a greater degree the fine old English qualities of pluck and determination, which, the world over, are characteristic of the genuine Briton. He is justly proud of his son, than whom probably no more popular person is to be found in his neighbourhood. Apart from the natural feeling of

admiration one is apt to entertain for one who does something rather better than anybody else, the sterling qualities of "Johnnie" himself go far to endear him to his associates.

Probably none can be found who act up to the aphorism, "On their own merits modest men are dumb," with more conspicuously relentless determination; of this an amusingly characteristic example has recently occurred. Considering that a sketch of this famous player might appropriately be laid before our readers, and being anxious to derive any interesting information that might be available, so far as possible direct from the fountain-head, we duly suggested to our representative that he should wait upon Mr. Ball, and record in approved fashion the results of his "interview." The answer might

possibly have been foretold: "Tell the editor I can't think of anything that his readers would find interesting." This from the holder of the double championship, and hero of countless exploits on his own and other links.

Far from sacrificing everything to Golf, as a player of such calibre might perhaps be excused for doing, he is, so say his friends, often reluctantly and with difficulty persuaded to play, nor does he ever sacrifice his business on his farm (which by the way is very successful) for the sake of a match. Probably on this account he plays all the better, and on one occasion, some two years ago, he sowed *with his own hand* an eight-acre field of oats on the day previous to an important match; and so far was this from prejudicially affecting his game, that when he came to play he holed the round in 76. An early riser, he has been known to spend a morning on a hayrick working like a nigger (pretty hard work this is in sultry weather), appearing anon as fresh as paint for a big match in the afternoon. He is the very type of a wiry active athlete, and in all local races over hurdles, and on the flat,



at 100 and 120 yards, there are few in his neighbourhood who can come near him. An excellent skater is he also, and splendid shot, as the rabbits on Hoylake Golf course could testify; a capital rider, and, like his father, a good judge of a horse; in short a first-rate, all-round sportsman. Such, therefore, is Mr. Ball, a type of man his comrades delight to honour, and the reception he met with on his return from Prestwick as the newly garlanded champion will be long remembered by those present on that occasion.

While thus endeavouring to do justice to his versatility, it is to his aptitude in more specialised form that we should devote some attention. His successes at Golf are so numerous, that a detailed account of them would savour of *crambe repetita*, and perhaps weary by their very prolixity. On his home green on a medal day, what occasions surprise is the failure of this gentleman to carry off first honours, not his success. Since

his election as a member of the Hoylake Club he has won the medal some forty times, and with an extraordinary low average for all his rounds. His best winning medal score is 77, his worst 88, and as a general rule he is nearly certain to return a card of from 80 to 83. At Sandwich he has won the Grand Challenge Trophy, worth £400, each time since its institution in 1888, on every occasion beating his field by a comfortable margin. Prestwick, also, is a green which thoroughly suits him, and it is associated with two of his most important victories, viz., the Amateur Championship of 1888, when he defeated Mr. Laidlay, and the Open Championship of 1890. The last, of course, is the most remarkable feat he has yet performed, for, with the one exception of D. Rolland (an important exception, it must be admitted), the field included every known professional of the day. When we reflect that Andrew and Hugh Kirkaldy, Archie Simpson, W. Fernie, Willie Campbell, Sayers and W. Park, jun., were among the defeated, to say nothing of a host of players but little inferior, we have said all that is needful to indicate the character of his victory. An outstanding feature of these two rounds at Prestwick was the extraordinary steadiness of his play; the day was anything but favourable for good scoring, as a boisterous wind was blowing, but, in spite of this, each of his four half rounds showed 41, or a total of 164. Neither of his single rounds was the lowest of the day, as Andrew Kirkaldy and Wille Park, jun., had an 81 and 80 respectively, and Hugh Kirkaldy an 82, but fortunately for him one and all of these players met with obstructions at other periods of their journey sufficiently formidable to render his success assured in so far as they were concerned. His nearest competitors were Archie Simpson and W. Fernie, with 167 each.

In the spring of the same year he had won the amateur championship for the second time, beating Mr. Laidlay at Hoylake, with perhaps the finest play ever seen on that green; had the round been played out, he would in all probability have established a record. He thus avenged his defeat at St. Andrews in 1889, when Mr. Laidlay, after a halved match, wrested a hard won victory at the second hole. In almost every competition for the Amateur Championship, Mr. Ball has survived to the last, and, as we have said, has twice won it outright. One of the most noticeable features in his play is his imperturbable composure and power of concentration, which outside influences seem powerless to assail; in the words of a spectator at Prestwick, he would sooner die than ask anyone to remove his shadow from the line of his putts, or request a restless onlooker to stand still; a more considerate, a more generous opponent could not be met with, ever appreciative and ready to allow credit where due. His style of play is extremely taking; a very powerful driver, he stands with the ball nearer his right foot than the left, and grips so far round with the right hand that a wild draw would appear now and then inevitable, but since he has adopted the "bulger" his long game has become remarkably straight, and it is no uncommon thing to see a ball lying within a foot of the hole, and this player coming up to it from some 200 yards off, driver in hand. Perhaps of all his clubs his cleek is the strongest; his weakest point used to be his putting and holing out, but, and especially was this the case during 1890, he has now brought up this part of his game to a par with the rest, and in both his 1890 championship victories, in the course of which he used the wooden putter, his short game was, one may say, extraordinarily good.

His iron play is marvellously strong; for this doubtless, as for his great driving power, he has to thank what an admirer has termed his "heaven-sent" wrist. His lowest score in practice at Hoylake, is 74.

Out	4 4 4 4 7 3 3 3 5=37
Home	5 3 5 4 3 5 4 4 4=37

In which it will be observed that a 7 occurs at the Long Hole where 5 should generally be sufficient. At various times he has done every hole on that links in 3, except the 3rd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 13th, 14th, 18th, for all of which 2 is his record; on one occasion a half roll of the ball would have enabled him to include in this latter category the long 5th hole above mentioned. For the separate half rounds his lowest score is 35 each way; thus it seems far from improbable that he may complete the whole round some day in an average of 4 a hole.

Altogether Mr. John Ball junr.'s lot seems a happy one; the cares of life would probably leave but faint impress on such an equable temperament: happy in his domestic relations and home duties, he could say with Horace, "*Nec . . . Largiora flagito Satis beatus unicus Sabinis*," as contented as that philosopher, with the views of Mount Lucretius, and the simple joys of his Sabine farm.

REDHILL AND REIGATE GOLF CLUB.

The first dinner in connection with this club took place on Friday last, the 23rd inst., at the Hôtel Métropole, Northumberland Avenue. Sir Trevor Lawrence, M.P., the president of the club was in the chair, and was supported by upwards of sixty members and friends, including Mr. R. Whyte, captain of the Blackheath Golf Club, Mr. J. G. Gibson, vice-captain Yarmouth Club, Major Kingsley Foster, Messrs. Mayo, Fitze, English, Riddock, E. P. C. Hull and friend, F. P. Browne, A. Gray, McKent, P. Brown, Ingram, M. Merriman, S. C. Hooley (hon. treasurer), G. Allan, C. E. Evans, R. E. West, J. Temperley, D. D. Fenning, W. Bates Avery, R. Blundell, T. Gill, J. Kerr, C. H. Waterlow, Dr. Craigen, Dr. Jones, J. Leeman, W. R. Kersey, R. Treloar, W. F. Knight, A. Schacht, J. N. Maitland, S. Makovski, LL.D., Mr. Bullivant and friend, Mr. Leonard Horner, A. Slazenger, T. T. Perkins and friend, L. Fraser, F. Colsell, S. Carrick, R. Colsell, Annisson, Stevenson, H. S. Lester, T. Dillon Croker, Rogers, Gordon Baylis, H. Turner, F. C. Milford, asst. hon. sec., Hamilton Kenrick, J. E. Dixon (Athletic News Agency), Charles Hall, hon. sec., C. Alder, Rickett, and A. Lawson Hall. Dinner was served at 7 o'clock in the Whitehall Room. The usual toasts of the Queen and Royal Family, the Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces having been duly honoured, Major Kingsley Foster responding for the latter, and Mr. Schacht following with a song.

Mr. R. Whyte, captain of the Blackheath Club, proposed the toast of the evening, "Success to the Redhill and Reigate Golf Club." After mentioning the rapid growth of the club, which now numbers upwards of 160 members, and possessing as it does a very beautiful and enjoyable Golf course on Earlswood Common, with a comfortable club-house, and is likely to double its numbers very soon, Mr. Whyte referred to the marvellous strides which the game has made during the last year or two and the hold that it has evidently taken on the affections of the British nation.

The toast having been drunk enthusiastically, Mr. Leonard Horner presented in the name of the members a handsome clock to the honorary secretary, Mr. C. Hall, in token of the appreciation in which his services are held.

Mr. Hall, in responding for the toast and acknowledging the presentation, said that although he was credited with the honour of being the father of the club this was not strictly true, the real father (to use an Irishism) being a lady. Like some of his own family the club had outgrown him, and he was happy to announce that he had found an excellent coadjutor in Mr. Milford, who has undertaken a portion of the secretarial duties, now becoming somewhat heavy, and that Mr. S. C. Hooley had kindly relieved him of the treasurership. The club having not only outgrown him, but its club-house as well, it had been determined to add two large rooms to the present club-house.

Mr. T. Dillon Croker convulsed the party with his recitation, "The Seven Ages of Man," in which Mr. Croker's well-known imitations of popular actors fairly kept the table in a roar.

The toast of "the President," proposed by Mr. E. P. C. Hull in felicitous terms, and responded to by Sir Trevor Lawrence, elicited from the last-named gentleman the confession that he was not a golfer, and that Mr. Andrew Lang's "Ballade of the Royal Game of Golf," copies of which he (the president) begged to present to the members present, was practically unintelligible to him, because he did not understand the two languages in which it was written, viz., the Scotch language and the language of Golf. He was, however, delighted to assist so good an object as the pursuit of this undeniably healthful and apparently very fascinating game. He was connected with cricket clubs, tennis clubs, boating clubs, swimming clubs, athletic clubs, all good for the younger men; but Golf appeared to be played by men of all ages, and as their secretary had informed him in the diplomatic letters which first interested him in the

club, the greybeards could frequently prove themselves more than a match for the youngsters at this game, for which reason it was, he thought, the more to be commended and supported.

The aggregate prize for the best six medal scores made during the latter half of 1890 was presented to Mr. Schacht, whose score of 491 averaged just under 82 per round of 18 holes; Mr. Greensill Allen was second, with 498, and Mr. F. P. Browne third, with 501.

After a song by the hon. sec., in which the woes of a Golf widow were recited, Mr. F. C. Milford, assistant hon. sec., proposed "the Visitors," to which Mr. J. G. Gibson, vice-captain, Yarmouth Club, and holder of the record for Blackheath, responded.

A large number of dinner-matches, on the Blackheath plan, were made during the evening, the result of which will doubtless add materially to the treasurer's balance at the end of the year.

"THE PENDULUM" PUTTER.

This is the name of a new putter which has recently been introduced to the notice of golfers by Captain Hamilton, a member of the Royal Isle of Wight Golf Club. It is a peculiar looking implement, and is foreign to anything which golfers have hitherto seen associated with the name of putter. In truth, it is nothing more nor less than a croquet mallet modified to suit the exigencies of the game of Golf, which is played with a smaller and lighter ball than in the case of the once popular lawn sport. The head of the "Pendulum" putter is a block of teak wood, square at one end for putting on a fair level green, and sliced, or grassed at the other, for putting a hanging ball, or to retard the pace of the stroke on a sloping surface. The shaft is about the length of the ordinary iron or cleek handle, and is sunk in the centre of the block of wood forming the head, so that the weight is equally poised over the whole surface by which the blow is struck. There is no artificial weight of any kind introduced to make the head heavy, as in the case of the lead run into the wood of the ordinary putter; the whole of the weight proceeds from the large block of wood forming the head. In order to obtain the highest results from this implement we understand it to be the theory of the inventor that the player must stand close to his ball, with his right foot, in fact, almost touching it. The weight of the body is thus placed mainly on the right leg, and by standing near, or over, the ball the player is able, so to speak, to draw an exactly straight line with his eye from the hole to the ball, and thus secure the ultimate object of all good putting—accuracy.

Now, most golfers will probably agree that the putter is the most important club of their set, because more strokes are lost, as a general rule, within ten yards of the hole than in any other portion of the journey from tee to tee. It would be strange, therefore, if in view of the widespread interest taken in Golf, and in the confusion and multiplicity of styles resulting from its practice, there did not arise some players with ingenious and versatile heads to devise theories to simplify putting and clubs to carry them out in practice. Captain Hamilton is one of these; and the result is before us. We have recently had the opportunity of testing this putter; and it would be wrong on our part to hold out any hopes that he has devised something absolutely new or a club which is likely to revolutionise this intricate, delicate, and exasperating portion of the golfer's art. We followed his theory as to the true position to be assumed in addressing the ball; and it was found in that putting a ball ten or fifteen yards from the hole the ball certainly ran true in direction, but not more so than with the ordinary wooden putter. In attempting, however, to hole past a ball which lay a partial stimpie, it was found that the "Pendulum" putter propelled the ball so true as to canon against the other ball rather too violently to be altogether fair Golf, and that it was impossible to impart that slight semi-circular spin round the other ball just sufficient to evade collision and yet catch the outside edge of the iron rim, and so hole. Thus, we found that in approaching the hole from a distance the putter answered practically all requirements, but close to the hole it was too unwieldy to manipulate with that delicacy of touch and dexterity which are the important and indispensable counterparts of accuracy.

Another drawback to the use of the putter also was that it entailed on the putting-green a stiff, cramped, rigid position on the part of the player, while the blow had been struck more with the use of elbow power rather than the free use of the wrists. After using driver, brassie, cleek and iron all through the green, these clubs being modifications of the same pattern of head, and the striking attitude of the player being at some distance from the ball, it is certainly not a little cumbersome to reverse your style and position of play when you reach the putting-green, and are compelled to stand upright over your ball, as is entailed by the use of this putter. We are willing to admit, however, that this may be due to want of familiarity in the use of this kind of club; but on this head again it is just to remark that all the styles of our best players follow with no wide and noteworthy divergence the same model and the same attitudes both at the tee and on the putting-green. Another defect which we noticed in the use of the "Pendulum" putter was that the upright face of the club towered an inch or two above the ball when placed against it, thus preventing so clear a perception of the outline of the ball as could be obtained by the orthodox thin-faced wooden putter. This is an important point, and it might well be worthy the consideration of Captain Hamilton whether he could not see his way to reduce the bulk of wood in his club so as to obviate this drawback.

No doubt there are many players who find it difficult to use the wooden putter and to stand either a little way from their ball, or to stoop when holing out. Stooping often causes vertigo, a headache, and a confused vision at the next tee. This, then, is the club which players liable to be so afflicted should use; and if they find on trial that the "Pendulum" putter suits them in this respect, and also enables them to hole out more easily and more accurately, then as the end justifies the means they will be right in adopting what suits them best. Lady golfers have usually a difficulty in putting satisfactorily with the common form of club, and this new putter is a weapon which they might advantageously substitute, seeing that it places them quite near their ball, allows them to have a straight view of the line to the hole, and possibly enables them to assume a general air of more grace and ease while playing. We fear, however, that golfers who have modelled their style on the models of our best professional players will not be induced by the noteworthy success of one or two adherents of the "Pendulum" to forsake the model of club which the name of Hugh Philp has endeared to them.

AN endeavour is being made to purchase from Mr. Heaver, the owner of the Bedford Hill Estate at Balham, the six acres of land on which the belt of trees stand immediately adjoining Tooting Bec Common with a view to their being added to the common, and so save these fine old trees, which are of more than a century's growth, and are one of the most picturesque features of the neighbourhood, from being cut down, as they are otherwise doomed to be to make way for building. Mr. Heaver has consented to sell the six acres for £12,000, and it is believed that if half of this sum can be collected the London County Council, and perhaps other public bodies, will be inclined to make up the remainder. The Tooting Bec Golf Club have subscribed £10. 10s.

A SINGULAR accident happened the other day to a boy named John Weale at Bridgenorth. He was passing over a bridge which crosses the river Severn, when he inadvertently placed his tongue on the iron railings. The tongue adhered to the frozen railings so firmly that it was necessary to use a knife to cut part of his tongue and lips before he could be released. After he was released a quantity of flesh remained on the railings.

"PANDY" AND "HELL."

(Two famous bunkers, one on Musselburgh, and the other on St. Andrews.)

We're told by them in braid clath clad
To wish our enemies well;
But surely we may whiles be glad
To see our adversaries sad,
In "Pandy" or in "Hell."—ALPHA.

WHERE IS THE GOVERNMENT?

THE question is not a political, but it is a politic one, and worthy of consideration by all who wish well to the game of Golf. We hear every day about the rapid development of the game at home and abroad: it advances by leaps and bounds, or to speak more correctly by drives and putts. But, with the welcome news of its progress, it is a pity to hear so much din and strife about the laws and regulations of our popular pastime. In its triumphal march Golf is evidently destined to subdue the whole civilised world (and the rest of it), and to make of it all one vast links for the race to play over. The conquering hero will not, however, have to indulge in the lachrymal luxury of Alexander when victory is complete, for if the present confusion develops along with the progress of the game the problem to be solved will then be how to introduce law and order, and put down confusion and strife in the kingdoms thus subdued under Golf-rule. Golf, progressive and triumphant as it is, ought surely to be rescued by its votaries from its present unregulated state. There is at the present time in this world-subduing army, this kingdom or commonwealth—call it what we may—no head-quarters, no central authority as the seat of law and order, no responsible government. The fact is known to all golfers, and the columns of the *Field*, the *Scots Observer* and GOLF abundantly testify to the variety of opinion and action, not only on trifling points, which may be left to local greens to determine, but on vital principles of the game which ought to stand clear above all bye-laws, and distinct from all non-essentials. The very mention of some of these is enough, e.g., life or death to the stymy, and the penalty of the lost ball. If on such matters of thrilling consequence the trumpet gives an uncertain sound, despite the scientific advice of such an authority as "P. G. T.," and if on others of no less interest our leaders are to be continually at war, what can we expect but to have confusion worse confounded as the game advances?

"On one point," says Sir Walter Simpson, "all golfers are agreed—that uniformity of rule is desirable." It is right that they should be so. The motto, "Far and Sure," should apply to their laws as much as to their "swipes." They ought to follow the Kantian principle: "Act from a maxim at all times fit for universal law." The geography and the conditions of tenure of their links affect clubs so differently that a common code cannot be framed to include complete regulations for every green; but, as we have said, there is necessity for such a common code of laws and regulations as will include the essential principle of Golf, and put down the unseemly confusion and strife which now mar the pleasures of the play. We are not the first to deal with this question, we are aware that it has been discussed before now, and various suggestions made to remedy the evil. Our object in writing is to increase the discontent that prevails, and to help on discussion in the hope that some final measures may be taken to put matters right.

Up till recent times any semblance of a government in the kingdom of Golf was to be found in the kingdom of Fife; and there, of course, by the cell of good Saint Rule, where the Royal and Ancient Club of St. Andrews was the centre of light and leading to all who sought for guidance and advice. When the game had become popular in other countries, and the St. Andrews Rules were found to require some improvement so as to meet new difficulties arising out of new developments, St. Andrews was appealed to; and in 1881 Rules were there framed which many supposed would with such alterations as were needed from time to time be the common code of Golf. In the interval since then, and with the advance of the game in England, other clubs have arisen, and others codes have been framed with laws which were intended for universal acceptance. Wimbledon, Hoylake and Bembridge have all sought to improve on St. Andrews, but the result is only increased confusion. Mr. Purves, captain of the St. George's Club, in the "Annual," vol. II., actually goes further, and suggests that the framers of the Rules of St. Andrews in 1881 actually forsook the ancient tradition of the game on those points which have caused the loss of uniformity in play. If, however, any one club is to be chosen from among all clubs to frame a code of laws for general use among golfers, the antiquity of St. Andrews, the venerable associations that cluster around it as the chosen home of Golf, the traditions that lend a charm to the name of the Royal and Ancient, such as no other club can ever possess, all entitle it to consideration. It humbly appears to us, however, that the remedy for the present confusion is not to be found by appointing any Golf club, however venerable or however influential it be, to a premier position, and making it absolute ruler over others. Such a course is wrong in principle, and in a democratic age like this it will not be and ought not to be permitted. Golfers and Golf clubs cannot any more than ordinary citizens be expected to take their laws from a government self-elected and irresponsible. If there is to be submission there must be *representation*. No government that can be proposed deserves to succeed if this sacred principle is disregarded, and we cannot see that it is possible for St. Andrews or any other club to have all other clubs and golfers so represented in its deliberations and transactions as to command the assent of the whole golfing community to its code of laws, on the ground that these have been framed with the consent of all.

This brings us to the solution of the difficulty. We must have a great Central Association organised as soon as possible, and *on the basis of representation*, so that the voice of all the clubs and all the players shall be heard in its council, and its laws become the accepted code of government, necessarily binding on all because emanating from the united wisdom of a multitude of counsellors gathered from all—a government of golfers for golfers. We have, perhaps, gone far enough by stating what appears to us essential, if we are to have a strong and acceptable government of Golf in coming time. *Representation* is the

sine quâ non in the scheme. But at the risk of criticism, and indeed inviting it, we proceed to elaborate a little the plan which we have ventured to propose. To give this Central Association sufficient *wherewithal* to discharge its onerous functions, each club on being affiliated therewith would pay an entrance-fee (it would not require to be large), and an annual payment would also have to be made to feed the exchequer. In return for this, the clubs would have many advantages, their rules would be prepared for them, their disputes decided, the commanding influence of the central authority would be brought to bear on those who threatened to disturb the rights of the golfers on their greens; greens long lost might be recovered and restored to their rightful owners, and public opinion enlightened in many ways so as still further to facilitate the progress of Golf. Then, taking so many clubs each year, a distribution of medals might be made to be competed for (at scratch) among the members of each local club, the winners to be entitled to compete at the expense of their clubs in the amateur championship. Such a distinction would be worth living for. Again, one club might be drawn against another, and a medal given for competition. This would increase *esprit de corps* in clubs, and out of such awards there would come some capital matches between clubs. At present there are certainly too few of these. The Central Association would require to have an annual meeting so as to discuss and decide all important points affecting the game and the various clubs that might emerge during the year. This meeting might be held the day after the termination of the amateur championship, and where that happened to be held, the amateur champion to be chairman for the year. The whole of the direction of this championship competition would also be transferred to the Central Association. All business left over from the annual meeting might be remitted to the office-bearers and a committee of management, which the secretary would consult before admitting new clubs or giving counsels on questions that in the interval might be brought before him. The head-office of the Central Association (although many would from the Scottish connection of Golf declare for Edinburgh) might be in London. The present "Annual" would become the "Annual" of the Association, and GOLF would be its journal (weep not, gentle Editor, that thy occupation like Othello's would then be gone. Thou mightest receive promotion if thou in thy clemency shouldst allow this suggestion to reach the world, and move the same toward its adoption). These and other arrangements seem naturally to flow out of the primary idea, but they are simply submitted for consideration and criticism.

Is this scheme for a great central golfing government Utopian? No doubt some will say so. One thing we may say in its favour—it is framed very much on the lines on which the other Scottish national game, that of Curling, is governed. While recently engaged in writing the story of the origin and progress of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, we were struck with the analogies between the

experiences of curlers fifty years ago and the present experiences of golfers. The old Duddingston Curling Club did for Curling what St. Andrews has long done for Golf; its antiquity and prestige gave it respect, and it laid down laws which for a time were accepted without the authority gained by representation in the club's council. But the time came when confusion called for direct administration over curling laws by a properly constituted court. It was then that a central club was formed, and all clubs invited to become associated therewith. Guarded by this saving principle of representation the rules thus framed, and from time to time adjusted, are the universal rules of the game. The title of Royal was given to the Grand Club, and under its fostering care curling has made its way wherever Scotsmen and frost are found. It is such an Association which we wish to see formed in the interests of Golf, and while we see difficulties in the way, we see none that are insuperable. There are now 550 clubs affiliated with our Royal Curling Club, and some of these are found in Canada, United States, Russia, Norway, New Zealand, Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia. If Golf has more players it has fewer clubs, about 300, we think, is the number, and what curlers have done golfers may try to do. At any rate we make this claim for our proposal, that it is put forward with a sincere desire on our part to do what we can to further the prosperity of that noble pastime which has in it "the promise and the potency of the future," and this all the more certainly if uniformity is secured in its essential laws.

JOHN KERR.

HIT ME! OH, HIT ME!

(A Suggestion for the next Gilbert-Sullivan Opera.)

On a tee by a burn sat a little golf-ball,
 Crying, Hit me! Oh, hit me! Oh, hit me
 And I said to it, Little one, why do you call,
 Oh, hit me! Come, hit me! Oh, hit me?
 Is it pride of exalted position, I cried,
 Which makes so eagerly wish to be tried?
 With an impudent wink of his eye, he replied,
 Oh, hit me! Come, hit me! Oh, hit me!

I slapped at my chest, as I seized my old club,
 Crying, Hit you! I'll hit you! Yes, hit you!
 And I slashed at the ball, shouting, Insolent cub,
 I'll hit you! Yes, hit you! I'll hit you!
 Topped, dash it! One jump, then a second it gave,
 And ran on till it threw itself into the wave;
 And a mocking rejoinder arose from its grave,
 You hit me! You could not! No, not you!

I shall feel, now, if I hear a golf-ball again
 Crying, Hit me! Oh, hit me! Oh, hit me!
 It must know that it's hard, or it would not exclaim
 Oh, hit me! Come, hit me! Oh, hit me!
 And though it be difficult, I feel that I
 Shall venture to smite it, and wipe its young eye,
 Though I probably shall not exclaim, as I try,
 I'll hit you! Yes, hit you! I'll hit you!

ERIC.



A MOVED BALL—WHAT IS IT?

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—I have read J. P. C.'s article in last week's GOLF, which is an attack on the rules of the Royal Wimbledon Golf Club, and on English golfers generally, whom he characterises as "hair-splitting," and compares with Scotsmen "with more robust intelligence" who were able to settle long ago the conundrum—"What constitutes a moved ball?"

On attempting to discover where it is that he still hears frequent disputes on the point, I can only conclude that he means on Musselburgh or St. Andrews links, as he gives two cases, one of which occurred on Musselburgh green and the other, perhaps, St. Andrews—both disputes, therefore, on Scotch greens, among Scotch players; and although the circumstances appear to have been exactly similar, one of them was decided against the striker and the other in the striker's favour! Surely then it must have been after this date that the rule "was settled in Scotland for Scotch players," as evidently up to that time they seem to have been not quite clear as to the proper interpretation. The *obiter dictum* quoted, "If a ball moved it moved; and if it didn't move it didn't move," was a very sagacious one, worthy of a robust intelligence; but it throws no light on the question—What is a moved ball?

Again, J. P. C. only quotes a part of the St. Andrews rule in contrasting it with the Royal Wimbledon rule—a part which is really only a necessary explanatory note. Here are the rules:—

ROYAL AND ANCIENT GOLF CLUB.
If the player while addressing himself to the ball on any occasion, except at the tee, touch it so as to cause it to move, or if his hand, foot, or club, touch a bent, stick, or anything which causes it to move, or if the player's caddie move the ball, he loses a stroke.

A ball is considered to have moved if it leaves its original position in the least degree and stops in another; but if a player touches his ball so as to make it merely oscillate and not leave its original position it is not considered to have moved.

The necessity for the long note arises from the not happy use of the word "move," which may be construed "to shake," "to agitate," and does not necessarily mean "to displace," which means always "to put out of a place," and hence in one word exactly conveys the meaning which the note to the St. Andrews rule does at greater length.

To follow J. P. C., even through his last giddy paragraph—a fine example of hair-splitting—the proper place of the ball is not always the hole, but is first the tee, and afterwards wherever it may lie through the course, even in the depths of a bunker, if J. P. C. so directs it, and only lastly in the hole, when J. P. C.'s skill has accomplished the required task.

Yours faithfully,

HENRY A. LAMB,

Captain, Royal Wimbledon Golf Club.

January 20th, 1891.

ADVICE TO YOUNG PLAYERS.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—In the very interesting article which appeared last week on the above subject, I noticed with regret these words, "Spoons are now fast becoming obsolete, and are, in fact unnecessary." That spoons are becoming obsolete I am ready, with sorrow, to admit; that they are unnecessary is quite another question. The cleek, we are all aware, is gradually usurping the place of the long and mid-spoon, while the iron is made to do duty on nearly all occasions for the short spoon. But as one who still believes in the spoon, I am firmly persuaded it would be to the advantage of Golf generally if there were more playing with the spoon, and less with the cleek. Irons and cleeks are grand weapons when in the hands of young, powerful, and skilful players, but in the hands of beginners they are often worse than useless—they are positively injurious. If Golf goes on extending as it has done latterly, and beginners will insist on having their three iron clubs and one wooden one, very soon, even on our best greens, it will be difficult to find a good lie for a ball, notwithstanding the obvious duty of every golfer to replace or see replaced the turf he may have cut.

For my own part I never use an iron club unless I see I cannot use a wooden one. The wooden one for driving purposes requires much less power, and, speaking for myself, I find I am much surer with it than with the iron club. With the wooden club also there is less likelihood of seeing a pound of divot flying after your ball, thereby laying a trap for the players who are following. It is a common occurrence to see a player pressing to get home with a cleek, with the result that you see a lump of turf flying after the ball, which has only gone half way, whereas had he taken his spoon he would have reached home without any pressure whatever. Let it be distinctly understood that I look upon iron clubs as grand weapons when used by *skilful players* in their *proper places*; but it is neither to the advantage of the individual, and certainly it is not to the advantage of the greens, that young players should play almost round after round with nothing but iron clubs. Unless something is done to prevent this our greens will soon be cut up from one end to the other. Spoons, therefore, to my mind are more necessary than ever they were, seeing there is such an enormous increase of young players. Besides, to play with a wooden club, is, I have already said, much easier and often quite as effective; and most decidedly if you make a mistake you do not do anything like the amount of damage that you do with an iron.

Keep the irons and cleeks for hazards, short approaches, and putting, if you like (although I think our best putters have always used the wooden putter), but let the great bulk of your play *through* the green be done with wooden clubs. By so doing you will play, I am persuaded, quite as good if not a better game, and, what is more than all (my principal object in writing this letter), you will be doing something to keep your green in such a condition as makes any green a pleasure to play upon. I believe I am correct in saying that the evil of beginners playing so much with iron clubs and thereby injuring the course, has been recognised by one club at least in the east of Scotland to such an extent that they refuse now to have beginners as members of the club.

Yours, &c.,

ALEXANDER H. DOLEMAN.

Lytham and St. Anne's Golf Club.

THE DERIVATION OF THE WORD "STYMY."

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—I observe that in an article in your issue headed "Golf under Difficulties," the writer suggests that this word is a Scottish form of the expression, "stay me."

If reference is made to "Jamieson's Etymological Scottish Dictionary" it will be seen that the word is North Scottish, and is probably derived from "styme"—a glimpse—an indistinct view.

When the clear view of the hole is obstructed by another ball in the way, that ball may be very properly said to be "stymied" with regard to the sight of the hole.

Wimbledon.

I am, Sir, &c.,

W. G.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—In your issue of the 23rd inst, "H. M. B" has been good enough to give us the information that he has played Golf for a quarter of a century and in numerous places.

Although so old and experienced a golfer, "H. M. B." does not seem to know that springing a stymy with a wooden putter necessitates the ball lying in a cup.

The stymy has, of course, been much discussed. Nevertheless feel firmly convinced that most golfers (excepting those, of course, who do not wish its abolition for the sake of Auld Lang Syne) are coming round to the opinion that it should be abolished.

I am, Sir, &c.,

S. M.

THE SHORT HOLE AT ST. ANDREWS.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—In October, 1889, when golfing with Mr. F. W. Hollams, I took the short hole at St. Andrews, coming home, in one stroke.

The fluke was the more curious from the fact that, till that October, I had not had a club in my hand for more than thirty years.

It happened on my fifth day of play. Col. Mackinnon told me at the time that he had taken the short hole in one three times, and Mr. Everard that he had done the same thing no less than five times.

Faithfully yours,

R. N. FERGUSON.

THE LAYING OUT OF LINKS.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—On several occasions I have noticed correspondents in your paper, and elsewhere, ask advice as to the laying out of Golf courses, with the result of replies appearing in the following week's issue advising the consulting of well-known green-keepers.

To my mind this advice is not always the best, as it cannot be denied that a person who knows the nature of the country where the proposed course is situated—provided he is a golfer—is much more able to place the holes in sporting positions than any professional going over the ground for the first or second time. A very important matter in the laying out of greens is to know the character of the soil and the average rainfall. For instance, in the east of Scotland, at Montrose and Carnoustie, the rainfall is very much less than that of Prestwick or Hoylake. At the two former places mistakes have been made in raising the level of the putting-greens, instead of sinking them below the level of the surrounding ground, the result being that, with the hard dry east winds of spring and summer, the ground dries up quickly and the turf becomes broken and quite untrue as far as putting is concerned. Carnoustie has experienced this mistake, and has so far remedied it by keeping every new green on a low level, and so can now boast of as good greens as any in the east of Scotland, St. Andrews not excepted. Montrose has not had time or experience yet (I speak of the new greens) to feel the bad effects of artificially raised putting-greens, as the past two springs and summers have been comparatively wet. In the case of Montrose the mistake has been carried out to a ridiculous extent, as hardly a new green has been made but has been "cocked" up, even where surrounded by dry sandy soil. St. Andrews itself is not altogether free from the mistake noted above, although it has the excuse that all its putting-greens, except the last, are natural—not artificial; still the error of having elevated greens exists. Take, for instance, the sixth

hole green, which is really a disgrace to St. Andrews. Why not carry it twenty or thirty yards further into the hollow, and then what a magnificent damp true green there would be during the spring, summer and autumn; no doubt this would entail a little turfing, but what is this to the Royal and Ancient.

Inland greens do not feel the effect of dry weather so much as those situated on the coast, especially the east coast, where the burning up effects of the east wind are very much felt during the busy golfing season, the result being that till we have our September and October rains, many putting-greens are not worth playing on.

I am, Sir, &c.,

SCOT.

[We are inclined to think that the lessons of experience are against the opinion expressed by our correspondent in the first portion of his letter. Very many Golf clubs have begun on this principle, and have generally ended by calling in the aid of professional assistance, with its consequent expense and disorganisation of play caused by the reconstruction of the green. What is primarily wanted is the eye of the golfing strategist, the man who has played like Tom Morris, Tom Dunn, Willie Park, or any other first-rate golfer over nearly every green in the country and many on the Continent, and whose experience and knowledge dictate the character of hazards which should be selected according to the nature of the ground over which it is proposed to make the new course. There are numerous first-rate amateur players, as, for example, Dr. Purves who laid out Sandwich, who are equally capable of doing this work; but, as a general rule, they always have the assistance of a good professional as adviser and counsellor. In this, as in many other things, the best and most thorough way of going to work is found to be the cheapest and most satisfactory.—Ed.]

NOTTINGHAM GOLF CLUB.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—Was it in a fit of sardonic irony you published the proceedings that took place at the annual meeting of the Nottingham Golf Club? Anything so undignified or so unlike the spirit of Golf or the conduct of golfers I never read before. The un-called-for way in which Lord Winchelsea's name is blended with this bleating of Nottingham lambs is too ridiculous for serious consideration.

Anyone who has met Lord Winchelsea on the golfing links must admit that he is not only a good player and a most keen golfer, but also one of the pleasantest and liveliest entertainers at a golfing festive gathering.

The Hayling Island golfers, and those of the London Scottish who were present at the last spring meeting there have a very lively recollection of how much Lord Winchelsea's *bonhomie* as a partner in the Scotch reel, and brilliance and humour as a speaker at a golfing dinner, added to the unprecedented success of that meeting. All of us are anxiously looking forward to our next "merrie meeting," when Lord Winchelsea will bring off his proposed Golf match between the Lords and Commons.

I am, Sir, &c.

CUMMING MACDONA.

1, Garden Court, Temple,
January 23rd.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—In your issue of this date there appears a verbatim report of the annual meeting of this club, which I fancy was taken from the columns of the *The Nottingham Daily Express*. The report deals largely with the proposal to elect the Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham as president. This proposal met with considerable opposition (as your columns show), and was ultimately defeated, the chosen of the meeting being a gentleman, well-known to members, who attends the committee meetings, and plays on the links very much as other members do.

The committee of the club are of opinion that it should be known that the defeated candidate was proposed without his knowledge, and, as a matter of fact, the opposition to him was based not on personal grounds (no member, I believe, knowing him personally), but on an objection to have as president one who was probably unaware of the existence of the club, and as to whose willingness to join the club, to preside at

meetings, and to play on the links, no information was forthcoming.

The committee (by a majority of those present at their last meeting) instruct me to say, further, that they regret the publication of the debate, and, as the report published in your columns was not sent you as an official record of the proceedings of the club, they desire that that fact also should be impressed on your numerous readers.

Your obedient Servant,

WM. R. HAMILTON, Hon. Secretary.

4, Bridlesmith Gate, Nottingham,

January 24th, 1891.

A RECORD OF LOWEST SCORES AND INCIDENTS.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—If you think the following notes worth recording they are at your service. They are in the handwriting of a late well-known golfer on the fly leaf of "The Golfer's Manual" for 1857, given to me by him about twenty years ago.

Yours, &c.,

R. DASHWOOD FOWLER.

The Club House, St. Andrews, N.B.,

January 24th, 1891.

"GOLFING MEMORABILIA.

"1. The longest stroke ever driven was accomplished by Samuel Messieux, Esq., of the Royal and Ancient Club, who drove a tee'd ball from the Hole o' Cross green, coming in, right into the Hell bunker, a distance of about 380 yards. The wind and ground were favourable.

"2. Allan Robertson's longest ball was 250 yards, on 21st February, 1839. South wind and no frost.

"3. His finest round, which has never been equalled, was done in a match with Bethune of Blebo, 15th September, 1858; in 79; 40 out 39 in. 4 4 4 5 6 4 4 4—out; 4 3 5 6 4 5 5 4 3—in.

"4. Making a selected round of his best holes, he scores 56 out and in.

"5. The longest carry on record was by Captain Robert Patullo; the next by Mr. John Graham.

"6. In the summer of 1850, in a foursome, Messrs. Alexander Inglis and Charles Morrison holed the 4th (ginger-beer hole) going out in 2 strokes.

"7. Hugh Philp, the club-maker, once played in a match in which he lost every hole going out, and won every hole coming in—halving the match.

"8. In a foursome played 20th August, 1857, between Captain Dougal and Sir Thos. Moncrieff, against Major Boothby and Allan Robertson, the Heathery hole (5th) was halved in 3.

"9. In 1847, Mr. Thos. Arnot killed a lark with a ball. June. 14th, 1854, Major Cheine a swallow. July, 1854, John Grimmond a lark. June, 1855, Hon. F. Charteris (Lord Elcho) a lark.

MOULDS FOR GOLF BALLS.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—I wish to make some experiments with a new composition for golf-balls. Can you or any of your readers tell me where I can purchase a ball mould which will impress the dice or marks at the same time as it forms the ball? I have a strong screw press already.

I am, Sir, &c.,

January, 24th.

CLUTHA.

[If our correspondent will apply to a Golf club-maker, say Willie Park, McEwan, Forgan, Tom Morris, Tom Dunn, Fernie, he will probably be able to buy a second-hand mould. If they cannot sell him one, they can at least tell him where to go; but any local iron-moulder ought to be able to make one very readily.—ED.]

ILLUMINATED PRESENTATION ADDRESSES.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—I take the liberty of asking you whether you could oblige me with copies of illuminated addresses which have been presented to any golfer since your paper began. I have noticed two or three presentations in your paper, but my copies of the paper have been sent abroad. What I want is to see how these addresses are illuminated, and the phraseology of them. I suppose you have never received a photograph of any of them? Copies of the paper in which any of the addresses appear reported at length will oblige, and I shall send you a remittance for same.

The address applicable to the present case is "an address presented by the whole of the clubs playing on a certain links to a gentleman player who has upheld the green for a great many years, and done everything in his power to further the game." The gentleman is not leaving the district or retiring, but the address is to show that the clubs appreciate his doings. If you have been furnished with no copies of addresses, perhaps you would be kind enough to ask the secretary of any club outside this district to send a copy, as we wish to see how other clubs get them up. A reply as early as possible would oblige.

Yours faithfully,

69, Reform Street, Dundee,

January 24th, 1891.

Y. A. GAPPON.

[Perhaps some of our readers, who are secretaries of Golf clubs, could furnish our correspondent with a copy of such an address, stating how it is illuminated, and what kind of ornamentation, golfing in its character, is placed round the border. We have received no photograph of any address of this description; but any golfer with a turn for sketching ought to be able to do the work readily.—ED.]

THE AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—In your issue of this week I have just read a letter from Mr. M'Bain, who seems to think the golfers in the west of Scotland have been very badly treated, because the delegates decided at their last meeting that the amateur championship shall in future be played over only two greens, viz., St. Andrews and Hoylake. English golfers, who are a very numerous body—more numerous than their Scotch brethren, probably—had, in my estimation, a very good cause of complaint when the meeting took place on two Scotch and only one English green. Irish golfers will very soon desire the meeting to be held on one of their greens, and I am sure no reasonable golfer will then have any cause to grumble, and all three countries get equal justice done them. Dublin and Portrush can both boast of possessing beautiful Golf links, and Newcastle, co. Down, will probably soon equal, if not surpass, either of these. There is quite an army of golfers in Ireland now, and one is reminded of Scotland by the bundles of Golf clubs so frequently to be seen at railway stations, not only in the north, but all over the island.

One word with reference to Mr. Jean's article on Portrush in this week's issue of GOLF, viz., that since he was here the course has been very much altered, five new holes having been opened. The total length of the course is now nearly three miles. Mr. Jean says the last (18th) hole measures 280 yards, and that on one occasion (which I have referred to in a former letter) Herd, the professional, drove on to the green from the tenth tee. The exact measurement of this hole is 264 yards.

Yours faithfully,

CELT.

Portrush, co. Antrim, 24th January, 1891.

LONG DRIVES.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—The question of the longest drive does not appear to have been yet satisfactorily settled. Here is my contribution to the controversy, and if this drive can be beaten I should like

to see the man that can do it. I was not witness of it, but it was told to me by a person on whose word I can rely, as having actually taken place when he was young. I need not name the hero of the deed, who is now no more, on account of the excessive modesty of some of his surviving relatives, nor need I mention the green on which the feat took place, because that would give a clue to his identity. It is sufficient to say that he one day teed a ball, and hit it such a swinging blow that the ball instantly disappeared from sight. The striker walked serenely in the direction of his shot, but when he came up the ball could nowhere be seen, and the hole had to be at length given up on account of lost ball. The round was continued, and in due course the party arrived at the tee from which the lost ball had been driven, and you may judge of their surprise when about a dozen yards behind the tee they found the missing ball. The fact is that the ball had gone nearly right round the world, wanting only a dozen yards to complete the circuit. There could be no doubt as to its being the ball driven from the tee some three hours before. It had a big flattening on one side supposed to have been caused by the tremendous blow it received; and it had a considerable dent on the other side, the result of a ricochet off the North Pole.

I am, Sir, &c.,
J. M'B.

CAMBUCATORIS CARMEN.

To the Editor of GOLF.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—I humbly dedicate to you the metrical story of a day of my life on a Golf links.

Some bilious critics of my acquaintance consider a few of the words used unclassical. I can only say that if they are able to show me and the world that in the Augustan age a hansom was *not* called a "pulcher," or a bank (such as that in which I have the honour to serve at a *most* inadequate salary) a "rivum," or again a Golf-ball a "ballum," or a trifling explosion of temper a "cursum," I will thank them to produce their proofs.

Do you observe the word "foramen" in verse 10. My dictionary tells me it means nothing less than "a hole, natural or artificial."

See the importance of this. What clearer proof can you want that Golf was known to the ancient Romans.

I am, Sir, &c.,
"DUFFER."

I have called my little story,

DOGGICUM CARMEN.

I.
Tempus fuit, oh, Cestivum
"Pulcher" waited prope "Rivum,"
Et my Golfum res were in it,
Et non perdidit a minute.

II.
"Tardi sumus," dixi, eheu!
"Drive like "Nimshi-ensis Jehu,"
"Fac the antiquum screwum go
Similem Diabolo."

III.
"Quinque bobba si we save it,"
Muchum ille flagellavit,
Verbum using oft profanum,
Quare just prehensi trainum.

IV.
Lætus mox the club intravi,
Lætus mox my res mutavi,
Lætus mox, mehercle, I
Tee-um primum petii.

V.

Tunc et claviger caddæus
Aggerem construxit meus,
Posuitque tandem ballum,
Indicans a distant vallum.

VI.

Steti tunc, with vultus solemn,
Swung the clavam round my collam;
Immotum, beneath my blow,
Mansit ballum sabulo!

VII.

Edidi a tiny cursum;
"Go it, Billy, corda sursum"
(Smithius sic); caddæus sed
Avertit his blooming head.

VIII.

Sit that dies quite ignota,
Divis infernis devota;
Ter devota sit also
Smithii cachinnatio.

IX.

Of that day dimidium,
In bunkris moratus sum;
Robur exercitans effrenum,
With my os favillæ plenum.

X.

Hard I tried, fugerunt tamen,
Puttus, aditus foramen;
Bis toppatam sphæram vî
In genistâ perdidit.

XI.

Nescio quid made fozzles greater,
Cleekum, ferreum, propellator;
Sparsi, fodiens in the ground,
Largé divotes around.

XII.

Denique, too muchum passus,
Et caddæi risû lassus,
Hujus nincompoopi gross
Condemnavi oculos!

XIII.

Smithius roared a vile hee hawrum;
Smithii *bruti* atavorum;
Sedeant (precor) fœdatis
Asini in tumulis.

XIV.

Noctis umbræ down venere,
Urbem redii, oh, how weary;
No more golfum making votum
Ludere, si mihi notum.

REMARKABLE GOLFING INCIDENTS.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—Some years ago I was playing a foursome at North Berwick. I topped my drive for the 12th, or Pit Hole; the ball lay about 150 yards from the hole, and my partner approached with a full spoon shot, so well-directed that the good "globe" never rested till it reached the bottom of the hole. It is necessary to add that at that time the teeing-ground and the hole were on the same side of the wall.

More than twenty years ago, I was playing from the Nunnery Hole, Bruntsfield, when I saw a somewhat serious accident

occur just about the pathway that runs down the now historic Links. Two boys were playing in careless proximity; the back-swing of the bigger boy's club caught the smaller one on the face. I ran forward, on hearing screams, to find that his lip had been cut open up to the nostrils. He was at once removed to a surgeon's, where the cut was sewed up.

With regard to "long drives" I should be obliged if any reader could kindly inform me of the length, or the comparative length, of the Point Garry drive from the first tee at North Berwick, on those occasions when carrying the rocks is within the practical politics of Golf.

A few summers since I saw Mr. Blackwell, the famous driver, tee three balls, and succeed twice in carrying the cliff. It was also attempted twice and carried once by

Yours faithfully,
KORUNEPHOROS.

January 26th, 1891.

BALL IN RABBIT SCRAPE.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—I have read "Viator's" letter in your issue of 16th January, and also Mr. J. Atkinson's reply in your last issue.

I apprehend, however, that Mr. Atkinson's interpretation of the Rules is not quite accurate.

There are usually local rules in regard to lifting balls out of rabbit scrapes, and, as Mr. Atkinson says, these rules would govern "Viator's" case.

If there were no local rules then, according to general custom, the St. Andrews Rules would apply.

There is nothing in these latter rules about rabbit scrapes, and if the match was for holes then I concur with Mr. Atkinson that "Viator" would require to play the ball as it lay, under Rule XIII. par. 39.

If the play was by strokes, under Medal Rules, "Viator" could under Rule XIX. par. 56, last section, lift the ball and *tee it* (not *drop it* as Mr. Atkinson states) behind the hazard under the penalty of two strokes.

In either hole or stroke play under Rule V. par. 18, the ball if "stuck fast in wet ground or sand may be taken out and replaced loosely in the hole it has made," and played without penalty.

I am, Sir, &c.,

J. A.

Golfers may be interested to know that Mr. Horace Hutchinson has left England for America, to spend a holiday with his brother.



If that ball goes in I'll ——— !

(With the permission of Bowril, Limited, and Messrs. R. & R. Clark, Edinburgh.)



FRASERBURGH.

Our correspondent writes:—Owing to snowstorms and severe wintry weather no medal competitions have taken place here since immediately after the New Year, and in fact from the 2nd January play has been practically suspended on the links, much to the sorrow of golfers. On New Year's Day the competition, which has been duly observed here for generations back, though under somewhat altered conditions now, was carried out with much spirit and attracted a great many competitors. The prize list, it may be explained comprised roasts of beef, turkeys, fowls, cakes, and all sorts of eatables associated with the season's festivities, for which members competed with great good humour. Some very fine play was shown, and at least a dozen cards of great merit were handed in. The first prize was secured by Mr. J. Cranna, junr.; 2nd, Mr. Joss; 3rd, Mr. M. Ritchie; 4th, Mr. J. Milne; 5th, Mr. Wm. Noble; 6th, Mr. Geo. Stephen, &c., &c.

It may be interesting to note, for the information of modern golfers, that from the beginning of the century until about twenty-five years ago, Fraserburgh links were set apart on New Year's Day for the annual match between the representatives of the fishermen inhabiting the adjacent villages and the champions of the town, between whom, in the matter of Golf playing, there seemed to have existed a good deal of jealousy. The conditions were that those defeated should pay for the drinks that should afterwards be consumed at the favourite inn by both sides. At the time referred to, the whole stock-in-trade of a golfer consisted of a driving-club and a feather ball. The driver did duty from the tee, and acted the part of the cleeck, the lofter, and the putter—it being quite a common occurrence when the ball did not lie well, to see a player move the ball, either backwards or forwards, in order to place it in a position that would ensure a good stroke. It often happened at these competitions between the fishermen and the townsmen that heated disputes would arise between a couple of players, developing into blows and finishing in a general fight between both sides, when clubs were put to uses other than Golf, and when blood, if it did not exactly flow like water, was most copiously spilt. Things have changed now, and, though the fishermen from the villages cannot now approach the local players in skill, not a few of the younger generation can play an excellent all-round game.

Since last writing to GOLF an important grant or privilege has been given to the Fraserburgh Club, in the shape of a new or very great addition to the present course by Lord Saltoun, the superior of the town. A deputation of the club, consisting of Mr. Reiach, banker; Mr. Jas. Mitchell, fisherman; and Mr. Cranna, jun., harbour treasurer, waited upon his lordship, and having explained the nature of their visit, Lord Saltoun very generously expressed the pleasure it would afford him to grant the proposed new course to the club, free of all charge. The course thus given will extend for a length of fully two and a-half miles, comprising ground beautifully adapted for golfing purposes. It abounds with hazards of all descriptions, and will yield a variety to the game that cannot but delight the most half-hearted player. The turf is of that fine nature, peculiar to "benty" ground, and the greens will therefore be of a superior nature, and that with scarcely any expense. Lord Saltoun's gift is a real benefit to all golfers, and it would be well if land-lords all over the country would show their public spirit by following his good example!

NORTH BERWICK.

Fine weather has frequently favoured golfers here of late, and altogether during the past week an exceptionally large number of ladies and gentlemen enjoyed their favourite game. Several of the more interesting friendly matches are appended. On Tuesday of last week Captain N. M. Wylie and Mr. A. A. Wolff Murray played a single, the latter gentleman winning a good game by three holes. Playing on the same day with Mr. Wolff Murray, Ben Sayers had a splendid round. The professional covered the out-half of 10 holes in 38, and, requiring 33 for the home portion of 8 holes, he finished with the splendid total of 71. Although five strokes beyond his own record for the green, this is regarded as an excellent figure. The details are:—Out, 4 5 4 4 3 4 3 3 4 4=38. In, 5 4 3 3 3 5 6 4=33. Total, 71. Mr. Wolff Murray was in receipt of "half-one"; but owing to the strong play of his opponent he had to succumb by four holes. Mr. Adam Hogg and Mr. G. Nelson had an interesting game. The former early secured a decided advantage over his opponent, and led at one stage by as many as four holes; but Mr. Nelson subsequently exhibited really fine play, and eventually won by two. Sir John Hay and Mr. Clark engaged in a foursome, with Miss Florence Anderson and Sir G. Clark. Sir J. Hay was also round with Sir G. Clark in a single. On Wednesday a foursome was played, Sir G. Clark and Ben Sayers opposing Sir J. Hay and Mr. Wolff Murray, the former couple winning by four up and three to play. In the afternoon the same couples engaged in a short round of 11 holes, when the result was exactly reversed, the losers of the forenoon winning in this instance by four up and three to play. The professional and his partner gained the bye. On Thursday the links had a thin covering of snow; but a few of the more enthusiastic golfers ventured out with red balls. Mr. J. R. Whitecross, of the Tantallon Club, and Mr. A. Hogg, of the Bass Rock Club, were round in a single on Friday. A mixed foursome also took place, Lady Clark and Mr. Wolff Murray playing Miss Florence Anderson and Sir G. Clark. The former couple won by three holes.

On Saturday the professionals were out in force and a three-ball match took place, in which Ben Sayers, Davie Grant, and W. Thomson were engaged. Each of the players exhibited a good game, and in the out portion the play was pretty equal all over. Sayers, however, early secured the lead in the home half, and finished in 73—42 out with 31 in. Grant completed the round in 77, whilst Thomson required 79. The last-named is a promising young professional.

The members of the Bass Rock Club competed on Saturday over the North Berwick course for the monthly handicap badge. Owing to the prevalence of snow the contest had been postponed from the beginning of the month. A return of cards found Mr. John Forrest to be the winner of the trophy, with an actual score of 81. Mr. G. Nelson was second with 91, less 7=84, and Mr. J. Henderson secured third place with a net score of 85—87, less 2=85. Returns were also made by Messrs. A. Hogg, J. B. McLachlan, T. Horsburgh, A. Hutchinson, J. Mitchell, W. Merrilees, T. Greig, G. S. Milne, T. Johnstone, E. Bradbury, and J. B. Rattsay. By a re-arrangement of the handicaps, Mr. J. Forrest now plays at scratch instead of plus five as formerly, the next members in order of merit having an allowance of two from scratch.

INNERLEITHEN.

The course was playable on Saturday, the 24th inst., for the first time for over two months, and though it was not in good order, some fair scores were recorded. There was a good turnout of players to compete for the three trophies, viz.: the monthly Panton medal, the Robertson prize, played for four times a year, and the Ballantyne medal, recently presented by Mr. Henry Ballantyne, jun., captain of the club. The following are the best scores:—For the Robertson prize—Alexander Yellowlees, 93, less 14=79; William Lyon, 86, less 5=81. For the Panton medal—Alexander Yellowlees, 93, less 16=77; William Lyon, 86, less 7=79. For the Ballantyne medal—Alexander Yellowlees, 93, less 14=79; William Lyon, 86, less 5=81.

HAWICK.

The Bombay medal competition took place on Saturday. Mr. James Scott was first with 108, less 20=88; and Mr. G. P. Ross and Dr. Barrie tied for second place with 97, less 5=92,

CATHKIN BRAES CLUB.

The competition for the club gold medal took place on Saturday, 17th inst., on the ground at Cathkin Braes. The weather was auspicious, but putting was rather difficult from the frozen state of the ground. The competition is an annual one, and is the final of the twelve monthly competitions during 1890. Seven of the winners in these competitions competed, and on the completion of the round it was found that Mr. Robert Scott had become the absolute winner of the trophy. Undernoted are the scores:—

Gross. Hcp. Net.		Gross. Hcp. Net.	
R. Scott ...	94 10 84	W. C. Tait ...	106 8 98
C. E. Beckett ...	99 10 89	E. D. Jackson ...	108 10 98
D. S. Gillon ...	86 +4 90	T. Mitchell ...	106 scr. 106
G. K. Wylie ...	94 3 91		

WHITLEY CLUB.

The Crawley prize, value ten guineas, the gift of T. Crawley, Esq., Whitley, was competed for last Saturday over the Whitley course. The conditions for the contest are that the trophy be competed for four times, under handicap, and the four individual winners to be re-handicapped and play off for final possession of the prize. The first struggle for premier place fell to Mr. James Hedley, who, with handicap 8, had a net score of 90. The weather was unfavourable for a good exposition of the game. Scores:—Mr. J. Hedley, 98, less 8=90; Mr. G. F. Charlton, 103, less 3=100. The other competitors made no returns.

CLEVELAND CLUB.

The competition for the Cochrane cup for members of the Cleveland Club took place last Wednesday and Saturday afternoons over the links at Coatham. Fine weather favoured the opening day's sport, but on Saturday the elements were all against the players. Mr. C. E. Scott was declared the winner, his score being 89. Details of principal scores:—

Gross. Hcp. Net.		Gross. Hcp. Net.	
Mr. C. E. Scott ...	102 13 89	Mr. A. C. Tofts ...	106 7 99
Mr. S. Cradock ...	109 18 91	Mr. D. Crawford ...	127 18 109

ST. ANDREWS UNIVERSITY CLUB.

This club met on the links on Saturday, the 17th inst., and played their second sweepstakes competition. The day was unfavourable for good play. Several showers of snow fell during the progress of the game, and made the greens very heavy, consequently the scoring was above the average. Best scores:—

Gross. Hcp. Net.		Gross. Hcp. Net.	
Mr. P. C. Anderson ...	88 scr. 88	Mr. A. G. Abbie ...	103 9 94
Mr. J. T. Patterson ...	90 scr. 90	Mr. R. B. R. Mair ...	103 6 95
Mr. T. Carmichael ...	92 scr. 92	Mr. D. W. Hodge ...	96 scr. 96
Mr. J. Lang ...	98 4 94	Mr. J. Rose ...	110 14 96
Mr. W. Anderson ...	99 5 94		

GRAMPIAN GOLF CLUB.

The ties for the quarterly monthly medals were played for at Musselburgh on Saturday, with the following result:—Quarterly medal, Charles E. Huie; and the monthly by A. Rutherford.

"SCOTSMAN" CLUB.

Eight members played for the monthly medal on Wednesday, 21st inst., over the Braids course at Edinburgh. The hill was covered with snow, and red balls had to be used. Mr. A. Aitken won the medal with the score of 113, less 30=83, Mr. R. Irvine being second with 115, less 30=85.

SEATON CAREW GOLF CLUB.

The competition for the club cups took place in the exceedingly unfavourable weather which was prevalent on Saturday; thirteen members braved the elements and submitted to be wet through, by their fascination with the game.

Mr. O. K. Trechmann played a very good game, especially in the driving, and reaped a well deserved success. Scores:—

Gross. Hcp. Net.		Gross. Hcp. Net.	
Mr. O. K. Trechmann ...	81 11 70	Mr. A. Robinson ...	81 6 75
Mr. C. H. Backhouse ...	89 15 74	Mr. G. Newby ...	82 5 77
Mr. A. B. Crosby ...	81 7 74		

Messrs. P. A. Raps, R. E. Leach, S. Walker, E. W. Walker, H. Simpson, W. Putnam, jun., C. Cooper and C. J. Bunting made no returns.

THE ROYAL EPPING FOREST GOLF CLUB.

On Wednesday, the 21st inst., the monthly competitions for the Spurling Kentish gold medal and the Noakes cup were brought off. The weather was all that could possibly be wished for. All snow had disappeared, but the unmistakable bone in the ground made the putting anything but certain. The following are the best scores:—

Gross. Hcp. Net.		Gross. Hcp. Net.	
Mr. J. Walker, jun.	102 12 90	Mr. F. F. McKenzie	112 18 94
Mr. H. E. Fisher	103 12 91	Mr. A. Kemp	112 16 96
Mr. S. Kemp	108 16 92		

STINCHCOMBE HILL GOLF CLUB.

The first annual general meeting of the club took place on the 21st inst., and it was made the occasion for taking formal possession of the new club-house, a comfortable building of wood of the bungalow order, containing club-rooms for gentlemen and ladies, and a common hall, with stabling accommodation attached. The report of the committee showed that there are substantial balances in hand, both on the income and prize fund accounts, that twenty-eight members had joined the club during the past year, and that the play had been frequent and improving steadily. There had been two open meetings of two days each, and twelve monthly medal competitions, with a total entry of 307 players for the various events. The green could now be considered to offer a fair golfing course, and reflected credit on William Lewis, the green-keeper and professional. The president (Lord Fitzhardinge), the captain (Mr. Arthur Hoare), the committee, the hon. treasurer (Capt. Huntington), and the hon. sec. (Mr. H. Goldingham) were re-elected, with a special vote of thanks to the hon. sec. for his services during the past year.

The first monthly handicap of the new year was also played on this day. The frost was still in the ground, and putting was accordingly rendered difficult. Mr. A. Graham carried off the senior medal, the junior one going to Mr. Rolt, while Mrs. Lynch Blossie secured the ladies' medal by a single stroke. Scores:—

Gross. Hcp. Net.		Gross. Hcp. Net.	
Mr. A. Graham	103 22 81	Mr. J. Bengough	129 35 94
Mr. J. W. Rolt	117 30 87	Mr. G. Jenkinson	121 23 98
Mr. M. Graham	122 30 92	Mr. H. Goldingham	121 22 99
Mr. Kinnear	122 30 92	Mr. N. Kingscote	136 35 101
Mr. F. Peto	115 22 93	Rev. T. H. Philpott	127 22 105

Four other players made no returns.

Owing to the severity of the weather, but few ladies completed the whole round, the scores of first and second were, however, very creditable, viz.:—

Gross. Hcp. Net.		Gross. Hcp. Net.	
Mrs. Lynch Blossie	69 17 52	Miss Car. Graham	60 7 53

FORMBY GOLF CLUB.

The fourth of the winter monthly competitions took place on Saturday, the 24th inst., with the result that Mr. J. B. Hunter recorded a win, Mr. F. E. M. Dixon securing a win for the second monthly, for which he had tied with Mr. J. W. Fowler, and which the latter gentleman had previously been unable to play off. The day was wet and squally, and those playing in the afternoon had the best of the weather.

The annual general meeting was held in the club-house after the day's play, and passed off most successfully. The treasurer has a balance in hand after wiping off a heavy deficit. This was a pleasant surprise to everyone.

Mr. John Shepherd was elected captain for the ensuing year.

Gross. Hcp. Net.		Gross. Hcp. Net.	
Mr. F. E. M. Dixon	93 4 89	Mr. J. S. Beauford	105 6 99
Mr. J. B. Hunter	100 9 91	Mr. J. E. Dean	115 12 103
Mr. P. S. McCulloch	104 10 94	Mr. P. Brown	134 25 109
Mr. J. W. Fowler	97 1 96	Mr. J. K. Osgood	136 17 119
Mr. E. Hewer	103 6 97	H. H. Hosack	141 16 125
Mr. J. T. Fair	112 15 97		

Messrs. J. Ainsworth, J. R. Cox, J. C. Lowe, R. Rockliff and D. Webster made no returns.

DUBLIN GOLF CLUB.

The usual monthly competition for the club medal took place on Saturday, the 17th, the weather being very favourable. The medal was first played for in February, 1890, and, according to the conditions under which it is competed for, the winners of the last twelve competitions will play off against each other, and the winner of the twelve competitors will receive a miniature of

the medal, and have his name put on the original. This competition will take place on Saturday, the 31st inst. Mr. J. H. S. Russell was the winner on Saturday with a gross score of 102, less 23=79.

The following are the returns handed in:—

Gross. Hcp. Net.			Gross. Hcp. Net.		
Mr. J. H. S. Russell	(winner)	102 23 79	Mr. O'Connor Morris	106 20 86	
Mr. A. L. Figgis	103 23 80	Mr. J. Lumsden, jun.	95 7 88		
Mr. J. J. Shaw	110 30 80	Mr. J. W. P. White	104 15 89		
Mr. V. Kyrke	101 19 82	Mr. W. Keating	120 30 90		
Mr. George Greene	105 23 82	Mr. J. O. Wylie	118 25 93		
Mr. G. C. May	115 30 85	Mr. G. N. McMurdo	117 23 94		
		Mr. W. R. Joynt	127 30 97		

WILPSHIRE AND DISTRICT GOLF CLUB.

At an extraordinary meeting of the members of the club (sixteen being present), held in the club-room, on Saturday, the 17th inst., Mr. E. Appleby, the president, in the chair, the following resolutions were passed:—

(1.) Resolved that (provided the council can arrange for such an extension of links that will accommodate an increase of members), the members be increased to 75 playing and 25 honorary.

(2.) Resolved that this meeting authorises the council to call in a professional man to advise as to the position of the greens, and having obtained that advice, to place those greens in a satisfactory condition, and that the cost of this be defrayed by means of a levy made *pro rata* upon the members of the club.

(3.) Resolved that Rule 9 be suspended, and that in the meantime any gentleman nominated shall be allowed to play with a member until his name shall be either accepted or rejected.

THE ROYAL NORTH DEVON GOLF CLUB.

During the week, from Monday, January 12th, to Saturday, January 17th, a pool sweepstakes was held. The weather was charming; sometimes there was frost at night, but by day the sun shone brilliantly. The greens were in excellent order. The daily attendance of players averaged nearly thirty. Amongst the best cards returned were the following:—

Gross. Hcp. Net.		Gross. Hcp. Net.	
Mr. W. Fairbanks	93 14 79	Mr. H. Ingleby	104 16 88
Mr. A. H. Evans	106 27 79	Rev. E. C. Piggott	108 20 88
Mr. T. G. Heathcote	94 13 81	Mr. Luckman	117 27 90
Mr. F. Cooke	109 24 85	Mr. R. B. James	112 22 90
Rev. G. Willes	99 11 88	Mr. E. F. Chance	94 2 92

Messrs. Fairbanks and Evans divide the first and second prizes, Mr. Heathcote taking the third prize.

Besides those returns given above there were fifteen other cards from 85 to 92.

WORCESTERSHIRE GOLF CLUB.

Owing to deep snow on the usual day of the monthly meeting play was impossible, and the meeting had to be postponed until the 14th inst., when seven competitors only put in an appearance, three of whom made no return. In consequence of the recent thaw the course was in a curious condition, in some places quite soft and in others as hard as nails. The greens in particular were very difficult. Mr. F. Hookham, 114, less 25=89, won the monthly cup, the sweepstakes, and the junior medal. The Rev. H. M. Faber, 108, less 12=96, won the senior medal.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All communications to be addressed to "The Editor, GOLF, Copthall Avenue, London Wall, E.C." Cheques and Postal Orders to be crossed "GOLF & Co."

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