

GOLF.

A Weekly Record of "The Royal and Auncient" Game.
"Far and Sure."

[REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER.]

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1892.

JANUARY.

- Jan. 30.—Royal Epping Forest : Gordon Cup.
Seaford : Monthly Medal.
Warwickshire : Cup Competition.
West Cornwall : Monthly Medal.
Royal Wimbledon : Monthly Medal.

FEBRUARY.

- Feb. 2.—Whitley : Joicey Cup.
Birkdale : Club Ladies' Prize.
Carnarvonshire : Monthly Medal.
Cambridge University : Linskill Cup (Scratch), and Pirie Medal (Handicap); Extraordinary General Meeting, Lion Hotel, 8.30 p.m.
Royal Blackheath : Monthly Medal.
Feb. 4.—Tyneside : Bi-Monthly Handicap.
Feb. 5.—Royal Cornwall : Monthly Medal.
Feb. 6.—Royal Liverpool : Winter Optional Subscription Prizes.
Lundin : Half-yearly Meeting.
Manchester : Monthly Medal.
Birkdale : Monthly Medal.
Lytham and St. Anne's : Captain's Cup.
Redhill and Reigate : Club Medal.
Brighton and Hove : Berens Medal.
County Down : Wallace Cup.
Sutton Coldfield : Muntz Prize.
Richmond : Monthly Medal.
Lanark : The Gold Ball, and other Prizes.
Aldeburgh : Silver Medal
London Scottish : Monthly Medal.

St. Andrews, N.B. RUSACK'S HOTEL, THE MARINE (on the Links). The Golf Metropolis—Parties boarded. Special terms to Golfers and families. W. RUSACK, Proprietor and Manager. Telegrams:—Rusack, St. Andrews, N.B. Telephone No. 1101.

- Feb. 9.—Cambridge University : St. Andrew's Medal (Handicap).
Feb. 13.—Formby : Pearson Prize.
Guildford : Monthly Handicap.
Littlestone : Monthly Medal.
Sutton Coldfield : Medal Competition.
Dalhousie : Handicap Match (Fourth Round).
West Herts : Monthly Medal.
Cambridge University : Royal Epping Forest v. The Club, at Cambridge (18 a side)
Feb. 14.—Tooting : Monthly Medal.
Didsbury : Captain's Prize.
Feb. 15.—Pau : Town of Pau Golf Medal (Scratch); St. Andrews Cross (Open); Grand Open Tournament.
Feb. 16.—Whitley : Joicey Cup.
Feb. 17.—Royal Epping Forest : Spurling-Kentish Medal.
Pau : Town of Pau Gold Medal (Second Round); St. Andrews Cross (Second Round).
Feb. 18.—Tyneside : Bi-Monthly Handicap (Final).
Feb. 20.—Royal Epping Forest : Foursome Competition.
Lytham and St. Anne's : Bury Cup.
County Down : Railway Cup; Club Monthly Prize.
Disley : Winter Handicap Medal.
Sutton Coldfield : Lloyd Prize.
Feb. 22.—Pau : May Jubilee Medal (Handicap, Holes).
Feb. 23.—Royal Blackheath : Bombay Medal and Captain's Cup.
Feb. 26.—Cambridge University : Royal Blackheath v. The Club, at Cambridge (8 a side).
Feb. 27.—Royal Epping Forest : Gordon Cup.
Seaford : Monthly Medal.
Cambridge University : Great Yarmouth v. The Club, at Cambridge (18 a side).
Warwickshire : Cup Competition.
West Cornwall : Monthly Medal.
Royal Wimbledon : Monthly Medal.
Feb. 29.—Pau : Duke of Hamilton's Medal and Pendant (Scratch, Members Only); Macdab Challenge Cup and Badge (Handicap limited to 18 strokes).

MARCH.

- Mar. 1.—Whitley : Joicey Cup.
Carnarvonshire : Monthly Medal.
Mar. 2.—Cambridge University : St. Neots v. a Team of the Club, at Cambridge; Old Cantabs v. The Club.
Mar. 4.—Royal Cornwall : Monthly Medal.
Cambridge University : Royal Blackheath v. The Club, at Blackheath.
Mar. 5.—Brighton and Hove : Berens Medal.
Redhill and Reigate : Turner's Medal.
Royal Liverpool : Winter Optional Subscription Prizes.
Lundin : Handicap Medal.
Manchester : Monthly Medal.
Birkdale : Monthly Medal.
Lytham and St. Anne's : Captain's Cup.
County Down : Wallace Cup; Railway Cup; Club Monthly Prize.
Sutton Coldfield : Muntz Prize.
Edinburgh University : McEwan Medal and Club Prizes.
Richmond : Monthly Medal.
London Scottish : Monthly Medal.

DEATH OF A BLACKHEATH GOLFER.

Many golfers will bear with very deep regret of the death of Mr. Adrian Hayes Newington, on the 22nd of this month, in the thirty-fifth year of his age. A thoroughly good, though not a first-class golfer, Mr. Newington, by his kindness of disposition and his perfect uprightness of character, endeared himself to all who knew him in the clubs to which he belonged—Royal Blackheath, Great Yarmouth, and Ashdown Forest and Tunbridge Wells. His memory will long be cherished on the links, especially at his home green of Blackheath. Mr. Newington was in his usual health in December last. He succumbed to the influenza and typhoid. The last golfing contest he took part in was on the 29th December, when he played for the Ashdown Forest Golf Club against Mr. J. S. Scott's team, meeting Mr. F. E. Faithfull, and halving his match with him.

THE NAZING LINKS.

These links, in close proximity to London, are not so well known to golfers who reside in the great city as they ought to be. Nazing Common stands on very high ground, about three miles from Broxbourne Station on the Great Eastern Railway, and little more than eighteen miles from London, and extends over 500 acres of very pretty undulating country, very suitable for Golf. The club is now in its second year, and the common, being private property, can be used only by members, and is free from the crowds which congregate on most open spaces around London. The greens are large, and getting into capital order, and each of the eighteen holes afford by their several positions great interest and variety over the course. The air is most invigorating and bracing. The Golf-house is the King Harold's Head, well served, and possessing an excellent *cuisine*, standing close to the commencement of the links.

The hazards for an inland link are numerous and varied. The teeing-ground from the starting-point is on a rising bank, with a deep ditch in front. The high road has to be crossed, and a pond, with trees to the left of a long drive, necessitates a straight one for safety. The second shot should bring the ball on to or close to the green, which is well protected by two water-courses, necessitating careful lofting. The drive to hole No. 2 is slightly up hill. With a good lie, the second shot should bring the ball on to the green; or, if overshot, into the lake. This green is large and excellent. The third hole lies over the lake, which is about 30 feet wide, and a good drive should carry the road as well. At this hole there are two good hazards—a cottage and garden to the left, and beyond a deep ditch and the park fence. The next move is to the left, and across the road again, and up a somewhat steep incline, a good drive should land the ball on the green; but woe to the fozzler with the ditches and the road, or to the crooked drive, however long, for the green is well fenced in with hollows and mounds, from which at some time or other soil has been removed. To hole six is a sporting drive over very rough, coarse grass, with plenty of ant-hills; and over the road again to a very good lie, whence a well-placed shot with the cleek lands one on the green, fenced in by a dry pond on one side and the park fence on the other, with plenty of room nevertheless for a careful player. The sixth hole is the longest on the course—plain sailing throughout. The third or fourth shot should land the ball on the green standing behind two deep dry ditches on the approach sides. No. 7 is a straight course—across a farm-road, with several little hazards to be avoided, and good lies to be obtained, and the green is backed at some twenty yards off by a spring pond and trees to catch over-driving. The eighth hole is on the point of a hill, declining on three sides, and the approach is over a large decline, which at times has water in it, but always a place to be avoided with a good loft. The next hole is across a deep ravine, which can be carried with a good drive, but the descent into the ravine from the tee means not joining your partner till three or four strokes have been lost. This hole also stands on the point of a hill, whence there are lovely views; and now we have reached the half-round. The tenth hole is approached from the tee over hollow ground, which tries the nerves, as the lies for a fozzler are abominable, but a well-

directed drive lands one on a good place, whence an iron shot carries the ball over a dry moat, which fences the approach, while a large round pond with a curious island and trees in the centre of it guards against over-driving. The next tee-shot is over the corner of this pond, and the hole can be carried by any one who can drive two hundred yards. The thirteenth hole is plain, and needs no comment; but the fourteenth has three fair hazards in the course.

We begin now to descend to the lower part of the Common, but the course has been chosen so that there shall be no up and down-hill play, except what can be carried in the tee drive. Fozzles must expect hard treatment at Nazing. The fifteenth hole is protected at the back by the feeder to the lake, about twelve yards wide, in which grow splendid bullrushes, and the drive over this brook, with the necessity of carrying a pond about one hundred yards beyond in the direct line to the hole, makes No. 16 a very sporting bit. Of course it is possible to go round the pond, but this would cause the loss of half a stroke. The start for the seventeenth is somewhat down hill, and a well-struck ball will run down on to the flat. This is a long hole, and the green is seldom reached under four. The last hole lies just behind the first teeing-ground, and has several hazards, both on the course and around the green, causing the finish off to be as lively as any other portion of the round.

Then the order of the day is an adjournment to see what Mr. and Mrs. Riley, the host and hostess of the King Harold's Head, has provided in the club-room in the shape of lunch or tea, after which London is easily reached in time for dinner. The great Eastern Railway issue return tickets to members at single fare, and conveyances from the station drive the players out on arrival of certain trains by arrangement at reduced fares. This part of Essex is as rural as it was a century ago, and few people seem to know of its attractiveness. It is just the sort of place for a visit in the spring and summer for a week's Golf, while friends or ladies would find plenty to amuse them in viewing the neighbourhood, or availing themselves of the numerous picturesque farmhouses and cottages to make sketches.

MY FIRST MEDAL.

I was more than twenty-five when I first saw a Golf green, and my first introduction was to walk round with two golfers and to mark their cards according to directions.

From the first tee-shot in that round I was "bit," and long before the first nine holes had been played I made up my mind to try this new game. I had been a hard hitting, second-rate cricketer, and had tried my hand with indifferent success at most games, and knew I possessed a fair eye and that nature had blessed me with a certain amount of strength; would my eye avail me in this new game? Part of it seemed quite easy, but yet I saw that there was a lot to learn.

The next day I purchased a full set of clubs from a man upon whom I have ever since looked with the greatest possible scorn. Why, you may ask? Simply because this man having learnt the game and attained a fair position among its exponents, and being yet young and active, was giving it up. Well, I have never regretted that purchase, I have nearly all those clubs still, and many of them are beauties; what was his loss has been my gain. Golf has been everything to me since that day, and nothing can keep me away from it when I have a holiday, short or long. From that day I became more or less a golfer, and looked on every man who had the mystic "scr." after his name as one who had attained all that could make life happy, and pondered night and day on whether it was possible that such happiness would ever fall to my lot. The more I pondered the more I thought the thing impossible, yet my handicap was being reduced, and I was still winning handicap prizes. Could it be? My handicap got down into single figures, and then still lower, till it got to four and three on some links. My hopes began to rise. More than once in handicap meetings I had returned the lowest natural score; I had in playing off a tie for a handicap prize attained the honour of making the then amateur record of one green, and more than one friend had prophesied that I should attain to scratch rank.

I shall never forget my first medal; it was not a good scoring day by any means, but I was playing well and steadily, and,

though not brilliant, I knew my score would be very near the handicap prize with the small reduction that I was receiving; but it was a large meeting, and there were several well-known scratch players out. I did not for a moment think that my ambition was going to be gratified until I got to the luncheon room; then I heard that my score was the lowest natural one returned up to that time, and all the dangerous men were in; still I could hardly believe it. Had I really won a scratch medal? Everybody said I had, everybody was congratulating me: still it seemed too good to be true. It was not until I had that medal presented to me at the subsequent dinner and had had (what is always to me the hardest work of all and to my audience a most painful ordeal) to return thanks for the prize winners, that I could really realise my joy.

I have won more than one scratch medal since that, but I think I shall never again have such a feeling of satisfied ambition as was mine that night when my first scratch medal was pinned on my breast and my hand was warmly pressed by the captain as he congratulated me in the hearty, cheery manner that has made him such a favourite with us all, and to whose kindly teaching I, in no little degree, owe the attainment of my "world's desire" and the position of

SCRATCH.

ODE TO MY FIRST GOLF-BALL.

(Respectfully dedicated to all "club" manufacturers, without apologies for the very mild language.)

Ah! there you are, you *miserable* Johnny!
Roosting upon my mantleshelf at ease;
(*Aside*) And smiling just as though no "clubs" had gone, he
Looks a childlike innocence of "tees."

You "ducked your head," you little spiteful beggar,
My "driver" nearly brained old "Bunker Brown,"
And then you "foozled," so that Miss Long Legger
Dodged *just* in time. And *didn't* she come down!

You whitened sepulchre! You compound pill!
You sugar coated invent'ry of swear!
You little demon! Giving every ill
Because you *knew* I couldn't "let out" there.

Sixpennyworth of gutta-percha whitened!
Why pounds will not remake the "clubs" you've
cost!
And Fanny's "driver," too! My hopes are blighted,
Those "putting-greens" bear witness how they're
lost.

'Tis true the dents of vicious whacks I gave you
Have hacked and spoilt that fair white coat of yours.
But where's the comfort? Won't the men who made
you
Just benefit by my strong-wristed cures?

To think this morn I started like a rocket
Jovial and bright to spin you to the skies!
And now sit here just crushed and "out of pocket"
To muse on broken clubs and timely lies.

I'll burn you, bury you, and then I'll borrow
From some confiding friend; or wait, I'll write
To generous GOLF. He'll maybe soothe my sorrow
By wherewithal to recommence the fight.

Thus, arch-deceiver, once more I "address" you
With self-command; and now, Sir, you may go.
I hope this epitaph will serve to bless you
And rescue me from impecunious woe.

EXHAUSTED TYRO.

THE EDINBURGH BRAIDS GOLF CLUB.—A medal competition was held over the Braids course on Saturday in favourable weather, which ended in a tie between Messrs. Murray and Sturrock.

A WORD TO BEGINNERS.

By "an introduction to Golf" I do not wish the reader to imagine that I am about to relate the difficulties and disappointments I encountered during the first game I ever played; that would scarcely edify a schoolboy. My intention is really to try to prove that the intricacies and difficulties of the game are such, that, to a person taking it up late in life, an introduction of from three to four years is only just sufficient to show how little he can know of the game itself at the end of that time.

How well I remember the first time I ever saw the game, and how I sneered when asked if I ever played. "Not quite old enough yet, thank you," was my answer; also "I gave up croquet some time ago," and really I was fool enough to look upon it all as bad hockey, or high-class croquet. If I had seized the opportunity I had of playing then, I think I might now be of some use at my present handicap of eighteen strokes.

It was at Pau; there were plenty of good players there, and they were only too anxious to initiate me into the mysteries of the game. I shall never have such a chance again; I could have played day after day for two months, and who will gainsay the fact that a month's play "off the reel" is worth any amount of odd days, more particularly to a beginner.

However, at last I was persuaded to try my hand, and I need hardly add that my attempt met with very varied success. I certainly hit the ball occasionally, but missed what my mentor was pleased to call "the globe" very frequently, and when eventually I arrived on the green and it looked plain sailing, I found I still had to contend with difficulty, and it was anything but "Twa on the green" with me. But I had taken to Golf like many other active and worn-out cricketers before me, and was not satisfied till I saw my name enrolled on the list of members of a Royal, if not a very ancient Golf club.

I take it, all beginners meet with the same difficulty at the commencement of their golfing career, the difficulty of getting a good player to take them in hand, and not only to play with them, but also to coach them. If a beginner wants to retard his progress, let him continually play with a man who knows no more about the game than he does himself. I once heard a very good cricketer, but a very bad golfer, tell his opponent that he (the opponent) was playing "fifteen more;" and if he persevered, he might very well have played 500 more, as he was wielding a niblick like a flail, at a ball stuck fast in a dyke of stiff clay; but I fancy the opponent got tired. He is now a fair player at what I am pleased to call the limit, eighteen strokes.

And now one word with regard to the enormous start given to, I presume, beginners all over the country. Of course I allude generally to the host of new clubs formed of late in the Midlands and in the South of England. Surely a start of one stroke a hole is enough for anyone. Is not the idea of an eighteen-stroke player giving a stroke a hole almost absurd? Neither do I for a moment believe that the interest of beginners is benefited by their joining at once in competitions. A moderate cricketer is content with practice when he joins a club, or is thankful for a place in the club eleven against a second-rate team. He does not at once put his name down for a place *v.* M.C.C. and Ground or I Zingari.

In the same way I think the young golfer would do well at first to hide his light under a bushel. His time, for a year at least, will be well employed learning the rudiments of the game, and it will be quite soon enough for him to enter for competitions when he has learned the real use of each of the clubs he carries. How is it possible for the young player to appreciate the different uses of the brasse, the cleek, the iron, and the niblick? It will not take him long to find out when to use his driver and putter, but practice alone will teach him what clubs to use playing through the green. Would it not be better for the committees of newly-formed clubs to have first and second-class competitions; the first-class to consist of members handicapped from scratch to eighteen strokes, the second to include the rest of the playing members? This is only a suggestion, but the reader will hardly fail to see that I am strongly of opinion that match play with fairly good opponents and partners is far and away the best practice for the young player. The mere fact of winning a club competition with a

start of some thirty or forty strokes does not proclaim to the golfing world in general the fact that the winner is in any way a promising young player. It more generally goes to show that there are few really first-class players competing, and if any proof of this is needed, let a limit man play a match with a scratch player, and I am much mistaken if any number of strokes in reason will enable him to hold his own for more than a hole or two.

Taking all this into consideration, I sincerely hope some day to find all Golf players limited to a start of eighteen strokes. And now, having a good introduction to the game, let us turn for a moment to the subject of the clubs necessary for playing the same. For many reasons it is impossible for the beginner to start with a good set of clubs. In the first place he does not know what a good club is, neither does he know what sort of club will suit his peculiar style of play, and he will find that just as he gets used to a driver, a brassy, or an iron, he will meet with disaster, and may break one or all in an afternoon's play. This is another strong reason for serving an apprenticeship for a time. He will find that the longer he plays the less often does he break his clubs. He will have a chance of getting accustomed to the clubs he possesses, though they may not be exactly what a first-class player would choose; and in time he will discard this and that for others, getting at last an uniform set together.

I have nearly come to the end of my self-imposed task. Far be it from me to write one word as to how Golf should or should not be played; all I have tried to make clear is the fact that if Golf is about to be taken up by any one, it must be done in all seriousness, not in a frivolous or happy-go-lucky mood. The beginner, if he wants to get on, must work hard, and I am sure he will find it a labour of love. I know no class of men more willing to help a lame dog over a stile than golfers. I have played with some of the very best amateurs, and without exception have found them kindness itself in giving instruction, and generally trying to improve my game. But I have constantly been slanged and bullied by men who are very little better than myself, and have no notion how to correct the faults I am committing. However, *experientia docet*, and one soon finds out the man it is a pleasure to play with and the man who is to be avoided.

It must be very gratifying to the old-established clubs to see the rapid strides the game has made in the South during the last few years. I venture to predict that it will never supersede cricket; but that cricketers will take to it more and more I am convinced. In fact, one has only to look at the papers every week to see the names of innumerable cricketers figuring prominently in the different club competitions. To them for good or evil these few words are addressed.

H. C. C.

The result of the professional match for £27 a-side between Andrew Kirkaldy and John Taylor, of Burnham, Somerset, will come with surprise upon the Scottish believers in the prowess of the first-named player as a match antagonist. Indeed, it is an "eye-opener," and shows that with the growth of Golf in the south there is going on at the same time the training of a high school of professionalism. Odds were laid upon Kirkaldy, who is the senior in years and match experience of his opponent. This was indeed Taylor's first match of importance, and he has acquitted himself most creditably. It is certain that we shall hear more of a young player who has begun his career in such splendid fashion by beating a seasoned, powerful player like Kirkaldy by 4 up and 2 to play.

When Dean Stanley was made Lord Rector of St. Andrews University and went down to deliver his inaugural address, "an awful incident occurred which not even his greatest friends ever ventured to allude to in talking to him":—"Stanley had been introduced to a dear old lady, and said a few words to her, at the same time bending forward his head in the way we all remember. The aged saint misunderstood the gesture, and solemnly kissed him. My wife had his arm at the moment, but he rent himself away, and fled from the spot with extraordinary activity. Few have ever seen Stanley so frightened as he was then."

BUMBLE-PUPPY GOLF.

There are two kinds of golfers—those who play the game, and those who don't! In the same way, of those who play whist, some insist upon the strict game; whilst others are content with what is known as bumble puppy whist.

In the case of whist, these two classes do not interfere with each other. You never find them playing together.

The strict player would not think of sitting down with anyone who did not uphold "the rigour of the game," and all its rules and penalties, and far from being aggrieved by his refusal to do so, the bumble puppy player would—probably with a sense of relief—make up a rubber with those who played "just to amuse themselves," as he likes to put it.

The bumble-puppy whist-player does no harm. He consorts with his fellows, and all is peace! The golfer who loves the strict game is, however, not so fortunate, and may find himself let in for bumble-puppy Golf when he least expects it. The worst of it is that the chance of being called upon to endure this penance is daily becoming less remote—not at St. Andrews, or Prestwick, or at any such head-centre; there bumble-puppy Golf would not be tolerated; but at many local clubs, where the traditions and spirit of the game are not understood, it is becoming more rampant every day. The bumble-puppies are upon us, and it is time to speak out.

Everyone is tolerant of beginners. We all *began by beginning*; we couldn't count eight consecutive strokes without making six, or at most seven of them; we gaily grooved the sand behind the ball in bunkers, and did many things that we ought not to have done.

But those who took up the game some years ago discovered rather more quickly than beginners do at present that surrounding Golf there is a halo of etiquette; that it had its serious side; and that, as much was necessarily left to the honour and courtesy of an opponent, much was expected from him.

When there were but few Golf links in England a large proportion of those who played on them had learnt the game in Scotland, where it is treated with reverence, and the others caught the spirit from them. But all that is altered now. Every day a new course is discovered, and a new club is formed. Many of the members attempt to play without getting anyone to show them how to stand or swing, without taking any trouble to learn the rules, and with a general idea that the only thing to be done is to get the ball into the hole in as few strokes as possible!

But they are wrong; there is a great deal more to be done.

They ought to learn what it is fair, and what it is unfair, to do; they ought to take the trouble to find out the penalties to which they may be subject, they should make themselves masters of all that is demanded by courtesy and etiquette, and should observe every practice with the respect to which it is entitled, remembering that the experience of centuries has been brought to the framing of the rules of the Royal and Ancient Game. They should remind themselves that, until they have done all this, until they know how to behave on the links, and what to do, they may drive and putt like professionals, but are no golfers. They should understand that until they have accustomed themselves to play, as those do who understand and reverence the spirit and traditions of the game, they are not playing Golf at all—only bumble-puppy Golf—and that to any genuine golfer (though the latter may be an inferior player) it is a trial and a penance to go round the links in their company.

Now, although it is conceivable that a man should be content to play bumble-puppy whist all his life, it is difficult to believe that anyone should object to play strict Golf. In other games, such as cricket, football, or tennis, no one thinks of going against the rules. No one desires to do so: it would spoil the game.

Why, then, are beginners at Golf less careful? In most cases simply because they *have taken no trouble to learn the rules*, and, as they play together, have had no opportunity of seeing the difference between the genuine game and the bumble-puppy imitation.

A few rounds in good company would explain it to them if they were willing to learn, but having got into the habit of careless play, they are apt to consider strict observance of the rules—sharp practice.

Here are some specimens of what happens nowadays on too many links.

A player is about to drive from the tee, and says to his opponent, "shall we play stummies or not?" "I vote we don't," is the answer; "I hate stummies."

Now it is one thing to hate a stummy and to be ready to vote for its abolition, but quite another to take the law into one's own hands.

In the future the stummy may or not be abolished, but at present it exists, and to propose to ignore it is like proposing to ignore the rule as to "no-balls" at cricket, or the penalty for knocking the ball off the table at billiards.

The modern player may be seen to tee his ball occasionally in front of the tee, or to one side of it, sometimes he does so without making any remark on so trivial a matter; at others, he may be heard to say to his opponent, "I see I'm not quite on the tee—you don't mind, do you?"

As his opponent probably did the same thing at the last tee—he *doesn't mind*, and the bumble-puppy game goes on.

Now although it is true that a foot or so will probably make little difference at the end of a drive, still it *might* make all the difference between a good or a bad lie, and if the practice were to be tolerated, where might one *not* tee?

There is a strict rule on the subject, which should be observed as rigidly as that with reference to the crease on the cricket pitch. Who would think of asking the wicket-keeper as he went in to bat, whether he saw any objection to his standing with both feet in front of the crease? The modern player occasionally mixes his rules. Having heard, perhaps, that on some links one is allowed to lift out of *casual* water and drop without a penalty, he lifts out of *any* water on the same terms! This happened in a medal round quite lately when a prize was being played for. In the same round the player who did this miscounted his strokes at two holes (not unfavourably to himself), and lifted an obstruction when he was lying in a hazard. Who was scoring? Why, an elderly gentleman who, *never having seen the game before*, wished to go round with the players and good-naturedly offered to score. It really mattered little, as it happened, what he put on the card, for all seemed to play in the same happy-go-lucky style, and the many sins committed were those of ignorance. Here is another little incident which occurred in the same round. As soon as one of the couples competing had finished the last hole, one of them turned to the other and said, "Do you remember what you took for the fifth hole; I see I haven't put it down?"

"Let me see," was the reply. "I'm nearly sure I did in —," naming a number which for that hole was scratch play. The scorer was quite satisfied, put the figure on the card, and handed it to the gentleman collecting the cards, who was also satisfied; they were *all* happy!

The bumble-puppy player seems unable to realise the fact that a "rub of the green" is part of the game. If his ball moves as he addresses it, or is accidentally moved by himself or his caddy, or if the latter when standing at the hole allows a ball to touch his foot, he appears to think it hard that the penalty should be exacted, but it is bumble-puppy Golf *not to exact it*.

It is, of course, simply from want of thought and want of care in acquainting himself with the rules that the beginner sins in the manner described; but if he ever hopes to play in good Company, he will have to know the rules and submit to them.

He might as well do this sooner as later, and it is only when he leaves off bumble-puppy Golf and plays correctly that he will arrive at the full enjoyment of the game.

M. N.



Mr. F. C. Hunter Blair, honorary secretary of the Warwickshire Golf Club writes:—"My attention has been called to a paragraph in your issue of 15th inst., under the heading of 'Tee Shots,' stating that one James Cunningham has gone to be greenkeeper and professional to the Warwick Golf Club. The only Golf club at Warwick (excepting the Ladies' Club) is the Warwickshire Golf Club, of which I am the honorary secretary. I therefore write to state that not only has James Cunningham not been engaged by my committee, but also that I have never before heard his name. I am instructed by my committee, therefore, to request that you will be so kind as to insert a direct contradiction of the above statement, as we are at present in fact looking out for an extra professional for the spring months, and your statement if unchallenged will lead to great misapprehension."

* * *

There is some interesting personal gossip in Dr. Boyd's "Twenty-five Years of St. Andrews," the first volume of which is just published. Society in the little University town is very friendly in these days, but at one time it was otherwise. It is recorded that Professor Aytoun once stayed a week with his brother-in-law, Professor Ferrier, there—both were sons-in-law of Christopher North—and "on returning to Edinburgh, Aytoun made the appalling statement that 'hell was a quiet and friendly place to live in compared with St. Andrews.'"

* * *

Among the professors of St. Salvator's College during the period of Dr. Boyd's residence was Shairp, who ultimately became Principal Shairp. He was very unpopular with many students, and Dr. Boyd tells that so distinctly did he disapprove of the students wearing the square cap and gown as an aping of Oxford and Cambridge that he took no notice of the salutation of any student whom he met wearing the cap. "What he desired as characteristically Scottish was a Kilmarnock blue bonnet with a red tassel!"

* * *

The Golf club at Cannes is now an accomplished fact. There were difficulties in the way of a suitable ground, when suddenly the Grand Duke Michael of Russia intervened. The difficulties disappeared under the all-pervading Russian influence, and the Grand Duke was elected president of the club. The committee, headed by the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, is made up of the following gentlemen:—Comte de Luzamet, Baron de St. Genest, Lieutenant-Colonel Cecil Cragg, Colonel Woodward, and Captain Percival.

* * *

Mr. Erskine, of Dun, and George Fernie and Captain Murchison and Willie Fernie played a foursome over Troon last Thursday week. The weather was very wet. The latter couple were allowed a third, and they won the match by 2 up and 1 to play. George Fernie took the place of Hugh Kirkaldy, who did not go out on account of the wet.

* * *

On Saturday, 16th January, while a golfer was playing Golf on Musselburgh Links, the ball struck a sparrow and killed it.

THE BEST GOLF TAILORS are Messrs. A. CAIGER & COMPANY, 88, Piccadilly, W., and Richmond, Surrey, who make a speciality of a really good coat (damp-proof) on hygienic principles, and which has a delightful feeling of ease in play. The firm have also a special Ladies' Department, and make a smart golfing costume upon the same principles (with waterproof skirt), which can be recommended for health and comfort. A *chic* costume made in the very best manner. Buttons engraved any crest or monogram. Messrs. CAIGER & Co. send patterns and sketches to any part of the world free, and give special quotations to club orders.

GOLF AT ROCHDALE.

Few people outside the immediate neighbourhood know that Rochdale is the proud possessor of Golf Links. Under the title of the "Rochdale Golf Club," about two years ago the committee decided to make their first venture at a place called Shawforth, about five miles out of the town. This, however, did not prove at all satisfactory, being too far away, and the ground was found to be rather rough. They then looked out for a new site, and by the kind permission of their worthy president, Mr. James Griffith-Dearden, Lord of the Manor of Rochdale, fixed on Sobden Moor, part of which is an old disused racecourse, where they have spent a good deal of time and trouble in laying out a nine-hole course.

These links are situated just above the village of Whitworth, about three miles from Rochdale, on the Bacup and Facit branch of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, and about ten minutes' walk from Whitworth Station. Arriving there the golfer is seen wending his way across the main road towards the old church, which is about half-way between the station and the new links.

Who ever knew a country church without its public-house in the close vicinity? And Whitworth is no exception to the rule. This hostelry glories in the title of "The Red Lion," and you have only to meet the genial landlord to know that you have got to a thoroughly homely country "pub." Golfers and other visitors can have here anything they require in the shape of meat and drink, and they can rely on having everything good and well-cooked.

Having "wet our whistle," we continue to ascend the hill, leaving the church on the left, and soon come in view of the club's flag-pole and shelter, which are placed close by the first teeing-ground on the top of a hill, which stands about 975 feet above the sea level, and by the time we get there, unless our bellows are in very good order, we shall be slightly winded. When we do reach the top, we are amply repaid for our climb, as we have a magnificent view of the surrounding country, and the clear fresh air soon revives and puts us in good order to try our hand, and see in how few strokes we can go round these moorland links.

About 40 yards in front of the first tee is bad rough ground. Until we come to within 60 yards of the putting-green, which is 295 yards from tee to hole, we have a level track and can get fairly good lies. We have then to negotiate a few drains and a small hill, on the top of which is placed the putting-green. With good drives and lies, the green should be reached in a drive and two iron shots, and with luck, we may putt out in four or five. In the next drive there are three obstacles to get over, viz., bad ground and a drain immediately in front of the tee, and a sharp rise of the hill about forty yards from the tee. Driving well over these, we have a straight course and a gradual ascent to No. 2 hole, which is 195 yards distant. A good drive and iron shot should put us on the green and out in four or five.

The next hole, No. 3, is a short one, measuring only 125 yards. A fair iron shot lands us on or about the green, but woe-betide the unlucky sliced ball, as a very short distance to the right of the hole is very bad ground, and we have known six or seven shots be lost in getting on to the green when within twenty yards of the hole. However with a straight drive it should be holed out in three. It has been done in two.

No. 4 hole is a good sporting hole; immediately in front of the tee is a drain and a hill, or rising bank, with rough ground. A topped ball is heavily penalised. We have seen six shots played before this has been surmounted, and only about 25 yards from the tee. Once we get on to the level we have pretty plain golfing; a drive and an iron shot should, if straight, put us somewhere near the hole, and four or five should see us out. Length, 180 yards.

At the next teeing-ground we stand at an altitude of 1,010 feet above the sea level. We have now a good long drive of 300 yards to No. 5 hole, with no very great obstacles to get over except a few rather deep sunken holes about half way, and occasionally bad ground. It generally takes two drives and an iron shot to place a fair player on the green, and hole out in 4; but it is by no means bad play to get out in six strokes.

No. 6 is a comparatively easy hole. Having no drains or

bunkers, and fairly good ground from tee to hole, it should be done by a good player in three. The only danger in this, and No. 7, is in getting out of the course. No. 6 hole is 170 yards.

The ground of No. 7 is something similar to No. 6, except that in No. 6 we drive up a gradual ascent, and at No. 7 we drive down. It is 230 yards long, and should be holed out in four.

No. 8, which has been dubbed "Jordan," owing to a deep wide drain which runs across the ground, is a good sporting hole. The first 90 yards being very bad rough ground and full of drains, a topped, sliced, or pulled ball, puts the player in a very bad temper with himself. Owing to the nature of the ground it is not considered very bad play to land on this green (that is, supposing you land well over Jordan) in three, and hole out in five. Length, 220 yards.

No. 9, or Home hole, is only 155 yards distant. A good iron drive should land us, if straight, somewhere about the green, and three strokes should see the finish of the round.

In forming these links, the committee have had to contend with a great deal of wet land; but the draining they have done, and are doing, has materially improved matters.

Instructions have been given to gradually extend the course into eighteen holes, the highest of which will be 1,042 feet above the sea level.

The club is certainly to be congratulated on the rapid strides it has made, when we consider that this time last year the present ground was not open for play.

One notable feature on these links is, that only two of the putting-greens can be seen from the teeing grounds, viz., 1 and 8. The remaining seven have guide-posts fixed so as to enable golfers to know in which direction to drive.

The subscription is a guinea per annum with an entrance-fee of same amount, but the latter has not yet been enforced. There are now between 70 and 80 members. The fine fresh air on these moorland links is very invigorating, and many people have been heard to say that a day on the moor is as good as a few days at the sea-side. It is certainly very enjoyable.

The course is estimated to be done as follows:—No. 1 hole in four or five; No. 2 hole in four; No. 3 hole in three; No. 4 hole in four or five; No. 5 hole in four; No. 6 hole in three; No. 7 hole in 4; No. 8 hole in five; No. 9 hole in three; or 34 to 36 strokes for a round of nine holes.

The hon. secretary, Mr. A. Stevens, will be glad to give every information to gentlemen desirous of joining the club.

GOLF IN THE ISLE OF MAN.

The new links at Milntown, near Ramsey, Isle of Man, have been formally opened. A goodly number of members and friends assembled on the interesting occasion. By the kindness of Mr. Bruce, the members were able to entertain their visitors at Milntown House. Lunch over, Mr. Drinkwater proposed "Prosperity to the Ramsey Golf Club." The toast having been duly honoured, General Brereton, who was received with rounds of applause, expressed thanks on his own behalf and that of the club, and their pleasure in seeing the Douglas and Castletown Clubs represented. They had met to inaugurate a good work calculated to meet a want long felt in Ramsey in respect of healthy and attractive amusements. As an enthusiast on the subject of outdoor games of a healthy and invigorating nature, he trusted that the work which they were now inaugurating with so much success would gradually develop, and its prosperity and stability be ensured. Mr. Bruce, whose absence he greatly regretted, had kindly made over to the Ramsey Golf Club the links which he had laid out by Tom Morris, the celebrated golfer. The putting-greens would be found in excellent order, and obstacles had been provided sufficient to try the skill and temper of most players. The game of Golf was one of all others that commended itself to the public at large. It brought into friendly rivalry all classes. Young and old, rich and poor, fat and thin, whatever pursuits or duties they were engaged in, were able to find recreation in healthy and attractive form on the Golf links. He had great pleasure and gratification in announcing the opening of the Ramsey Golf Links. (Cheers.) Notwithstanding the state of the ground, now partly thawed, and some heavy snow showers, some very good scores were made. Among others, Mr. Weir, Aberdeen, 75; Mr. Cruickshank and Mr. Baron, 85; Mr. D. Lucas and Captain Lemon, 89; Mr. J. J. Corlett and Mr. J. Milns, 90; Mr. E. Dawson, and Mr. S. Wilson, 94; Vardon (professional), went the round in 60. Dr. Handley presented a handsome driver for the player who made the best score, but as Mr. Baron and Mr. Cruickshank tied at 85, they will probably play off for the victory.

Review.

FAIR CASTAWAYS; A ROMANCE OF WAR AND STORM. By F. H. Winder. Author of "LOST IN AFRICA," &c. Eden, Remington and Co., Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, W.C.

For some reason or reasons, which perhaps are not far to seek, the novel of incident has lost in popularity—excepting always among boys—as much as, and even more, than the novel of character has gained. This may or may not be part of that general scheme of universal progress, which Mr. Balfour so much distrusts. What, however, is certain is that the writer, who, like Mr. F. H. Winder (who, by the way, is a member of the Sutton Coldfield Golf Club), can set forth, with some skill in the telling, stirring incidents of war and storm is certain of a yet large number of appreciative readers. Mr. Winder gives us a choice of heroes, and consequently we are treated also to a brace of heroines; but with this difference, that whereas the first pair are mutually devoted throughout the volume, their course of true love being hindered by the inevitable baronet, the other couple only become acquainted—on a desert island, it is true, where there is not much choice—within the last twenty pages of the book. Harold Wynne and Ned Stanley are the two young Englishmen who are engaged by a syndicate to take charge of a vessel, sent out from a British port to aid the Chilians in their struggle with Peru. The enterprise is naturally attended by some danger from the outset, and comes near to being nipped in the bud by a cruiser, which the Admiralty sends out "upon information received" to seize the bold breakers of international law. But by a succession of ingenious ruses—which are capitally told—Captain Stanley's vessel escapes her pursuer, and arrives safely in Chilian waters. Then follow sea-fights and battles on land, enough to satisfy the most bloodthirsty. But at last the war comes to an end, and fresh adventures are provided by a mysterious parchment, relating to hidden treasure, which is handed over to Wynne and his friend by a dying Irishman, who had taken it from a vanquished enemy, and who, in turn, had received it; but we must not further disclose the remarkable history of this priceless manuscript. A ship is chartered to convey the young men to the South Sea Island, where their fortune lies buried; but they do not arrive there before a terrible gale has nearly wrecked them, nor without a meeting on the part of the members of the crew. The latter, however, are good enough to dispose of themselves in a most convenient manner, for two of them having been blown to pieces by a crazy old gun which they attempted to fire, the remainder row off "into the *ewigkeit*," and are seen no more. When our friends arrive at the island—they are a good deal surprised, though their wonder will not be shared by the experienced novel reader—to find that their respective sweethearts have been cast away on this very spot, the liner in which they were travelling having met a fery fate. So, when they have filled their ship with the buried gold, they shape their course for the nearest port, and the story closes 'mid the ring o' bells.

Mr. Winder makes no pretension to literary style, though for the most part the tale is pleasantly written. He seems to be well acquainted with ships and sailors, and his seafarers talk naturally, and with a wealth of expletive. In dialects he is not strong, and his character-drawing is not very convincing. But his in a book of adventure is a small matter. There is one character, however, whose better acquaintance we could have desired. This is a mild-eyed German, who thus apostrophises the English love of sport: "Ach! you Engleeshmans, you vill blay ze kreequet in Hell. You vill all go zere, but zen you vill make ze best off ze situation; you vill haff von big colony zer, viz misshionaries an' bleezemans and ros-biff; an' you vill grumble mouche at all tings, an' call all ozzer coundrymans you meet zer, d—d Dutchmans, and dry to convert zem; you are always so goot." Yes, we should like to have seen more of this German.

HAWICK.—The monthly medal competition took place on Saturday afternoon, when there was a fair muster of players. Details:—James Scott, 105, less 15=90; John Rule, 120, less 27=93; J. S. Turner, 109, less 14=95; J. W. Glenny, 119, less 24=95.

SELKIRK.

Inscribed to D. C. ALEXANDER, Esq., Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Selkirk Golf Club, by SHERIFF SPITTAL.

I.

The Selkirk Golf Course, O, it is so charming,
It lies so sweetly in the open air.
Though you may wonder where on earth the ground is,
You'll find it excellent when once you're there.
Our noble Golf Club has a splendid house there,
A spacious edifice, as you may see,
That holds all the members, if they're not too many,
When they assemble for their beer or tea.

II.

The course has nine holes—and it might have eighteen,
If the ground were big enough to have them nice—
But if you reckon that one round's too little,
Why then, just double it, and go round twice.
And, past all question, there's no chance of losing
More of your Golf-balls than some one or two,
If, when you strike them, you can only manage
To keep them constantly within your view.

III.

The course is smoother than you can imagine,—
Barring the rough bits, and the quarry holes;
And seems expressly to be laid on purpose,
At least small portions, for a game of bowls.
Part is so level, when you reach the hill top,
That it's like a racecourse, or like Princes Street;
And, but for heather, and some stones, and water,
There are few obstructions that your ball can meet.

IV.

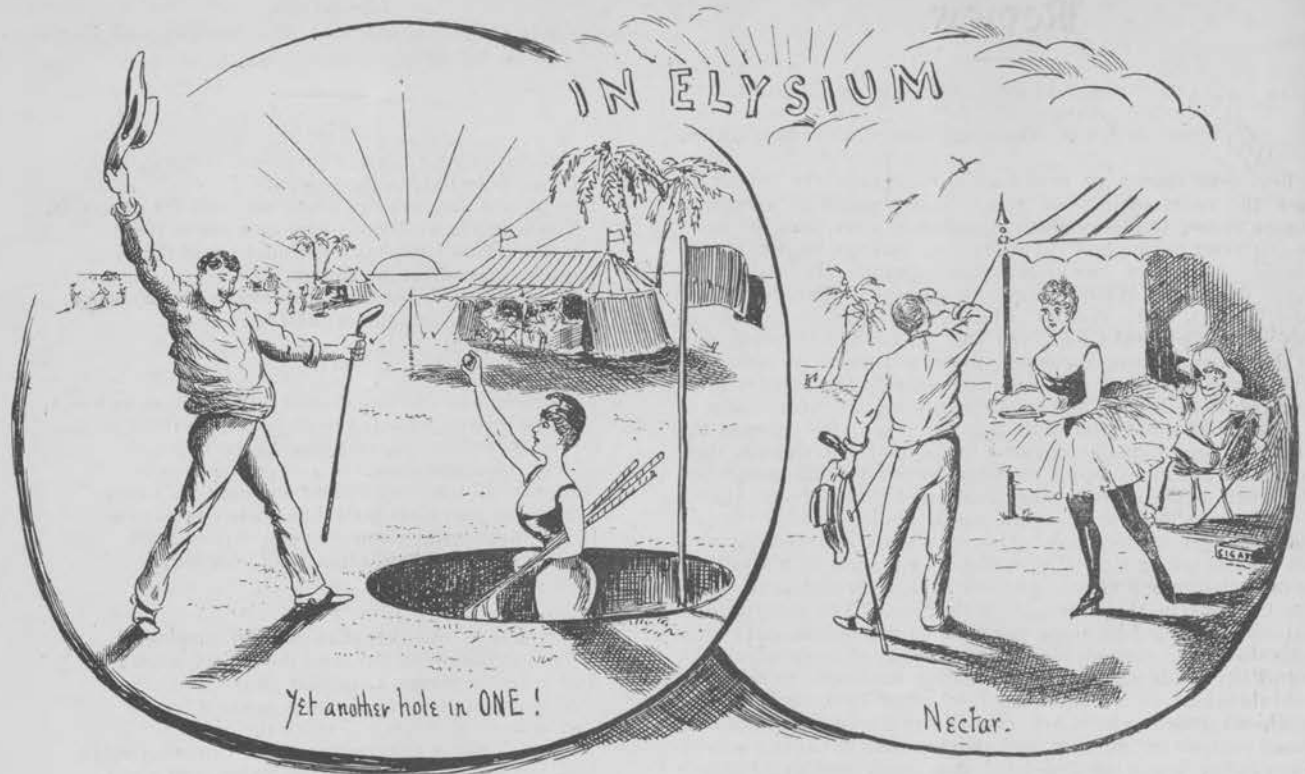
No other Golf course in our dear old Scotland
Presents to players such a wide-spread view.
You see around you, with a stretch of fancy,
The distant Grampians and the Cheviots too,
And then the ladies. O, they are so thoughtful,
Such endless trouble for the club they take:
They grace our matches with their lovely presence,
And feed us tenderly on tea and cake.

V.

Then here's to Selkirk and its noble Golf Club,
And all its members, whether old or young.
More power be added to their several elbows,
Straight may their aim be, when their clubs are swung.
And here's a bumper to the Secretary,
Who keeps our Golf Club in perpetual peace;
May life's glad sunshine evermore attend him,
And may his shadow evermore increase.

BRIDGE OF WEIR.—RANFURLY CASTLE CLUB.—On Saturday the finals in the competition going on at present among the members of this club for Messrs. Weir and Scott's prizes were played off. The two couples in the final rounds are Messrs. Thomas Carruthers, jun. & Thomas Brownlie, jun.; and Mr. John Thomson & Dr. Mudie. The first-named couple played a most interesting and exciting game, which ended with Mr. Carruthers victor by 3 holes up and 2 to play. Dr. Mudie not turning up, accordingly a bye will, it is expected, be given to his opponent, Mr. John Thomson. On Saturday also the first round was concluded in connection with Mr. Sangster's "consolation" prize, which that gentleman presented for competition among the unsuccessful players in the above contest. In the first round 48 competitors in all engaged. The second round of this contest must be concluded by Saturday, 6th February.

KILMARNOCK (OSSINGTON CLUB).—The competition for the treasurer's prize came off on Saturday. There was a good turn-out of players, but owing to the recent frost the ground was very soft, and altogether unfavourable to low scoring. Result:—Mr. J. Cuthbertson, actual score 98, handicap 12; Mr. Wm. Brown, 97 (8); Mr. W. C. Strang, 99 (10); Mr. A. Ferguson, jun., 105 (16). The above will play to a final in ties.



AH! this is what I call Golf. What lovely turf! the whole green like a billiard-table, perfectly flat; no horrid gorse bushes, cart-ruts or water; no yawning sand-bunkers—all is fair and even going. No potato dibble holes, but holes of advantageous size, viz., 5 feet in diameter. Oh! what scores I have been making—did the last six holes to-day in 7! Total for the 18=25! Will any pals believe me when I write this? Hardly. But it is so.

And the caddies—not the uncouth, unwashed little scaramouche, but fair coryphées, like unto those we are familiar with on the stage of the Gaiety, who pay you for the privilege of carrying for you! Everything one wants falls to one's hand. Tents between each hole, where one is supplied with nectar, free, gratis, for nothing!

Let's drink to another hole in one,
 Let's drink to the lovely caddie,
 Let's drink to the links of pleasure and fun,
 Let's drink till we're blind, m' laddie.

All is true bliss, and the game is turned into one of real pleasure. No need for the use of the proverbial big big "D." Nothing but smiles and joy unchecked. Everyone is pleased with himself and the world in general. Come, oh! ye lovers of true and blissful sport, to the Elysium Golf links, where good-fellowship reigns supreme, and where your temper will be mended under the influence of the hole of sensible size, and the presence of the adorable caddie! Come, oh come, ye true and trusty golfers, come and—

"It's just chappit nine, sir, and terrible cauld, and Maister McRory says if ye're no on the green in twenty meenits he'll claim the mawtch."

Alas, 'twas but a dream!

I shook myself and used the big big "D." Sending down a message to McRory. I asked for three-quarters of an hour's law, and dressed myself in preparation for tackling the stern reality.

My dream had upset me. I made acquaintance with every gorse bush on the links, thoroughly explored every

sand-bunker, practised agriculture in all the cart-ruts, and lost five balls in water. My temper disappeared altogether, as well as all the loose cash I had in my pocket, which went



to satisfy the greed of that confounded McRory, to say nothing of the wages of the unwashed caddie. Oh, that my dream could come true. But, alas! no. I must take to tiddle-de-winks, or some other game.

R. M. A.

A PLEA FOR THE QUEEN'S ENGLISH.

THE new rules, which have just been adopted, will, in all likelihood, last in their present shape for the next decade. That seems to be the average period set apart for revision and general stock-taking. We are anxious, therefore, to utilise the interval by inviting golfers to concentrate their attention on the wording of the rules, on the penalties imposed, on the excision of some rules which are corruptions of the ancient St. Andrews text, and on the inclusion of rules which have been discarded by recent so-called orthodox code makers, but which were in force in the good old times at St. Andrews, though that fact would seem to be unknown to many of our Scottish correspondents. At present, however, we wish to enter a plea for the respect which is due to the use of the Queen's English. So far as the discussion on the new rules has proceeded, it is made clearer and more clear every day that the phraseology of the new rules is exceedingly defective in construction, definition, and precision. Rule No. XXXIV. is a case in point, and without wishing to reopen that controversy, kindly set at rest by the letter of Mr. Hall Blyth, we strongly contend that the phraseology of the rule tends to convey an erroneous purport of the meaning of the rule. The same remark holds true with reference to the definition of a stroke; and in Rule XVIII. the framers have found the vocabulary of the English language so poor, deficient, and inexact, that they have had recourse, despite any number of warnings, to the pernicious, and wholly unnecessary, "&c.," which may include any object in the whole kingdom of nature.

Mr. Gregor McGregor invites us to a parsing contest on the rules of Golf. It seems a long time ago since those schoolboy days of ours at Edinburgh—*hæc olim meminisse juvabit*—and we have no doubt that were the blemishes of grammar not so pronounced and apparent to the casual reader we could satisfy him on that point by furbishing up some long-forgotten exercises. But is it worth all the trouble? The work of cleansing the Augean stable is light and trivial compared with the undertaking of straightening out the involutions of Golf law as expressed in the present code.

What golfers are surely entitled to claim is that the rules of Golf should follow the normal conditions of English elementary grammar. This is what they do not at present, as anyone may judge for himself by reading the rules. Players are also entitled to have the object of the rules expressed clearly and accurately, and yet with brevity. This has not been done, as any reader may see who observes the number of points raised in our correspondence columns. The opportunities for dubious reading of a rule ought to be reduced to the very lowest *minimum*. Two players who turn up the book of rules in the case of a dispute ought to be able to settle quickly and clearly for themselves any point affecting the ordinary conduct of the game. Certainly, there will always be a number of exceptional points of delicate difficulty connected with the lie of a ball which cannot be legislated for in advance, and which must be settled by rules of equity on the part of the authority to whom the case of dispute is referred. But these are cases which no one can foresee, and as to which no one has a right to complain that they are not provided for. What we do complain of is that, after so much parade and the raising of high expectations as to the labours of the St. Andrews committee, the rules stand before us with all their sins of faulty grammar and doubt unredressed. It is all very well for "H. R. C." to contend that Golf is a

Scottish game, that its rules must come from Scotland, and that the game was played pleasantly enough in bygone days without much questioning of the rules. That is true enough. But "H. R. C." knows also that the game as played in those days was for the most part match play, and that liberal compromise was the rule on the part of both players. If, however, a player did contest a point the dispute was either settled by the local professional or a venerable member of the club. In both cases a kind of rule-of-thumb justice was administered. The local professional had probably never bothered his head much about the written rules, which had come down to him by a kind of oral tradition, and which his faculties had "absorbed" through constant play. But a race of golfers has arisen who know not Jesse; and they insist, and rightly insist, upon the production of rules which can be understood and construed honestly and fairly all round. There is no use in blinking that fact; and sentimental considerations like those of our correspondent, "H. R. C.," though deserving of the highest respect, must yield eventually to the predominant considerations of strict utility.

Here, then, we come to a remedy. The language of the present rules is admittedly defective and confusing. All golfers wish to hold by the St. Andrews rules, and to adopt them everywhere, so as to secure as much uniformity as can be attained throughout the world where Golf is played. We wish, therefore, to try an experiment which the Royal and Ancient ought to have attempted long ago. We wish to try the experiment of appealing to the wide constituency of golfers for aid in sub-editing and expressing the rules in clear, brief, grammatical English. With that object we shall institute

A RULE SYMPOSIUM

for the examination of the rules in their consecutive order. Golfers everywhere are kindly asked to take and examine the first rule:—

"The game of Golf is played by two or more sides, each playing its own ball. A side may consist of one or more persons."

Brevity and clearness are the two main objects to be held in view. We invite golfers to send in suggestions, either for the entire reconstruction of this first rule, or for its amendment in its present form. When this rule has been thoroughly examined then we shall go on to the second, and so on *in seriatim*, until the whole revision is complete. The result will be interesting and valuable. Then we shall have the rules in a form which corresponds with the views of the greatest number of players, while golfers generally will have an interesting opportunity of pondering on some penalties which are curious as well as startling, viewed in the light of the ancient code.

SKELMORLIE CLUB.—LADIES' COMPETITION.—The monthly medal presented by Mr. James C. Burns, Wemyss House, vice-president of the club, was played for on Saturday the 16th inst., under very great difficulty. Quite a gale of wind was blowing, and the course was very hard owing to the severe frost, which made the play very difficult, especially at the putting-greens. When the cards were compared it was found that Miss Mary H. Burns, Castle Wemyss, had, with a score of 94, won the medal, which was presented to her by the Rev. John Lamond, captain.

CUMBRAE GOLF CLUB.—LADIES' COMPETITION.—The monthly competition for Dr. Sinclair's medal was played on the 19th inst., over the course of the Cumbrae Club. The weather was dull and foggy, but the greens were in fairly good order considering the recent frost. The winner proved to be Miss Davidson, with a score of 124, less 6=118. Miss Henry and Miss Ross tied for second place with a score of 125, less 6=119.



PRACTICE FOR BEGINNERS.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—With reference to one of your correspondent's remarks as to the style of a certain player on the links, winding himself like a corkscrew before making a stroke, I think this style will be observed more or less on most links. I further think there is room for a great deal of improvement on the part of some players towards others who cannot quite live on the links. My experience is that a party form themselves into a club, and have the audacity to think that they have the sole right of play, even on public commons. It may be annoying to have to wait your turn for an amateur, such as your correspondent describes, but this state of things need not exist if practice were to be made with a little contrivance such as I purchased at one of the large London Stores, called the "Captive Golf Ball." By means of this, which, by the way, is fastened to a line and india-rubber spring, and held by means of a peg driven into the ground, a drive of about 40 yards can be obtained, sufficient to enable one to feel the stroke, and to indicate whether it is a good or bad one. It is a thing which commends itself generally to golfers, as form can be obtained without passing under the eye of a link critic.

I might mention, however, that this Captive Ball is a "patent," and thus prevent complications.

I am, Sir, &c.,
A LOVER OF SPORT.

QUESTIONS ON THE RULES.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—The new rules have been in force here since the 1st January, and some of them seem to be so unnecessarily severe that they prove a source of irritation to everybody.

Rule XIV. (ball lying in or touching hazard) is bad enough, but Rule XII. in Special Rules for Medal Play (breach of rule, disqualification), as we understand it, is worse. My object in writing this letter is to ask a question arising out of a combination of these two rules.

Medal Play.—Take the case of a player who has made a good round. Going to the last hole, his ball lies in sand, or a whin bush. In addressing his ball or swinging back his club, he accidentally touches a twig or blade of grass longer than its fellows. Is he disqualified? or what is the penalty?

We are all anxious for unanimity, but if the player in this case is disqualified, I am afraid that this club cannot accept the rule.

I am, Sir, &c.,
HENRY J. FAIRLIE, Hon. Sec.

Royal Jersey Golf Club, 19th January, 1892.

[A strictly literal interpretation of Rule XIV., read in conjunction with Rule XII., cannot, as a really workable and practical arrangement, be enforced on greens where whins abound. That is to say, if every player were to pay the penalty of a lost hole for every twig he disturbed in either an upward or downward stroke, match play on many greens, especially south of the Tweed, would be a ludicrous fiasco. The rule, however, is fair enough where a player gets his ball pretty well in the

heart of a bush. Here the rule serves the double purpose of preserving the hazards from absolute destruction by a player going in after his ball and trampling the twigs down right and left, and then uprooting all the obstacles within the orbit of his niblick. With the ball in such a position as this, the remedy is, of course, to lift and drop behind; but if a player insists upon playing the ball, and smashes the twigs right and left, in addition to trampling upon them in order to improve the lie of his ball, then he cannot complain if his opponent in match play claims the hole. Thus the penalty of a lost hole in match play finds its equivalent in disqualification in medal play, according to the St. Andrews rules. But a player whose ball is lying to all intents and purposes clear, with an overhanging bough of a bush either in front of or behind the swing, and which the club may accidentally touch in striking, is never asked to submit to the penalty, at least on Southern greens. The St. Andrews rule evidently means (though it is not expressed) that a player shall not "adjust" the twigs *before* the stroke—that is to say, improve the lie of the ball. To construe it as meaning that he shall not touch a piece of a branch while striking the blow would manifestly work great hardship if strictly and literally enforced. The general practice, however, has been for clubs whose course has plenty of whin hazards to provide a local rule of their own. Take, for example, the case of Wimbledon. Here whins are numerous, and this rule is adopted as being more explicit and fair than the St. Andrews rule mentioned by our correspondent:—"No whins, bushes, ferns, rushes, grass, or moss shall be broken, bent, trodden on, or adjusted in any way to enable the player to obtain a clearer view of his ball, or better swing, before playing; nor is it allowable to press down any irregularities of surface to improve the lie of the ball." Reviewing, therefore, all the circumstances of the case stated by our correspondent, we should say that disqualification is an absolutely disproportionate penalty for an offence so trivial as moving a twig while playing the ball. In the event of dispute the committee would meet the justice of the case by imposing at the outside the penalty of a stroke.—ED.]

ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH GOLF.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—Does the last letter of "H. R. C." represent Scottish feeling? and if so, can his countrymen have realised the true state of affairs?

St. Andrews need have no fears of being attacked by jealous English golfers; nor is it anything but grossly unjust to charge them with treason. St. Andrews was captain of a cohort or a battalion; other battalions have sprung up almost out of the ground, with sufficient suddenness, perhaps, to bewilder her. But their first clamour is that St. Andrews shall vacate her captaincy to become general of an army. Will she decline this call because of the raucous cries of young recruits such as we necessarily must be? We were made golfers, not born; but there are a good lot of us, and we are *keen*. Such St. Andrews players as have deigned to travel South will tell you that. But we are puzzled. We ask—we have asked—for guidance. The reply, "We were very comfortable before you came; I wish you would go away again, or do anything but bother us"—is rather that of an old gentleman disturbed in an afternoon nap than of a powerful and vigorous club like St. Andrews. What have we done that a reasonable request for the application of Golf principles to somewhat new conditions should be so churlishly answered? The new conditions are unavoidable. We cannot all live at St. Andrews, and absorb its traditions into our bones. It is unfair to say that we prefer the scoring game as against the match game. The scoring game gets into print naturally, and we are judged by the magazines; but we should be quite content if St. Andrews paid no attention to those who preferred it. Surely the members of the club ought to be good enough golfers to know how soon the superiority of the match game is discovered, even by raw recruits. "Heavy handicapping is another" something—let us say "evil;" and "H. R. C." seems to point the moral that a study of the science of handicapping is another modern, and therefore cursed, innovation. I have once or twice ventured to trouble you with remarks on this subject, which, it seems to me, is one of the advantages of Golf above other games. The wonderful nicety with which handicaps can be adjusted, the relation of handicap in the scoring to that in the match game—the variation from links to links—and many other points seem to me of the greatest interest, and, with all due deference to "H. R. C.," to be in no way connected with pot-

hunting, or anything which can be mentioned with contempt or indifference.

And I should like to make some very enthusiastic remark about Dr. Laidlaw Purves, who has been the pioneer in so many directions. Let me call the attention of St. Andrews to the fact that it is not an English, but a Scottish golfer, who is the first to suggest a Golfing Association. Not that my sympathies are against him. He has had more experience of the beseeching of St. Andrews to no purpose than we young recruits, and he may well be excused for having given up the campaign earlier. We owe so much to him in the history of English golfing (not to speak of the discovery of Sandwich), that where he leads he will be sure of a plentiful following. But it is unfair to cry "revolt" on us because St. Andrews, after so long and so earnest a petition for government, has sent us King Stork, in the shape of new rules no better than the old.

I am, Sir, &c.,

H. H. TURNER.

THE NEW RULES.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—If the Rules of Golf are to make, as many of your correspondents seem to expect, precise and strict provision for every possible contingency that may arise in a game so overflowing with incident and variety, then we may eventually expect to find them embodied in at least three octavo volumes, like the modern novel.

It must be obvious to all, save the captious critic, that the rules, past and present, have been intended merely to define, as concisely as may be, the traditional laws of the game. It is notorious that the new rules were only intended to rearrange and consolidate those previously existing; hence, the editing committee may well have been less precisely exact and critical in the language adopted, and in revising the punctuation, than had they been elaborating a set of rules hitherto unknown to anybody.

Some of your correspondents seem to expect that a perusal of the rules should teach them the game. That is the function of a treatise, so far as they can be taught without actual and very diligent practice.

I am, Sir, &c.,

January 23rd, 1892.

T. T. A. A.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—The letter of "H. R. C.," in your issue of 22nd inst., is a curious mixture. It begins by censuring all those who dare to have opinions of their own regarding the rules, and then suggests the very plan which has originated the proposal to form an Association.

Does "H. R. C." not know that the committee appointed in 1890 by the Royal and Ancient Club was particularly representative of English clubs? Mr. Purves, a member of Wimbledon, St. George's, Littlestone, Hoylake; Mr. Lamb, of Wimbledon, St. George's, Yarmouth; Mr. Hutchinson, of Westward Ho! Hoylake, Eastbourne and Yarmouth, and that it is just this refusal of the Royal and Ancient to listen to the unanimous recommendations of their own special committee upon the penal rules that causes the dissatisfaction.

Were the rules just issued by the Royal and Ancient Club the result of this Grand Committee's labours, I venture to think that they would be universally adopted. The prime mover in the "tremendous ado," be it remembered, is essentially a Scottish golfer, and he is supported by many Scottish golfers.

I am, Sir, &c.,

N. R. FOSTER.

Brighton, January 24th, 1892.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—It is refreshing to find the Editor of an important periodical inserting, as you do so freely, the opinions of correspondents, even though these may differ from his own ruling. Further, you invite criticism of your ruling. All honour to

you, Sir, for this. Such conduct deserves encouragement, and I avail myself of the invitation.

You are somewhat sarcastic towards the St. Andrews Committee. On the "putting-line" rule, you remark that the practice of soling the club immediately in front of the ball is prohibited as clearly and distinctly as the framers have had syntax enough at their command to employ. I am not concerned to inquire into the committee's command of syntax, but I am somewhat anxious lest you who exercise such influence in the golfing world should mislead your readers. You promise Mr. Hall Blyth to return to the "wording" of the rules later on. I would respectfully suggest that you should then prove to us, by the rules of syntax, that the "wording" has the effect you contend for. A full parsing exercise of the sentence founded on the rules of syntax, and proving your contention, will, I venture to think, be the most interesting production that has ever appeared in GOLF.

Passing from the wording, you find from Mr. Hall Blyth's letter in last week's issue—Mr. Blyth being one of the framers—that doubts are now set at rest because he vouches for the intention of the framers. You are getting into more grievous error still. It would probably be difficult to find a higher authority than Mr. Blyth on golfing questions generally, but on the question of interpretation of the new rules—he being one of the framers—is absolutely disqualified. The framers' intention must be gathered from what they have done, not from their declaration of what they meant to do; this is the canon of interpretation. You cannot shelter yourself, therefore, behind Mr. Blyth's broad back. You are driven to the parsing exercise, and I await its appearance with the keenest relish.

The rule might be amended in another respect. It says, "the putting-line must not be touched by club, hand, or foot, except," &c. Why restrict it to club, hand, and foot? Why not flagstaff, walking-stick, and a string of weapons as long as the famous bunker clause? Better still, why not omit "club, hand, or foot" altogether, and then you would have a rule of universal application, thus, "the putting-line must not be touched except," &c.

Will you bear with me farther if I point to two other instances on which your ruling is, in my judgment, singularly wrong.

(1) A plays a tee-shot, and misses the globe. B, his partner, in addressing the ball moves it off the tee. You say he is entitled to replace it, and ingeniously, to support your argument, invent a phrase—penalty's stroke—for A's miss. A penalty is incurred by breach of a rule. There is no breach here. A has played a stroke, and the ball is in play. Where is the rule that entitles B to touch it except by playing?

(2) A ball stuck fast in wet clay is replaced loosely in the hole, which, meantime, has got contracted, and it requires pressure to put the ball to the bottom. You insist on pressure, and for the reason that otherwise the lie of the ball would be improved, which you say is contrary to the letter and spirit of the rule. Still holding my respect for your opinion, I totally differ from you. I have always regarded, and do so still, that the sole aim and object of the rule was to improve the position of the ball, and properly so. The occurrence, in probably nine cases out of ten, arises from misfortune rather than fault. The penalty of insisting on playing out of such a position, is too severe. The rule is intended to mitigate misfortune, and the player is to place it "loosely." What, Sir, do you regard as the object of the rule, if not to improve the position of the ball?

I am, Sir, &c.,

GREGOR MACGREGOR.

Edinburgh, January 23rd, 1892.

RULE No. XXXIV.

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—Rule XXXIV. is unfortunately worded, and, as a specimen of literary handicraft, reflects little credit on those who framed it. That you are right in your interpretation of the Rule, as it stands, admits of no question. To make it square with what appears to have been the intention of its framers the comma after "authorised" should have been eliminated.

A lesson in punctuation would seem to be needed by some of your correspondents—more particularly by those in whose hands is placed the drafting of rules, which daily guide the course of numberless individuals in many corners of the globe. But, indeed, the misplaced comma might have proved innocent enough, had the phraseology been a little less awkward. The St. Andrews committee will do well to adopt Mr. Henderson's amendment, and so give us a Rule which shall accurately interpret their intentions.

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

To the Editor of GOLF.

SIR,—One word more on this subject. In answer to "J. K." in your last number you say: "(1) This point was pretty fully threshed out in last week's issue, and a letter appears from Mr. Hall Blyth, one of the authors to whom that rule owes its parentage, setting the point at rest for the present. We differ from our correspondents in the reading of the rule, and so do many other experienced golfers. A point of this kind ought to be expressed beyond doubt, whereas, as is abundantly proved, some golfers believe that the practice is prohibited, and others say it is excepted. And all this after two years' tinkering at the rules, many of which are scarcely expressed in intelligible English."

Now, excluding my letter, there have appeared in your columns eight letters supporting my side of the argument, while none have appeared on your side. Either you have dealt too generously with me by withholding the opinions "of many other experienced golfers," or your supporters are treating you badly in not coming forward to uphold your contention.

It seems to me that Mr. Hall Blyth's letter definitely settles the matter, though, as a matter of form, it would be satisfactory to have the authoritative decision of the Committee of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club recorded in your paper.

I am, Sir, &c.,
ERNEST LEHMANN.

January 23rd, 1892.

[The misfortune is that the supporters of the Editor's view are not so keen "writing" men as his opponents. But in conversation with players over a pretty wide area, many golfers have expressed a view in concurrence with the interpretation which we gave. The contest is over, however, and we accord the spoils to our correspondent and his coadjutors; we only crave permission to retain the scalp for a little longer use!—ED.]

ROYAL CROMER GOLF CLUB.—The final competition for the silver medal presented by the captain of the club (Mr. B. Bond-Cabbell) was played on January 12th, the competitors including those only who had won the medal during the year 1891. Dr. Fenner proved the winner, his score being 98 less 13=85. The other cards were:—Mr. P. M. Lucas (scratch), 89; Mr. Ambrose Burton, 108, less 18=90; Dr. McClure, 114, less 18=96; Mr. B. Bond-Cabbell, 112, less 14=98. The Rev. A. E. Black, Dr. Heasman, and Mr. J. Verran scratched.

JUNIOR NIBLICK GOLF CLUB, EDINBURGH.—The monthly competition of this club was held over the Braids course on Saturday, when the charm was won by Mr. B. J. Hodge with 51, less 2=49, for the nine holes.

"SCOTSMAN" GOLF CLUB.—A fairly good turn-out of members played over the Braids for the Braid Hills cup on Saturday. Considering the recent severe snowstorms and the continuance of frost, the green was in a much better state than was anticipated, while the competitors were also favoured with excellent weather. The winner turned up in one of the youngest golfers in the club (Mr. J. Wheelans), who, with his long handicap of 30, secured the cup with the net score of 79.

DALHOUSIE CLUB (CARNOUSTIE).—The monthly handicap match amongst the members of this club took place on the Carnoustie Links on Saturday. Messrs. H. M. Robinson and William R. Sharp led with 83, the former scoring 88 with 5 off, and the latter 89 with 6 off. The next best scores were made by Mr. James Duncan, 94 with 6 off=88, and Mr. R. B. Sharp, scratch, 90.

All Communications to be Addressed to the EDITOR,
5, COPTHALL AVENUE, LONDON, E.C.



ABERDEEN.

After a fortnight of enforced inaction owing to the snowstorm, golfers here were able to get to work again on Saturday last. On that day the members of the Bon-Accord Club here competed for the club's monthly scratch and handicap medals, over the nine-hole course on the Town's links and Broad Hill, two rounds being played. When the cards handed in were compared it was found that Mr. James W. Murray, with the excellent score of 85, had won both prizes. The next in order were:—Mr. A. Ducat, 92; Mr. H. Glass and Mr. F. Watt, 96 each; and Mr. A. Smart, 99.

BEVERLEY AND EAST RIDING GOLF CLUB.

On Friday, January 22nd, a friendly match of thirty-six holes was played against the members of the York Golf Club, on Westwood. The day was fine, and some good golfing was enjoyed. The scores are as under:—

YORK.		BEVERLEY.	
	Holes.		Holes.
Mr. E. W. Smithson	8	Mr. H. J. Whittle	0
Mr. Davidson	18	Mr. G. Ford	0
Mr. Taylor	11	Mr. Thomas	0
Mr. Broadwood	0	Mr. E. Hodgson	3
Captain Gostling	0	Dr. Macleod	12
	37		15

Therefore York won by 22 holes.

On Saturday, the 23rd, a match of thirty-six holes was played between the club professional, George Sayers, and John White, the York professional. A dense fog prevailed, making good play all but impossible. White proved the winner by 7 holes.

BIRKDALE GOLF CLUB.

The second competition for the Captain's cup on Saturday last, the 23rd inst., found the winner in Mr. George Crowther, whose net score of 81 is the best so far.

There was a great quantity of water on the links, a most unusual state of affairs. The scores under 100 net were as follows:—

Gross. Hcp. Net.			Gross. Hcp. Net.				
Mr. G. Crowther	93	12	81	Mr. G. D. S. Crowther	108	15	93
Mr. J. C. Barrett	107	22	85	Mr. W. J. Drewett	126	29	97
Mr. T. O. Clinning	116	28	88	Mr. C. A. Colman	118	19	99
Mr. R. L. Worsley	122	30	92				

BURNHAM (SOMERSET) GOLF CLUB.

Monthly Gold Medal.—The competition for the above medal took place on Monday, January 25th. The weather was beautifully fine with a light north-west wind, and the greens were as usual in capital order. The following are the principal cards:—

Gross. Hcp. Net.			Gross. Hcp. Net.				
Mr. T. Holt	111	20	91	Mr. W. Stoaite	132	27	105
Mr. T. W. Colthurst	105	6	99	Mr. W. S. Holt, jun.	124	14	110
Col. Armstrong	129	27	102				

The following gentlemen made no return:—The Revs. Canon Kennard, T. Crump, and F. Q. Smith, and Mr. T. C. Brice.

CLEVELAND GOLF CLUB.

The competition for the Cleveland cup took place on Wednesday and Saturday, over the Coatham Links, in fine weather, but no very special score was made by the players, with the exception of the winner, Mr. T. H. Wynn, who got round with the low net score of 86. There is a proposal to build a new Golf-house, which will greatly

enhance the pleasure of playing at Coatham. The scores were as follows:—Mr. T. H. Wynn, first round 51, second round 53, total 104, allowance 18, net 86; Mr. J. Scott, 53, 49, 102, less 10=92; Mr. H. Roberts, 46, 47, 93, scratch 93; Mr. D. Mackay, 56, 49, 105, less 4=101; Mr. J. Roddam, 58, 58, 116, less 14=102; Mr. C. D. Mackenzie, 54, 55, 109, less 7=102; Mr. Govin Kay, 62, 60, 122, less 18=104; Mr. J. W. Kyle, 57, 65, 122, less 18=104; Mr. C. Scott, 53, 57, 110, less 5=105; Mr. J. C. Davison, 65, 58, 123, less 18=105; Mr. W. Lambert, 64, 62, 126, less 18=108.

DISLEY GOLF CLUB.

The competition for the annual cup was held on Saturday, January 23rd, in fine and calm weather. The snow which had covered the links during the last few weeks had entirely disappeared, with the exception of a few drifts under the wall, and the putting-greens were in excellent condition, but very keen. As most of the competitors had not handled a club for more than a month, the scores were not very good, not a single return being under 100. Mr. John Milne won the cup and also the first sweepstake prize, with a net score of 92. The following were the best returns:—

Gross. Hcp. Net.			Gross. Hcp. Net.				
Mr. John D. Milne	104	12	92	Mr. H. D. Tonge	108	10	98
Mr. T. A. Yates	115	20	95	Mr. R. W. Hutton	100	1	99
Mr. H. C. Garrett	112	16	96	Rev. J. Bourne	105	5	100
Mr. G. C. Greenwell	101	3	98	Mr. E. G. Hutton	118	18	100

In the evening the annual meeting was held, and the committee in presenting their report congratulated the members on the satisfactory position of the club. The year was started with a deficiency of £34, and there is now a balance in hand of £19. The number of members now stands at 81, leaving only nine vacancies. Afterwards the members dined together at the Ram's Head Hotel, the captain, Mr. W. Bell, presiding.

FORMBY GOLF CLUB.

The fourth of the winter monthly competitions for the Pearson Prize, postponed from the 16th inst., took place on Saturday, the 23rd, with the following result:—

Gross. Hcp. Net.			Gross. Hcp. Net.				
Mr. P. S. McCulloch	90	7	83	Mr. E. Hewer	102	2	100
Mr. F. Harrison	105	18	87	Mr. F. C. Calthrop	122	20	102
Mr. G. Bird	106	14	92	Mr. G. A. Johnstone	127	25	102
Mr. M. Rollo	109	16	93	Mr. E. C. Lowe	137	30	107
Mr. J. Shepherd	99	3	96	Mr. H. H. Hosack	126	16	110
Mr. D. Webster	107	11	96	Mr. J. Formby	159	30	129
Mr. F. E. M. Dixon	100	scr.	100				

LONDON SCOTTISH AND ROYAL WIMBLEDON GOLF CLUB.

The Wimbledon Medal.—The tie for the above medal was played off at Wimbledon on Saturday by Messrs. Alexander Mackay and Faithfull, representatives of the London Scottish and Royal Wimbledon Golf Clubs respectively. Mr. Mackay won the medal.

LUFFNESS GOLF CLUB.

The members of this club took part in the annual "Hansel Monday" competition. As usual at this meeting, the principal award consisted of a handsome set of clubs, presented by the hon. president, Mr. H. A. Hope, of Luffness, a condition of which prize is that no member can win them on more than one occasion. There was a fairly good muster of players. The flag on the flagstaff was half-mast high in token of the sympathy felt by the club for the Royal Family in their present loss. Good Golf was a matter of considerable difficulty in the present state of the green, which is largely covered with water and ice. Otherwise the conditions were favourable. In addition to the scratch award, a number of handicap prizes were given by the club, and these had the effect of extending interest in the competition. The putting-greens, where not interfered with by the water, were in capital condition. Mr. Congalton, as usual, superintended the draw, which was as follows:—Messrs. T. D. Thomson, of Eastercraig, and A. Wallace, North Berwick; Messrs. James G. Cral, Haddington, and — Todrick, Spittal; Messrs. D. Fisher, Edinburgh, and W. G. Paxton, Edinburgh; Messrs. J. Fairgrieve, Edinburgh, and J. J. W. Lamb, Aberlady; Mr. A. Gillam, Gullane, and Dr. H. D. Alexander, Edinburgh; Messrs. D. Ritchie, Gullane, and W. Palmer, Dirlerton; Messrs. J. F. Paxton, Edinburgh, and J. Lees, Edinburgh; Mr. J. M'Laren, Ballencrieff, a bye. In the scratch competition Mr. A. Wallace was the winner with an excellent 82, the details of which are—3 6 6 5 6 4 6 4 4 3 7 2 4 5 6 4 3 4. Mr. A. Gillam had an 84, and the next best actuals were Mr. J. F. Paxton, 89, and Mr. D. Ritchie, 90. In the handicap competition the best scores were:—Mr. A. Gillam, 84, less 3=81; Mr. J. Fairgrieve, 98, less 14=84; Dr. Alexander, 99, less 15=84; Mr. J. G. Cral, 97, less 12=85; Mr.

J. F. Paxton, 89, less 4=85; Mr. W. G. Paxton, 91, less 4=87; Mr. T. D. Thomson, 100, less 10=90; Mr. D. Fisher, 100, less 10=90; Mr. D. Ritchie, scratch, 90; Mr. J. M'Laren, 106, less 16=90. The afternoon was devoted to private matches.

LYTHAM AND ST. ANNE'S GOLF CLUB.

"Water, water everywhere," stopping the well-known quotation at that point, makes it quite applicable to the condition of the links at St. Anne's-on-the-Sea in the earlier part of the day on Saturday last, when the fourth competition for the Bury cup (postponed from the previous Saturday in consequence of the snow) was played by the members of the Lytham and St. Anne's Golf Club. Notwithstanding that Saturday last opened with some fog and slight rain, forty players went for the competition. The best gross scores were made by Mr. G. F. Smith, Bolton, 96; Mr. W. Newbigging, St. Anne's, 98; Mr. A. H. Doleman, South Shore, 100. The best net scores under 100 were by Mr. F. Topp, St. Anne's, 106, less 16=90; Mr. W. Newbigging, 98, less 7=91; Mr. N. Cockshutt, Preston, 107, less 16=91; Mr. F. T. Wright, Tyldesley, 101, less 8=93; Mr. J. Talbot Fair, Lytham, 107, less 12=95; Mr. G. F. Smith, Bolton, 96, scratch=96; Mr. A. H. Doleman, 100, less 2=98; Mr. S. Gask, Lytham, 114, less 15=99. The Bury cup is presented for the best three net scores out of six competitions. So far the wins of each competition have been as follow:—First, October 24th, 1891, Rev. G. E. Badeley, Blackpool, 94, less 9=85; second, November 21st, 1891, Mr. F. Hampson, Blackpool, 97, less 16=81; third, December 19th, 1891, Mr. A. H. Doleman, South Shore, 91, less 2=89; fourth, January 23rd, 1892, Mr. F. Topp, Little Hulton, Bolton, 106, less 16=90. On Saturday last the first optional sweepstakes was won by Mr. F. Topp, the second by Mr. W. Newbigging, and the third by Mr. F. T. Wright, Tyldesley. The score of the play on Saturday was as follows:—

Gross. Hcp. Net.			
Mr. F. Topp, Little Hulton, Bolton	106	16	90
Mr. W. Newbigging, St. Anne's	98	7	91
Mr. N. Cockshutt, Preston	107	16	91
Mr. F. T. Wright, Tyldesley	101	8	93
Mr. J. Talbot Fair, Lytham	107	12	95
Mr. G. F. Smith, Eastwood, Bolton	96	scr.	96
Mr. A. H. Doleman, South Shore	100	2	98
Mr. S. Gask, Lytham	114	15	99
Mr. C. G. D. Hoare, St. Anne's	106	6	100
Mr. B. Thompson, St. Anne's	113	13	100
Mr. T. Baxter, St. Anne's	117	17	100
Mr. L. Pilkington, Prestwich, Manchester	116	15	101
Mr. E. Redfern, St. Anne's	121	20	101
Mr. F. C. Morgan, Manchester	106	4	102
Mr. J. Bradbury, South Shore	120	18	102
Mr. J. F. Pearson, St. Anne's	122	20	102
Dr. C. de M. Palmer, Buxton	124	20	104
Mr. J. A. F. Eltoft, St. Anne's	119	13	106
Mr. E. M. Whipp, St. Anne's	124	17	107
Mr. C. Addison Birley, Bartle Hall	124	17	107
Mr. A. Tod, St. Anne's	126	18	108
Mr. J. Marcus Rea, St. Anne's	117	6	111
Mr. C. Pilkington, Prestwich, Manchester	129	18	111
Mr. H. Fisher, Wrea Green	125	12	113
Mr. W. Eckersley, Tyldesley	140	Not h'cpd.	

The following did not send in any returns:—Mr. G. Harper, Preston; Mr. R. B. Hardman, St. Anne's; Mr. W. Cross, St. Anne's; Mr. J. E. King, St. Anne's; Mr. A. S. Bles, Manchester; Mr. W. H. Hampson, South Shore; Mr. E. Harrison, St. Anne's; Mr. W. H. Ramden, Tyldesley; Mr. R. Lythgoe, St. Anne's; Mr. W. H. Harrison, Lytham; Rev. G. E. Badeley, Blackpool; Mr. H. Crabtree, St. Anne's; Mr. J. A. Brown, St. Anne's. The links are now improving every day since the excessive wet weather ceased, and will, no doubt, very speedily regain their ordinary very satisfactory condition.

PAU LADIES' GOLF CLUB.

Mrs. Ross's prize, a silver mirror, was played for on the 11th inst. with the following result:—

Gross. Hcp. Net.			Gross. Hcp. Net.				
Miss Bethune	75	3	72	Mrs. Maud	94	13	81
Miss Newall	74	+1	75	Miss Levett	84	1	83
Hon. E. St. Aubyn	87	12	75	Miss Macleay	103	20	83
Mrs. A. Troyte	90	15	75	Mrs. Harrison	104	20	84
Mrs. Boreel	94	18	76	Hon. E. St. Aubyn	95	10	85
Miss M. Newall	76	scr.	76	Miss Henry	88	2	86
Mrs. Jones	94	17	77	Miss M. Hatch	107	20	87
Miss Hatch	99	20	79	Miss Ellis	109	20	89
Miss C. Halkett	97	17	80	Mrs. R. Boreel	120	20	100
Miss Hay	100	20	80				

Also played—Hon. M. St. Aubyn, Mrs. Walker, and Mrs. Scarisbrick.

Mr. Clarke's prize, a gold and pearl bracelet, was played for on 18th inst., with the following result :—

Gross. Hcp. Net.			Gross. Hcp. Net.				
Miss N. Ross ...	74	9	65	Mrs. Jones ...	91	9	82
Miss Y. Newall ...	80	9	71	Miss de Longuevil	93	9	84
Miss M. Newall ...	75	scr.	75	Miss Rane ...	94	9	85
Miss Bethune ...	74	+1	75	Miss Hatch ...	95	9	86
Miss Newall ...	79	+1	80	Miss Hay ...	99	9	90
Hon. El. St. Aubyn	89	9	80	Miss Swan ...	100	9	91
Miss Levett ...	81	1	80	Mrs. A. Troyte ...	104	9	95
Hon. Ev. St. Aubyn	89	9	80				

Also played : Miss Henry, Mrs. Boreel, Mrs. R. Boreel, Lady Agnes Townshend, Mrs. Maud, Miss G. Cunninghame, Miss M. Hatch, Miss Cunninghame, Miss Macleay, Miss Craigie-Halkett, Miss Ellis.

PROFESSIONAL MATCHES.

A. KIRKALDY V. J. H. TAYLOR.—MATCH FOR £27.

The concluding thirty-six holes of this match were played on the Burnham Links on Tuesday, January 19th, and resulted in a win for Taylor by 4 up and 2 to play. A large number of spectators were present, and the whole match was watched with the keenest interest. It may be remembered that the first half of this match was played at Winchester in December, when Taylor won by 1 hole, after a most exciting and closely-contested finish, the interest of which was fully maintained at Burnham.

The weather, although damp and misty, and therefore unpleasant for the onlookers, was nevertheless a good one for Golf, there being no wind. The putting-greens were in most excellent order, but did not play as keen as usual, owing to the late heavy rainfall. The driving of both players was magnificent, not a single mistake on the whole thirty-six holes. It was universally acknowledged, however, that Taylor, as a rule, drove a longer and straighter ball than his opponent. This, coupled with his fine iron approaches, undoubtedly secured him his advantage, and he was constantly greeted with loud applause. Kirkaldy's putting, especially during the first eighteen holes, was very fine, particularly in two or three instances, when he was stymied; he also made some extraordinary long putts, which enabled him to halve several holes which appeared to be a certainty for Taylor. Some of the latter's long putts during this part of the game were rather weak, and he lost his chance of winning two or three holes in consequence. He, however, putted with much more confidence during the second round, making some very fine strokes, more especially at the fourteenth and sixteenth holes. The luck was about even, both players getting bad lies at times, from which they extricated themselves with most praiseworthy skill. Kirkaldy gave up the fourteenth hole in the first round, having landed himself in his second stroke into one of the worst bunkers on the links, out of which he did not attempt to play. It may, therefore, be assumed that his score for this hole would have been at least 6, and it is recorded as such below, marked with an asterisk.

At the conclusion of the match, both players were heartily applauded for their brilliant display, their play throughout having been almost perfect. The sporting nature of the Burnham links tested their skill to the utmost, and everyone agreed that it was one of the finest matches they had ever witnessed. Taylor, who is not yet 21, learnt his Golf under Charlie Gibson, at Westward Ho! and is to be congratulated on beating such a veteran as A. Kirkaldy. His victory certainly stamps him as a first-class player, and competent to take his place amongst the first rank of professionals. Full score and particulars of the match as under :—

Winchester :—

First Round—

Taylor ...	7	4	4	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	5	6	5	4	4	5	6	5=87
Kirkaldy ...	6	5	5	4	6	5	5	4	4	4	5	6	6	4	6	4	4	5=88

Second Round—

Taylor ...	6	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	4	4	5	4	4=84
Kirkaldy ...	6	4	4	5	6	5	5	4	5	4	5	5	5	4	4	3	5	5=84

Result: Taylor, 1 up on the thirty-six holes.

Burnham :—

First Round—

Taylor ...	3	5	4	4	6	4	4	3	4	4	5	6	5	5	4	3	3	4=76
Kirkaldy ...	3	5	6	4	6	4	4	2	4	5	5	6	6	6	3	4	3	5=81

Second Round—

Taylor ...	4	5	5	4	5	4	3	3	6	4	5	4	5	5	4	2	3	4=75
Kirkaldy ...	4	5	5	3	5	2	4	4	6	4	4	5	4	5	3	3	3	4=73

Result : Taylor, 3 up on the thirty-six holes. Taylor won the match of seventy-two holes by 4 up and 2 to play.

Taylor, holding the honour, hit off a fine straight shot from the tee at 11.30, Kirkaldy following with an equally good one, and nearly holed in his second with a fine iron shot, laying his ball stone dead. Taylor's approach fell short by about six feet; he, however, holed out in his third, and a good hole was halved in 3. A long straight drive is necessary for this hole, there being two nasty banks to carry about one hundred yards from the tee, a sliced ball is almost certain to find the bottom of one of two deep sand-bunkers, and a badly pulled one a hedge, or worse still, an old garden, out of which it is often impossible to play. Both men made fine drives from the second tee, Taylor over-driving his opponent, whose ball lay badly cupped, but it was played out beautifully. Taylor, with his second, overdrove the green, and lay badly on the side of a sand-hill. Kirkaldy's approach was short, and found the bottom of a nasty sand-bunker, over which it is necessary to loft to reach the green; he, however, with a fine shot, laid his ball dead. Taylor got out of his difficulty well, but over-ran the hole, and, missing his putt, the hole was halved in 5. Two fine drives were made for the third hole, which is one of the most difficult to play on the links, both reached the green in 3. Taylor just missed holing in his fourth, lying on the lip of the hole and styming Kirkaldy, who, in attempting to hole, knocked Taylor's ball in, thereby losing himself the hole by 6 to 4. Taylor outdrove Kirkaldy for the next hole and reached the green in his second, steering well clear of some whins on the right of the course, which are apt to land a short-sliced ball into trouble. Kirkaldy played his second short, but succeeded in laying his ball dead with his third, the hole being halved in 4. In playing for the fifth—the longest and most difficult hole on the links, there being a double bank with a deep precipitous sand-bunker on either side and a sand road in front to negotiate—which is at present under water—both lay badly off their second, and the hole was halved in 6. The drive for the sixth hole is over a large sand-hill called "Majuba," similar to the "Maiden" at Sandwich; the green, however, may be reached with a good straight cleek shot; a topped or badly struck ball is almost certain to lead to grave disaster, there being a bank about 30 yards from the tee, with a hedge on either side of the course, a deep sandy roadway beyond and bunkers on either side of the true line. This hole is one of the most sporting on the links and was halved in 4. The seventh hole which also requires a good long straight drive, owing to a high ridge and deep bunker in front, a hedge and ditch on the left, and bad lying ground on the right of the green, was halved in 4. The eighth hole was brilliantly won by Kirkaldy in 2, who holed his ball out of rough grass with his mashie, at least 12 yards from the hole, and was loudly applauded. Taylor holed in 3, which brought the game level on the morning's play. All these three last greens may be reached with a good drive, and are of a most sporting character. The ninth green may be reached in a good drive and an iron shot; both players achieved this, and halved in 4. It is, however, necessary to drive straight for this hole, or your ball is apt to find the bottom of a nasty ditch or lodge in a hedge on the right of the course.

In going to the tenth (second time round) both reached the green in their second, Kirkaldy having to play the odd over-ran the hole by about 18 inches. Taylor, in the like, laid him a dead stymie, his ball lying not 2 inches from the hole. To win the hole it was, therefore, necessary for Kirkaldy to loft his ball right into the hole, which he made a grand attempt to do, his ball striking the lip, and just "gobbling" out, this effort was greeted with loud cheers. Taylor, therefore, won the hole by 4 to 5. The next two holes were halved in 5 and 6 respectively. Taylor won the thirteenth by steady play in 5 to Kirkaldy's 6. Kirkaldy, in approaching the fourteenth in his second, with a brassy, bunkered himself very badly, and at once gave up the hole, taking up his ball. Taylor's ball, after a fine drive, lay badly in loose sand on the edge of a rabbit-hole, out of which he made a magnificent cleek-shot almost on to the green—one of his finest strokes during the day—and holed out in 5. Kirkaldy won the next hole by 3 to 4. His drive for the sixteenth being too much to the right, landed him into a deep rabbit-scraping; he, however, played out splendidly, holing in 4 to Taylor's 3. The next hole was halved in 3, Kirkaldy's drive being too much to the left. The eighteenth hole was won by Taylor in 4 to Kirkaldy's 5, the latter's putt just missing the hole. Taylor was now 4 up on the morning's play. After an interval of three-quarters of an hour for lunch, play was resumed—nothing of importance taking place in the first three holes, which were all halved. Kirkaldy made a most brilliant putt at the fourth, gaining the hole by 3 to 4. The fifth hole was halved in 5, after a fine exhibition of play. In driving over "Majuba," Kirkaldy laid his ball nearly dead, and holed in 2—a fine performance—Taylor taking 4. The latter, however, revenged at the seventh, and taking the advantage of Kirkaldy's failing to hole his putt, won by 3 to 4. The next hole was also won by Taylor in 3 to 4. To show the wonderful accuracy of Taylor's driving it may be mentioned that in three consecutive drives for this hole during the match his ball lay within six inches of the previous drive, all being on a dead-line for the hole, but a few yards beyond it. Kirkaldy again drove to the left, and was bunkered. His drive to the ninth landed in a bad spot in the hedge before mentioned, he being too much to the right of the course. He, however, extricated himself grandly in his second. Taylor, after

reaching the green in 2, moved his putt in his fourth, and was stymied by Kirkaldy in his fifth, and failing to hole, Kirkaldy halved in 6. Taylor's drive for the tenth was a grand one, landing on the edge of the green; this hole was halved in 4. Kirkaldy secured the eleventh by brilliant play by 4 to 5, Taylor having just failed to hole a long putt. The latter, however, reversed this score at the next hole, securing it by 4 to 5. The next hole was won by Kirkaldy, Taylor's drive—one of the longest of the day—having carried too far, and landed him into a sandy road, which crosses the course. He, however, played out well in his second, but lost the hole, playing 5 to Kirkaldy's 4. The excitement at this period of the game was intense, as it was felt that either man might win. Two fine drives were made for the fourteenth hole. Taylor, however, met with bad luck in his second, his ball rolling back from a good lie into water. He, however, played out grandly, and the hole looked a certainty for Kirkaldy, Taylor having a very long putt for the half, and being almost stymied by Kirkaldy, who lay dead. He, however, saved it with a most brilliant stroke, which met with enthusiastic cheers, this stroke making him dormy, with 4 to play. It was, however, felt that with a player of Kirkaldy's calibre the match might still be halved, and every stroke was watched amidst breathless excitement, which was intensified when Kirkaldy won the fifteenth by 3 to 4. Taylor, however, was not to be denied, and holed the sixteenth in 2 with a fine long putt, Kirkaldy taking 3. He thus won one of the finest and most closely-contested matches that could possibly have been witnessed by 4 up and 2 to play. The last two holes were halved in 3 and 4 respectively.

W. FERNIE AND H. KIRKALDY.

After his match with Willie Fernie at Machrihanish on the 16th inst., Hugh Kirkaldy accompanied Fernie to Troon with a view to engaging in some play over Troon links. The couple arrived at Troon on Wednesday, and a foursome arranged on Thursday. The weather, however, turned out very wet, and Kirkaldy, very properly, declined to expose himself, and the match did not come off. On Friday the weather was again wet, and there was again a day of idleness so far as the links were concerned. On Saturday morning, however, the weather being very fine, Fernie and Kirkaldy arranged a match of eighteen holes. The contest was, we believe, of a purely friendly character, not even the customary half-crown being at stake, but the play was of an exceptionally high order, and the scoring, considering that the putting-greens were somewhat rough, was very low, and was even within the scope of record play. As Fernie has proved, over and over again, it takes a first-rate man to be in very good form indeed to beat him on his own ground. He played a game that was almost without mistake going out, but nevertheless Kirkaldy stuck very close to him, and though Fernie was 2 up at "Turnberry" (the eighth hole), he dropped the "Monk" (the ninth), and "Sandhills" (the tenth) falling to the champion, they started for the "Fox" all square. The twelfth fell to Kirkaldy, and he here led for the first and only time in the match, getting the hole in 3 to Fernie's 4. The match was all square at the next, Fernie, in virtue of a long steal, getting down in 3 to his opponent's 4. The fourteenth also went to the resident professional, Kirkaldy failing to hole a rather short putt. The fifteenth was halved in 5. Perfect play enabled the St. Andrews man to secure the sixteenth in 3 to the Troon man's 4, when the match was again all square. Going to the seventeenth, both played two long shots, Fernie with the driver and brassie, and Kirkaldy with the driver and cleck, on to the green; but Kirkaldy, who was farthest from the hole, over-ran it, and left himself an awkward putt, which he failed to hole. Fernie, on the other hand, having the best of the lie for his second shot, made his fourth shot a certainty, and he got down in 4, which made him dormy 1. As the last hole was halved Fernie was thus the victor by 1 hole. The undernoted scores show that the play was of an unusually high order:—

Fernie— 4 3 5 4 6 3 5 4 5 5 4 4 3 4 5 4 4 4=76
Kirkaldy— 5 3 5 4 5 4 6 4 4 4 4 3 4 5 5 3 5 4=77

RANELAGH GOLF CLUB.

Weekly medal competition ending 23rd January, 1892.

Gross. Hcp. Net.			Gross. Hcp. Net.				
Mr. A. F. Leach ...	99	23	76	Mr. R. B. Davis ...	97	14	83
Mr. A. J. Davies ...	96	18	78	Mr. L. E. G. Abney	108	12	96
Mr. W. Russel ...	94	11	83				

ROYAL MUSSELBURGH GOLF CLUB.

This club opened its season on Thursday, the 21st inst. with the usual handicap competition for two prizes, tacked on to which were four sweepstakes awards. For these the turn-out was exceedingly small, all the cracks being conspicuous by their absence, and so it was that the handicap performers had the honours all to themselves. The atmospheric conditions were excellent, but the frost-bound greens

proved rather tricky, and many a good approach was spoiled in consequence. Ultimately Messrs. W. Tait and C. Carey were found to have tied at 86 for first place, but the former won easily at the second time of asking. There was also a tie between Messrs. D. S. Duncan and W. Dougall for third place, but these gentlemen preferred to divide. The best actual was Mr. C. E. Hine's 92. Subjoined are details:—

Gross. Hcp. Net.			Gross. Hcp. Net.				
Mr. W. Tait ...	104	18	86	Mr. T. T. Gray ...	96	2	94
Mr. C. Carey ...	96	10	86	Mr. A. McLennan ...	109	14	95
Mr. W. Dougall ...	103	14	89	Dr. Gray ...	98	2	96
Mr. D. S. Duncan ...	99	10	89	Mr. A. S. Bourhill ...	96	scr.	96
Mr. C. E. Hine ...	92	2	90	Mr. R. B. Nisbet ...	104	8	96
Mr. J. L. Brown ...	100	10	90	Mr. J. Herriott ...	115	18	97
Mr. J. Baillie ...	96	4	92	Mr. G. Sinclair ...	108	8	100
Mr. D. Fisher ...	99	6	93	Mr. F. A. Renwick ...	104	4	100
Mr. D. Carmichael ...	105	12	93	Mr. J. Young ...	112	10	102
Mr. J. Gibson ...	102	8	94	Mr. W. Urquhart ...	114	8	106

No returns from Messrs. J. M. Thomson, A. Davidson, T. Thompson, and G. Wilson.

SEATON CAREW GOLF CLUB.

The competition for the Club cup, which was postponed on the 15th January, took place on Saturday, when there was only a poor muster of members. On the cards being examined, it was found that Mr. A. B. Crosby was the winner with the net score of 83, being very closely followed by several other members. Scores:—Mr. A. B. Crosby, 95, less 12=83; Mr. C. J. Bunting, 97, less 13=84; Mr. H. Simpson, 101, less 16=85; Mr. Seymour Walker, 93, less 18=85; Mr. E. W. Walker, 103, less 18=85; Mr. G. Newby, 95, less 4=92; Rev. F. Savory, 122, less 25=97; Mr. C. Cooper, 105, less 7=98; Messrs. A. R. Paton, A. B. Wilson, and Rev. W. Wickwar, made no returns. The record of the green was broken on the 18th inst. by J. Kay, the resident professional, when playing a round with Captain F. N. Friend, returning the practically perfect score of 70.

WEST HERTS GOLF CLUB.

The usual monthly medal handicap was played over the club course at Bushey, on Saturday last, with the following results:—

The annual general meeting was held at the hall afterwards, the new rules, as settled at St. Andrews, being adopted. The amount of entrance-fee and subscription for new members, when the club numbers 200, being left to the committee.

Gross. Hcp. Net.			Gross. Hcp. Net.				
Mr. F. Carver ...	99	11	88	Mr. Howard Williams	118	14	104
Mr. G. F. Pearson ...	109	20	89	Mr. R. W. Sedgwick	132	26	106
Mr. O. W. F. Hill ...	113	21	92	Mr. C. E. Fry ...	131	22	109
Mr. E. R. Harby ...	114	21	93	Rev. Dr. O. C. Cockrem	154	28	126
Mr. A. H. Wallace ...	109	9	100	Mr. Ernest Taylor ...	167		Not
Mr. R. S. Clouston ...	104	3	101	Mr. H. Harrison ...	180		h'cpd.
Mr. C. Davis ...	128	24	104				

WHITLEY GOLF CLUB.

Another round of the competition for the Joicey cup should have been played off on the 19th inst. across the Whitley links, but only one competitor, Mr. Sharp, put in an appearance, and, of course, he had a walk over. The competitions are fixed to take place every alternate Tuesday, but the numbers turning out have gradually dwindled down from a dozen at the opening round, to one. Both the weather and the condition of the links were favourable to the making of low scores. Although the sky was not clear, there was a fairly good light and an entire absence of wind. The snow had entirely disappeared, and the greens were in exceedingly good condition.

LARKS CLUB, MUSSELBURGH.—The annual business meeting of this club was held on Thursday evening the 21st inst., vice-captain Mr. A. Golville presiding. The captain's, secretary's, and treasurer's reports for the past year were read and adopted, after which the office-bearers for the ensuing year were appointed. Captain, Mr. Andrew Colville; vice-captain, Councillor J. R. Newlands; treasurer, Mr. George Crandles (reappointed); secretary, Mr. T. K. Campbell, 115, High Street (reappointed); council: the above with Mr. Andrew McCulloch and Mr. Peter Blair added. At this meeting four new members were admitted.

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