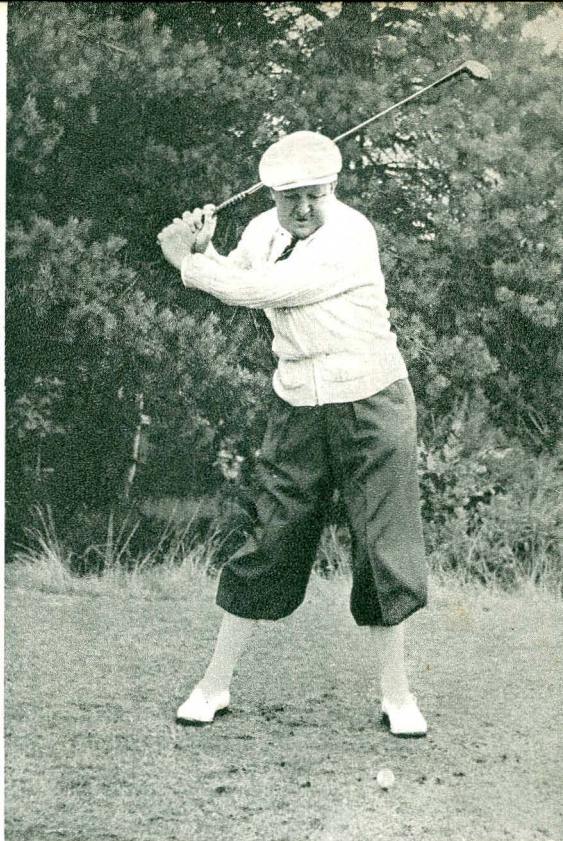




1



2

## 5. DOWNSWING TO IMPACT

It is only now that I begin to think of hitting the ball.

**Illustration 1** Please examine this position most carefully and practise and practise until you can emulate it faithfully. And always remember that the first movement of the downswing is a slight drag with the left hand.

**Illustration 2** The importance of starting the downswing with the drag with the left hand is that it keeps the club-head travelling 'inside', and that prevents the grievous fault of looping the club-head at the top of the swing. The club-head should reach the top of the swing and start back on the downswing in an easy, flowing movement: no halting, no jerking.

To return to the left hand: its use at this point also starts the main weight of the body gradually moving over from the right foot to the left as the left heel returns to the ground. Notice that my chin is still in its original position. When I get to the position you see in this illustration, I begin to unwind the wrists, but not before.

**Illustration 3** I am now down almost to the 'right-knee-high' position with my hands, and this is the hitting position. It is here that the right hand takes possession to square the club-face with the ball at impact. It is utterly wrong to start hitting from the top of the backswing—and by that I mean *consciously*