

# THE AMERICAN GOLFER

THE AUTHORITATIVE ORGAN OF THE  
"ROYAL AND ANCIENT" GAME

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The Editor will be glad to receive, for consideration, articles, humorous anecdotes, unusual incidents and photographs of a bright and original character, and, when accepted, payment will be made on publication. Secretaries of clubs are informed that schedules of club fixtures and competition results and items of news are welcome at all times, as well as copies of latest club books.

## WINTER GREENS



THERE APPEARS to be an ineradicable impression that play on the regular putting-greens during the winter season is injurious to the greens. Accordingly, with the approach of winter, temporary greens are provided. . . makeshift affairs for the most part, improvised at the eleventh hour out of the adjacent fairway, without any preliminary preparation other than cutting. Wretched substitutes they are. . . levellers. . . reducing the delicate and vitally important part of the game to a point where the poor putt is as likely as not to find the bottom of the hole, and the good putt remain outside. For the passage to the hole is a very bobbly one, full of inequalities of surface to say nothing of a coarse texture of turf that conduces toward making the whole

business of putting a mere lottery. A few weeks of this sort of play would spoil the putting of even the most expert. And certainly it does not spell for future improvement at the hands of the more inept.

And the sad part of it is that it is so unnecessary.

Good putters cannot possibly be developed on poor greens.

That which marks the difference between a good course and a mediocre one is largely the character and the putting qualities of the greens. Of course there are other things, but these, just now, are outside our purview and have no immediate bearing on the question. It takes not only time but incessant care to get a good green. . . time for the grasses to consolidate and mature. . . care, and incessant care, to bring about and preserve a condition where the ball will roll or glide sweetly over the surface without steeplechasing. That is really one of the most important tests of a green. When a ball "bobbles" or leaps into the air more or less, it is a sure indication that the *underneath* surface—the soil—is not true. The *top* surface—the grass—may be smooth enough, but unless the foundation is absolutely true, really accurate putting is a matter of luck. Now, one can stand these "rubs of the green" through the green with more or less good grace. . . when the well-hit tee-shot or approach takes a violent "kick"—usually away from the hole—but when it comes to the sacred precincts of that choice and much-cared for section of terra firma within 20 yards of the hole, then one has a reasonable right to expect something better, something fairer, something approximating perfection.

This right is denied one, usually, on a "temporary" green—which brings



us back to what we had in mind at the outset. . .that temporary greens are a snare and delusion, and wholly unnecessary.

Lengthened years of experience have conclusively demonstrated that no possible harm can come to a regularly established green in any of the Northern States from winter play. . . no matter how severe the conditions.

We have seen greens played over year after year during the entire winter that really seemed to improve under the strain. And under conditions that would seem to invite disaster . . . alternate freezing and thawing, and during the thawing the terrible pock-marking by heel-prints that would appear to indicate the greens were irretrievably ruined. But rolling smoothed out all these inequalities, and the greens were none the worse at the end or rather the beginning of the season.

#### THE REASON IS QUITE SIMPLE

During the winter, up North, after the first severe freeze, the grass may be said to be in a state of hibernation. Growth is at a standstill. And it remains in this quiescent state until Spring. The vitality is in the *roots*,

not the blades. In fact, we will go so far as to say that the surface blades may be virtually obliterated during the winter without serious affectation. In short, we maintain, absolutely and unequivocally, that wherever temperature conditions from December to February alternate from anything below zero to 10 degrees, 20 degrees or even 30 degrees above, no possible harm can prevail. Cold, even extreme cold, does not ordinarily kill grass. Grass is killed during the winter by the snow accumulation in hollows failing to melt off completely during a thaw, the freeze following turning the melted snow into ice... and the heat radiation from the sun does the rest. This is the more ordinary form of "winter kill." In some few cases similar results are brought about by the moisture from a thaw being retained *under the surface* by a bottom more or less impervious to drainage, such as heavy clay or shale.

Another thing: the location of the "temporary" greens must necessarily mean the practical extinguishment of the concomitant hazards of the regular greens.

There is only one thing to be

guarded against in the matter of using the regular greens regularly. At the first blush or suggestion of Spring, then, and then only, should temporary greens be put into play. This according to different latitudes. As soon as that period approaches when experience suggests the frost is shortly to be out of the ground, then is the time to be cautious. Don't take any chances. Close the regular greens. The inhibited period may last only for a week or so. Better it were that play absolutely were prohibited. For this is the crucial stage. Now, the grass roots commence, languidly, but nevertheless without danger of any really *important* set-back, to start the sap up toward the formation of the blades. If these roots, or even the crown roots, are exposed to frost at this stage, injury may result, according to the degree of frost.

Early Spring is the time to stop play, not during the winter.

THE Golf Monthly (London) in an account of the amateur championship at Merion makes some amazing statements, as for instance:

*"The course, baked dry by the drought, gave forth great clouds of dust as the crowds swarmed along, like a stampede of buffaloes in the early days of the West."*

We were present during the championship, but failed to see anything even suggestive of "clouds of dust."

Again:

*"For the first time in an American championship a refreshment tent was provided for spectators."*

So far as our recollection goes, ever since the inception of the amateur championship refreshment tents have been provided for spectators.

And:

*"On the first night of the championship the Merion Cricket Club tendered the Executive Committee of the United States Golf Association a dinner at the club house. A dance for the visiting players was also*

*given at the club house following the dinner. Hardly the best preparation for serious golf."*

We were present on the occasion, but there was no dance.

IT WAS rather rough on Mr. Hughes, after being 8 up with only 9 to play, to lose.

THE New York Newspaper Golf Club wound up its playing season at the Van Cortlandt Park links last month with the annual Gymkhana. One of the features of the meeting was a foursome on the twelve meadow holes. By a singular coincidence, the first prize in the men's section was won by Mr. E. E. Silvernail and Mr. D. C. Silvernail, and in the women's by Mrs. E. E. Silvernail and Mrs. D. C. Silvernail, each pair recording 47 strokes.

The driving competition was won by the English amateur, Mr. J. S. Worthington, who was a guest of the club. Against a strong wind, he drove 233 yards. Mr. R. F. Foster, Vice President of the Newspaper Golf Club, took second prize.

A "tombstone" competition was also played, but instead of awarding the prize to the man who played the best golf, it was given for the best written epitaph. This went to Mr. Dailey, who "died" on the 17th hole. He wrote on his card:

*"Here lies Dailey—28,  
He got his start a bit too late,  
He dubbed a drive; he missed a putt;  
Oh! isn't he the silly mutt!  
He's buried not within the hole,  
But ten feet off—God rest his soul."*

The Cooper Cup, presented by Mr. George L. Cooper, was won by Mr. Alfred P. Roth, the winners in previous years having been Albert Hedley, H. Grantland Rice, F. K. Flaugh and Edgar R. Laverly.

The prize for the best selected score of the season was won by Mr. A. P.

Roth, with 32, 30—62. Mr. A. C. Murray and Mr. F. K. Flaugh being next in a tie at 63.

The Press championship was played over the Siwanoy Country Club course, Mr. E. M. Alexander capturing the honors, with Mr. Albert Hedley as runner-up.

The Newspaper Golf Club championship, played at Van Cortlandt Park, was won by Mr. F. K. Flaugh, with Mr. Albert Hedley the runner-up.

THE Nominating Committee of the Metropolitan Golf Association, consisting of Messrs. Findlay S. Douglas, Chairman; John Bates and F. C. Mahon, have presented the following ticket of officers and Executive Committee for 1917: President, John B. Coles Tappan; Vice President C. J. Sullivan; Secretary, E. Mortimer Barnes; Treasurer, Geo. H. Barnes. For Executive Committee, the above officers and Messrs. A. H. Pogson, A. M. Reid, James A. Tyng, Paul Moore and J. F. Shanley.

The annual meeting of the Association will be held at Delmonico's on December 12th, at 8.30 P. M.

THE Nominating Committee of the United States Golf Association, consisting of Messrs. Milton Dargan, Chairman; Wm. E. Stauffer, Albert R. Fish, Geo. H. Walker and Henry H. Wilder, have presented the following ticket for officers, etc., for 1917:

President, Howard W. Perrin, Pine Valley Golf Club; Vice Presidents, Dr. Walter S. Harban, Columbia Country Club; M. Lewis Crosby, The Country Club; Secretary, Howard F. Whitney, Nassau Country Club; Treasurer, Frederick S. Wheeler, Apawamis Club; Executive Committee, Robert A. Gardner, Hinsdale Golf Club; Sterling Edmunds, St. Louis Country Club; Mortimer N. Buckner, Garden City Golf Club; W. P. Stewart, Audubon Golf Club; Nominating Committee, 1917, Silas H.



MISS GRACE JEWETT WILLIAMS, Women's Buffalo City champion, 1916.

Strawn, Chairman, Old Elm Club; Charles M. Amory, Essex Country Club; W. F. Brooks, Minikahda Club; A. Hamilton S. Post, Baltimore Country Club; Findlay S. Douglas, National Golf Links of America.

The annual meeting of the Association will be held on Jan. 12th.

THE EARLY November interest in Chas. Evans Hughes was perhaps only exceeded by the early September interest in Chas. Evans' Putts.—A. McG.

MR. R. C. MAXWELL is the club champion of the Trenton (N. J.) Country Club. He beat Mr. Leon Slack in the final by 3 and 1.

WE LEARN from the New York *Times* that in the Fall tournament of the Country Club of Atlantic City, "Steiner laid Risley stymies on the 10th and 15th, and *these well executed*



SEYMOUR DUNN, who has been appointed professional to the Hampton Terrace Hotel course at Augusta, Ga.

*shots* practically decided the match in the New Yorker's favor.

The italics are ours.

#### THE UNIVERSAL GAME

PRESIDENT TAFT convinced us it was a fat man's game. John D. Rockefeller made us believe it was an old man's game. Young Bobby Jones furnished indisputable testimony that it was a school-boy's game, and now Miss Alexa Stirling demonstrates that golf is for girls.

A RECEPTION was given by Atlanta in honor of Miss Alexa Stirling on her return from her trip East, after winning the Berthelbyn Cup in Philadelphia and the women's national cham-

pionship at Belmont Spring. All Atlanta was represented. She was escorted from the train by young Bobby Jones and Perry Adair to the Georgian Terrace, where there was a public reception in her honor. Miss Stirling was presented with a jewelled ring, the gift of the Atlanta Women's Golf Association. A couple of days later a reception and ball were given in her honor by the Atlanta Athletic Club, on which occasion Miss Stirling was presented with a diamond-studded wrist-watch. Three days subsequently the Morgan Violin School, of which she is the star pupil and a senior this year, gave a reception in her honor.

THE United States Golf Association has decided that next year at least the women will be allowed to select the date for their annual national championship and also to practically decide upon the course. The Committee formed for this purpose consists of Miss Fanny C. Osgood, Brookline, Chairman; Miss Marion Hollins, Westbrook; Miss Eleanor W. Chandler, Philadelphia; Mrs. Bruce D. Smith, Chicago and Miss Alexa Stirling, Atlanta. Three courses will be selected, to be voted on at the meeting of the United States Golf Association in January.

"Lifting to identify,  
Oft improves a rotten lie."

STEWART MAIDEN, the professional at the Atlanta Athletic Club, has come in for a good deal of well-deserved praise for his excellent work in rounding out the games of the Atlanta prodigies, young Bobby Jones, Perry Adair and Miss Alexa Stirling, also young Tom Prescott. To our mind, however, a great deal of credit attaches also to Mr. Geo. W. Adair, of Atlanta. Through his untiring efforts,

Atlanta now boasts at least of two very fine courses, and he has always taken a strong personal interest in the games of the above youngsters in the capacity of guide, philosopher and friend in a golfing way.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GROSSHERZOGLICHER GOLFKLUB, DARMSTADT, APRIL 10TH, 1916.

The presiding officer in part said: "In the first place, we wish to express our heartfelt thanks for the great services rendered by our late President, Oberhofmarschall Freiherr von Ungern-Sternberg, who fell all too early on the field of honor." In honor of the departed, all present arose from their seats. Honor was also shown to four other members, who fell in battle for their country, namely:

Dr. Bopp, Excellence Cleve, Dr. Fitting, Lieut. von Stoesser by those present arising from their seats.

The presiding officer informed the meeting that a number of members have resigned from the club, some owing to the force of circumstances and some for other reasons, so that the number of regular members has fallen from 74 to 47, the honorary members from 44 to 29, the inactive members from 6 to 2 and foreign from 9 to 5, so that the present number of members is only 83.

There was no club meeting in 1915.

The game of golf was given up during the past year and the grounds used for producing hay and the amount obtained for same was turned over to the Red Cross. For the present year Arrangements were made with the Central Horse Station to turn over the links to them for the purpose of grazing horses and producing hay.

#### EXAMINATION PAPER ON GOLF RULES

(By WALTER FAIRBANKS)

1.—What rights of priority on the course have: (a) Single players; (b) threesomes; (c) three-ball matches?

2.—What penalty is incurred when a player moves his ball when addressing it: (a) on the tee; (b) through the green (c) in a hazard?

3.—What may an opponent claim when a player who is nearer the hole plays out of turn?

4.—Name the exceptions to the rule that the player may not touch the ball before the hole is played out.

5.—State the rule for lost ball (a) in match play (b) in stroke competition.

6.—What is the penalty for improperly dropping a ball: (a) in match play; (b) in stroke competition?

7.—Under what restrictions can a competitor in stroke competition who has inadvertently picked up his ball without holing out avoid disqualification?

8.—In a four-ball match if a player plays his partner's ball what is the penalty?

9.—In stroke competition what is the penalty if a competitor plays a ball other than his own?

10.—What may be done when a ball in a hazard lies: (a) in casual water; (b) in a pile of cut grass

#### RULES OF ETIQUETTE FOR PUBLIC COURSES

Rule 1.—When on the tee waiting for your turn, talk in loud tones to those around you, or swing your driver vigorously just behind the player who is about to drive off, and be sure and resent it if he complains, as this is a free country and one can do what one pleases.

Rule 2.—Should the driver lose his ball he should at once ask the players who are behind to play through, and, having found the ball, play at once and try and get on the

putting green at the same time as the people he has requested to go through. Also, if possible, play onto the green just when they are in the act of putting, as this should in no way interfere with their play.

Rule 3.—Should you be playing a three-ball match and a two-ball match should make a request to go through, consent at once, but play on as if there had been no request made, and the five players will likely be on the green at the same time.

#### IMPORTANT TO FIX SCORES

Rule 4.—When you have holed out stand around the hole with your score card in your hand and, if possible, have a discussion with your opponents as to the score, and should a player immediately behind you call but "fore" very impatiently, request him to wait until the discussion is ended.

Rule 5.—All women who are playing alone should, if convenient to them, allow two-ball matches, three-ball matches and four-somes to pass through but only on request. On no account should the woman wait until they are out of range, but should play immediately and if possible drive into the other parties; and, should there be a complaint, "it was an accident" would be quite a sufficient excuse.

Rule 6.—Silence on the tees and putting greens is not recommended, as a little genial conversation when one is driving or putting should not be sufficient to "put one off," and, should the player object, it might be well to remark that his nerves must be in a bad way.

#### RUN FOR YOUR MONEY

Rule 7.—Do not trouble to replace the turf as being a public course and the player having paid \$0.25 for the privilege of playing, the ground man should attend to this.

Rule 8.—Should the player only move his ball a few feet when in the act of driving, immediately run after the ball and bring it back to the tee and try again, but after two or three tries and teeing of the ball, inquire of the players who are waiting to play whether they would like to go ahead, as this is golf etiquette—but is not absolutely necessary.

Rule 9.—All beginners and very poor players should always insist on their rights, and contend that they have as much right there as anyone, and in this way will show they are "true golfers."

LAST MONTH the Charleston (S. C.) Country Club staged "The Novices' Tournament," to which some thirty well-known business men were invited who had never previously touched a golf club. The occasion was a very interesting and pleasurable one, and will undoubtedly lead to many new converts.

"Spreading the gospel" in this way is a somewhat unique proceeding, and a highly commendable one. It is well worth the attention of newly-formed clubs throughout the country.

#### GOLF CHAMPIONS FOR YEAR 1916

National Amateur—Chas. Evans, Jr.  
 National Open—Chas. Evans, Jr.  
 National Women's—Miss Alexa Stirling.  
 Western Amateur—Heinrich Schmidt.  
 Western Open—Walter C. Hagen.  
 Western Women's—Mrs. F. C. Letts, Jr.  
 Metropolitan Amateur—Oswald Kirkby.  
 Metropolitan Open—Walter C. Hagen.  
 Metropolitan Women's—Mrs. Quenton F. Feintner.  
 Massachusetts Amateur—Jesse P. Guilford.  
 Massachusetts Open—Michael J. Brady.  
 AMERICAN GOLFER Trophy—Flushing Country Club.  
 Southern Amateur—R. G. Bush, Jr.  
 Southern Women's—Miss Alexa Stirling.  
 Pacific Northwest Amateur—Russell Smith.  
 Pacific Northwest Open—Rudolph Wilhelm.  
 Pacific Northwest Women's—Miss Agnes Ford.  
 Eastern Women's—Mrs. W. J. Gavin.  
 North and South Amateur—Philip V. G. Carter.  
 North and South Open—J. M. Barnes.  
 North and South Women's—Mrs. R. H. Barlow.  
 Western Intercollegiate—Team, University of Illinois; individual, F. E. Stiles.  
 Eastern Intercollegiate—Team, Princeton; Individual, J. W. Hubbell.  
 Lesley Cup—Massachusetts Golf Association.  
 Middle Atlantic States—Team, Columbia Country Club; individual, W. C. Ballantyne.  
 Southwestern—Dr. J. Vance.  
 Central States—Wm. Diddel.

- Central States Women's—Mrs. A. B. Newell.
- Trans - Mississippi Amateur—Harry G. Legg.
- Metropolitan Junior—Vincent K. Hilton.
- Metropolitan Father and Son—Devereux Emmet and Devereux Emmet, Jr.
- Professional Golfers' Association—J. M. Barnes.
- Hudson River—C. V. Benton.
- Westchester County—Reginald M. Lewis.
- Columbia Golf Association Amateur—E. B. Eynon, Jr.
- District of Columbia Women's—Mrs. C. L. Fraley.
- Alabama State Amateur—Dr. A. B. Harris.
- California State Amateur—Laurence Cowing.
- Colorado State Amateur—Lawrence D. Bromfield.
- Colorado State Women's—Mrs. M. A. McLaughlin.
- Connecticut State Amateur—Reginald M. Lewis.
- Connecticut State Open—J. M. Barnes.
- Florida State Amateur—James D. Harnett.
- Georgia State Amateur—Robert T. Jones, Jr.
- Iowa State Women's—Miss Elizabeth Allen.
- Kansas State Amateur—Harlow Hurley.
- Kentucky State Amateur—Dr. A. P. Bagby.
- Michigan State Women's—Miss Dorothy Hutchinson.
- Minnesota State Amateur—Dudley H. Mudge.
- Mississippi State Amateur—Dr. R. E. Granloff.
- Missouri State Amateur—Mayor Edwards.
- Nebraska State Amateur—Sam W. Reynolds.
- Nebraska State Women's—Miss Louise Pound.
- New Hampshire State Amateur—C. W. Bass.
- New Jersey State Amateur—Oswald Kirkby.
- Ohio State Amateur—Ira S. Holden.
- Ohio State Open—Arthur Smith.
- Oregon State Amateur—Russell Smith.
- Pennsylvania State Amateur—W. C. Fownes, Jr.
- Pennsylvania State Open—Jack Hutchinson.
- Western Pennsylvania Open—Fred Brand.
- Tennessee State Amateur—Geo. W. Fooshe.
- Texas State Amateur—Geo. N. Aldredge.
- Texas State Women's—Mrs. J. H. Lapham.
- Utah State Amateur—R. W. Salisbury.
- Utah State Women's—Mrs. R. W. Salisbury.
- West Virginia State Amateur—Geo. Hewitt.
- West Virginia State Women's—Mrs. E. C. Dawley.
- Wisconsin State Amateur—Ned Allis.
- Wisconsin State Women's—Mrs. E. R. Whitcomb.

