

The Pinehurst Outlook

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THE LOST BALL.

Standing one day on the golf links,
I was weary and ill at ease,
And I baffled and fozzled idly
Over the whins and tees,
I know not what I was dreaming,
Or where I was rubbing then;
But I swiped that ball, of a sudden
With the force of two score men

It sped through the crimson twilight
Like a shot from a ten inch gun;
And it passed from my fevered vision
To the realm of the vanished sun;
It chassed over the bunker,
It caromed hazard and hill—
It went like a thing infernal—
I suppose it is going still.

I shied each perplexing stymie
With infinite nerve and ease;
And bored right on through the landscape
As if it were loath to cease.
I have sought—but I seek it vainly—
That ball of the strenuous pace,
That went from the sole of my niblick
And entered into space.

It may be some blooming caddy
Can sooner or later explain;
It may be that only in heaven
I shall find that ball again.

—Laure Simmone in March Smart Set.

GOLF PENALTIES.

Some Revisions May be Made in Rules —Skill in Game Has Passed the Preliminary Steps.

In addition to amendments to the constitution and to the bylaws of the U. S. golf association the executive committee of the national body this year will free itself from the charge made in some quarters of inertia by taking up the rules for consideration and possibly revision.

This intention was announced by President Robson of the association at its annual meeting and as one of the members of the executive committee will go to England shortly he will be asked to confer with the committee of the Royal and Ancient club at St. Andrews, Scotland, with object of revising rules which obviously are complicated or to which the breaking of the same too severe a penalty is attached.

A case in which a very severe penalty was incurred for an infringement of the rules occurred at the Woman's golf championship tournament when the event was held at Philadelphia. A player teed outside the limit of the teeing ground. The mistake was made owing to the fact that the discs had been moved, and one of them had left an impression on the turf so that if one did not look closely it appeared that the disc was still in the place from which it had been removed. The player did not play the shot over as is required by the rules and there was nothing for the committee to do but disqualify the contestant.

It is suggested that the penalty for playing from outside the limits of the teeing ground should be two strokes instead of disqualification and that the resort to disqualification should be taken only when a player does something to

gain an unfair advantage over the field in a medal-play round, such as practicing on the putting greens.

It is becoming recognized that golf has advanced beyond the preliminary stages in this country and that the teacher of the future will be required to impart more scientific knowledge of the game than the mere matter of swing, keeping the eye on the ball and so forth. He will be required to instruct those who have learned the preliminary steps in how to putt, slice or pull on a ball, how to play shots into the wind, how to put cut on the ball so that it will drop almost dead on the putting green and in various fine points of skill, with which only the experts are familiar

Such a shot as that made by Hilton in the championship finals at St. Andrew's last year and which won the hole and made him dormy one is an illustration. It was at the stationmaster's garden hole. Hilton's second left him about 135



yards from the green. The green is on a very narrow strip of land with a road beyond and guarded in front by several sand pits. Hilton played a lofty shot with an aluminum spoon, putting spin enough on the ball to stay on the narrow green.

A letter from the London *Field* explains very well the theory of "underspin" as formulated by the late Professor Tait. It says: Speaking generally, the golf ball, when struck from the tee, is liable to acquire any one of four different rotations—underspin, overspin or sidespin, either from left to right or from right to left. Underspin caused by the ball being struck below the centre, results in a soaring flight. Unless the ball has to meet a strong wind it makes a long carry and drops comparatively dead.

Good drivers always impart a certain amount of underspin to their drives—an amount which was measured by Professor Tait and ascertained to consist of about two complete rotations in the first

three or four feet of the drive. The effect of underspin is to give the ball more time in the air, and a ball struck in this manner will frequently carry a much greater distance than one starting with greater initial velocity, but with little or no rotation.

Overspin, on the other hand, is not employed by any driver intentionally unless in very extraordinary circumstances. It results in a short flight with considerable running power; the ball is, in fact, "topped," and finds its way, unless fortune is more than usually favorable, into the nearest bunker.

The two other sorts of spin commonly occur in the case of the tyro with an entire absence of intention, although by an expert they may be made to yield useful results. The more usual is a rotation from right to left (taking that half of the ball nearest to the club head) and the effect is a beautiful curve toward the right which is apt, with an opposing wind, to land the ball a long way out of

ROSS WON IN THE TWELFTH.

Best Ball Match—Thompson and Manice
Versus Ross—Was One-sided.

LOCAL GOLF EVENTS.

Since our last issue, the much discussed and eventually arranged best ball match, E. A. Thompson and E. A. Manice versus Donald J. Ross, took place on the Pinehurst links before a large crowd of spectators. It was apparent after the third hole that the contest was to be a one-sided one, for Ross was in his best form and clearly out-classed his competitors. The match was won by Ross in the twelfth hole, with 7 up and 6 to go but the balance of the holes were played out.

The first hole was rather poorly played by all in 4; hole halved. At the second hole, both Ross and Manice topped their balls on the drive, but Ross redeemed his error by placing his ball on the green by a very clever second shot; hole halved with Thompson's ball. The third hole put Ross 1 up, 3 against 4 for both Thompson and Manice. In the fourth, he was 2 up with 5 against two 6's. The fifth hole made it one more, with 3 against Thompson's 4 and Manice's 5; in this hole Ross ran a beautiful long putt, from the edge of the green, one of the two best shots made during the match. In the sixth hole, 386 yards, Ross over-played the green on his second shot, but still won the hole with 4, against two 6's for his opponents, making him 4 up. In the seventh, Manice drove off the course, Thompson pulled badly, and Ross made a fairly straight ball; Ross 5, Thompson and Manice 6 each—Ross 5 up. In the eighth, 213 yards, both Ross and Thompson were on the green in the first drive, while Manice over-drove; both Ross and Thompson fell slightly short of making the hole on the first putt; hole halved, 3-3-4. The ninth hole put Ross six up; 4-6-6. He "went out" in 35, Thompson in 43, Manice in 46.

Coming back, the players were slightly handicapped by a strong wind which made accurate golf very difficult. In the tenth all three did very poor driving, Manice going to the right and Ross and Thompson to the left; hole halved 5-5-6. In the eleventh, Manice, with his iron, over-drove the green and rolled below. Ross fell to the side, but hole-high, and Thompson fell a few club lengths short, holed halved, Ross 4, Thompson 4, Manice 6. In the twelfth Ross made a fine drive away, Thompson's was also good, and Manrice sliced into the bushes. Ross was on the green in his second shot, Thompson falling a little short. Ross won the hole in 4, against Thompson's 5, Manice 6. Ross had won the match, with 7 up and 6 to

the course. This is a slice, and it may be caused by the face of the club meeting the ball at an angle, the heel being further forward than the nose, or by the arms being drawn in toward the body at the moment of the impact.

In a pull the rotation is in the opposite direction, from left to right and the effect is to produce a similar curve toward the left. The effect of the pull is to keep the ball low, while a slice raises quickly off the ground—a result produced by the fact that in a pull the club head is generally turned slightly over while in a slice it is turned back. Beginners are apt to find the slice considerably the easier of the two.

At an early stage of the game it is inadvisable to cultivate either. But when a player has mastered the art (if any one ever can thoroughly master it), of hitting the ball fair and square and straight on its appointed part, he may then attempt the task of making a servant of his former enemy. There are occasions when slice and pull, and even overspin are found singularly useful. Shots of this kind belong to the finesse of the game, and no man can claim to be an expert until he can bring them off when required with a fair amount of certainty. —*Boston Globe, March 9.*