

New Year's Match of the Tin Whistle Club

The Tin Whistle Club started the year by a four ball match against bogey—best combined net scores against double bogey. The score follows:

Robert Hunter (4), Wee Burn, and H. W. Ormsbee (20), South Shore, 1 up; C. S. McDonald (12), Lamberton, and R. S. Hawthorne (16), Wyantenuck, even; the Rev. T. A. Cheatham (9), Pittsburgh, and T. B. Boyd (11), St. Louis, 1 down; C. B. Hudson (10), North Fork, and W. E. Truesdell (8), Fox Hills, 1 down; J. D. C. Rumsey (20), Brooklyn, and R. C. Shannon, 2d (9), Brockport, 3 down; C. W. Harmon (15), Wykagyl, and H. F. Lesh (16), Brae Burn, 4 down; C. L. Becker (9), Woodland, and J. M. Thompson (8), Springhaven, 4 down; T. A. Kelley (9), Southern Pines, and J. R. Bowker (20), Woodland, 4 down; R. A. Swigert (23), Palmetto, and J. L. Weller (14), St. Catherine's, 6 down; J. M. Robinson (26), Harbor Beach, and F. C. Abbe (22), Bethlehem, 7 down; J. H. Clapp (10), Chevy Chase, and W. S. Van Clef (15), Richmond County, 8 down; H. A. Waldron (9), Agawam, and Dr. Mr. W. Marr, Woodland, 8 down; H. S. Houston (38), Mount Tom, and J. T. Newton (28), Tuxedo, 9 down; A. B. Alley (22), Apawamis, and W. T. Barr (11), Shelter Island, 9 down.

The Cure for Slicing

A large percentage of golf gloom arises from slicing. A golfer's idea of hell is to stand on a hot tee for a million years and slice balls out of bounds. The chronic slicer is a wretched figure, and he falls as low as he can when, giving up hope of ever hitting a straight ball, he aims a quarter of a mile to the left of the flag.

There are at least seven causes of slicing. The commonest is the vicious practice of bringing the clubhead down outside the line of the ball's flight. This imparts a rotary motion to the ball, and the flight of it describes a crescent. You do this nine times out of ten. But do not despair; we can help you. We can teach you to hit inside the line.

But from a commission merchant a basket of very, very bad eggs, and give these to the caddy to carry. When you tee your ball, or come up to it on the fair-green, place an egg about three inches away from the ball and an inch or so back of it. Now swing, being careful to keep the clubhead from straying beyond the line, otherwise you will smash the egg and scatter the malodorous contents. Before a dozen eggs are broken you will quit slicing or be asked to resign from the club.

If the egg remedy fails, procure a piece of dynamite and use that instead. This will effect a permanent cure.—*Canadian Golfer.*

Mental Hazards

On your own home course there is always some particular hole that "gets your goat," in the parlance of the street, writes W. H. Evans in the *Philadelphia Public Ledger*. No matter how well you may perform on the other eight or seventeen, this one hole is your bete noir, your hoodoo. There may not be any particular trouble on it, yet you have set up a men-

tal hazard, and after you have holed out you find you have badly botched it. It has become nothing more or less than a mental hazard. In time you get it out of your system and it is no longer troublesome.

Most of the poor shots on these mental-hazard holes are due to the fact that the player carries the trouble in his mind, and when he addresses the ball for the drive he has in his mind all the trouble there is there and much more. He is doubly anxious to make a good shot, to overcome the trouble, and in his anxiety to make the proper sort of stroke he looks up just a second and the shot is spoiled. The old trouble we have always had of wanting to see where the ball is going is there and the shot is topped or heeled or toed or smothered.

In reality it is not a hard shot. It is not any harder to drive a ball over a water hazard 100 yards wide than it is to drive a ball over a stretch of fairway of the same length, at least it should not be. We create the trouble largely in our own mind and the damage is done. It is purely psychological and not really actual.

There is nothing simpler in the world than keeping the eye on the ball, but how easy it is not to? You settle yourself for your shot and you make up your mind that you are going to dismiss from your mind the pond, stream, hill, quarry or whatever is just between you and the fairway beyond. You make up your mind that you are going to treat it just as if it were not there and that it never did exist. You have had trouble there before, time and time again, and you have let the trouble get the better of you. But this time you are going to be master. Your stance is correct, you go back properly and the stroke will apparently be well timed. Your club head hits the ball and you say to yourself that this time you are not going to spoil the shot, but you lift your head and the shot is like others you have spoiled at that particular spot. It seems to me on these particular shots the best way to overcome this trouble is not to think about the shot at all, but to make the stroke as mechanically as possible. The more you think about it the more likely you are to make a misplayed stroke.

You have to have the mind on the shot, but if you are thinking of a dozen things at the time you are making the stroke the chances are you will not get good results. If you are too confident of your lack of confidence, the shot may be spoiled. But if you can rid your mind of the idea that the shot is harder than it is, that you are superior to it, if you can keep your eyes and head down for a second or two after you have made the stroke, the mental hazard will disappear and with it your trouble. The next time you are confronted with one of these mental hazards and have botched the shot whenever you have attempted it previously remember, if you can just, just what was passing through your mind at the time.

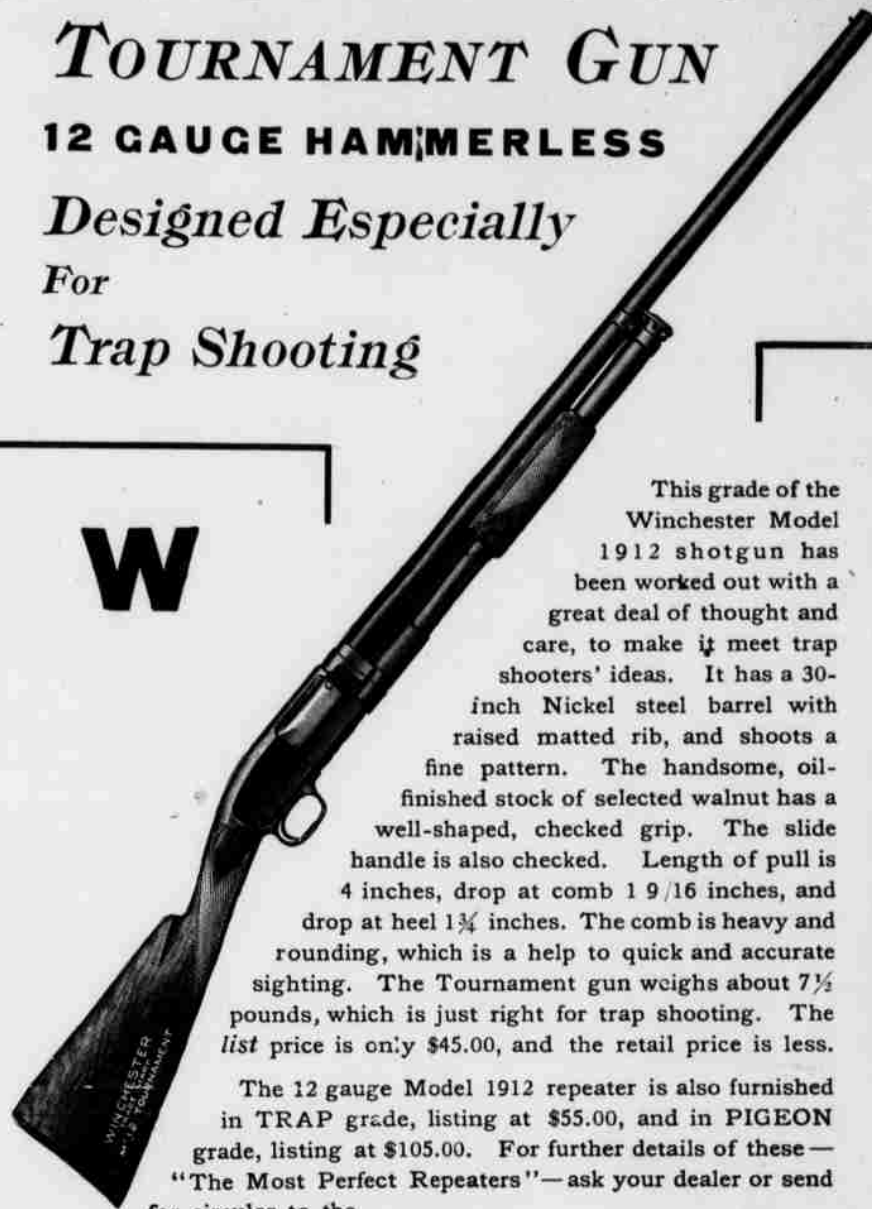
But without any direct information on the subject, I should say that a free mind and keeping the head down will cure the trouble. The man who says to himself that he is going into a bunker will probably do so and the man who approaches any shot timidly and with fear will generally make a poor shot.

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