

UNDERSTANDING THE RULES

West Team Attends Association Seminar

Last week I took the West Brunswick High golf team to Trask Coliseum to attend a seminar on the rules of golf presented by the Carolinas Golf Association. The CGA presents these seminars each year at a dozen locations in North and South Carolina. All colleges, high schools and member clubs are invited to attend the seminars where each person attending is provided a free copy of *The Rules of Golf*.

The seminar covers the rules most commonly encountered and any new rules in the book for that year. A 35mm slide format is used to illustrate the rules as a CGA rules official explains the rule, exceptions to the rule, and some nuances of rules interpretation found in the *Decisions on the Rules of Golf*. The *Decisions on the Rules of Golf* is a publication which clarifies circumstances where two or more rules seem to be in conflict or where some unusual circumstance would seem to indicate the necessity for an interpretation of the rules.

A Free Drop From Rough To Fairway?

One example is when a player finds his ball lying in the rough near the fairway and is entitled to relief from an immovable obstruction. Relief, under Rule 24. (Obstructions) finds that the nearest point of relief would allow the player to drop his ball in the fairway. Is the player allowed to drop the ball in the fairway? Decision 24-2/8 states, "Yes, there is no distinction in the Rules between fairway and rough; both are covered under the term Through the Green."

I have been attending these seminars for more than 15 years with our golf team. While I consider that I have reasonable understanding of the rules and a passing familiarity with some of the decisions, I almost invariably learn something new at these seminars. These new things are usually a decision which had not come to my attention before, but this year it turned out to be an exception to a rule which I thought I knew very well.

Never Ground Your Club In A Hazard?

Here was the situation: a player's ball is lying inside a line marking a water hazard and very close to the bulkhead of the water hazard. It is not in the water, but clearly within the marked margin of the hazard. The lie is just fine and the ball may be played without difficulty. There is one catch, however. If the player is right handed, he will have to stand on the top of the bulkhead to take his stance. The bulkhead is an artificial object and therefore an immovable obstruction, by definition.

Does the player get relief for his stance under the rules? Of course not, since no relief is provided from immovable obstructions when the ball lies in or touches a water hazard or a lateral water hazard (Rule 24-2).

But wait. What if the ball was resting on top of the bulkhead itself? Nope. No relief, since it still is within the margin of the hazard. Hold on, you say. How about if the player wants to ground his club on the bulkhead before making his stroke? Is that legal? That is where I said, "No, no. Rule 13-4 clearly states that you may not ground your club in a hazard."

Oh Yes, You Can

Well guess what, the rule does not say that at all. What it states is, "...before making a stroke at a ball which lies in or touches a hazard the player may not touch the ground in the hazard or water in a hazard with a club." However, Exception 1 to the rule specifically provides, "At address or in the backward movement for the stroke, the club may touch any obstruction or any grass, bush, tree, or other growing thing."

I knew the "growing thing" bit, but I had either forgotten or never really noticed that the exception also applied to an obstruction. Therefore you may ground your club on an obstruction in a hazard. I know you can't teach an old dog new tricks, but we do learn something new every day.

You Can Move A Movable Obstruction Anywhere

There was one other thing which our instructor repeated several times during the seminar. I had not heard it stated in that particular way before. He said, that a movable obstruction may be moved anywhere, on the course, through the green, out of bounds, anywhere. I knew that within the context of several rules, but I had not collected them to think "anywhere."

I was taught to understand that the rules divide a golf course into four parts: teeing grounds, putting greens, hazards, and the rest of the course which is called, "Through the Green." Each of those areas of the course have unique rules to govern play. Things which you are allowed to do in one area are strictly verboten in other areas. To fully understand the nuances of the rules and the game, you need to first be aware in which of the four areas the ball is lying. That is a very good point of departure to learning the rules as well.

WILLGOLF

BY WILL COCKRELL



Sea Trail Foursome Fires 56 In Best Ball

Wayne Ruff, Winston Stephens, Bob Kakos and Bob Moore fired a 56 to win the Sea Trail Men's Golf Association best ball tournament last week.

Golfers used 75 percent of their handicaps and competed on the Byrd course at Sea Trail Plantation.

Marv Peters, Bill Morris, Howard Van Dusen and Dave Llewellyn took second place with a score of 59.

Third place went to Ray Washam, Al Consalvi, Lou Meyer and Jim Blanda with a round of 61.

George Gallop, Ted Acton, Gene Connelly and Bill Jones finished fourth with a 62.

Nifty Niners

Members of the Carolina Shores Nifty Niners group competed in a low net tournament last Thursday at Ocean Isle and Brierwood.

Top finishers at Brierwood were Marge Marcey with 35, Helen Spinner with 44 and Jay Arlotta with 45.

Martha Lovaty led the way at Ocean Isle with a net 30. Runners-up were Ellen Miltner with 35 and Charlotte Martin with 39.

Miltner had the only chip-in during the tournament.

CS Travel League

The team of John Farley, Ken Shafer, Joe Meo and Tony Basile shot 115 to win the Carolina Shores Men's Travel League tournament last Friday at Lion's Paw Golf Links.

Teams counted the two best balls on each hole and used full handicaps. Finishing three shots back in second was the foursome of John Pointer, John Myers, Stu Thorn and Guy Williams.

George O'Connell, Pat Varney, Ed Johnson and Bernie Anderson finished in third place, also with a score of 118.

The team of Bob Johnson, Bob Murphy, Gene Miltner and Ken Singleton placed fourth with 119.

Finishing fifth with a round of 120 was the foursome of Ken Earl, Dan Cuomo, Hubie Hinkel and Tom Keene.

Brierwood Ladies

Marie Brown shot gross 91 and Ethel Brown fired a net 70 to lead the first flight in the Brierwood Ladies Golf Association tournament Feb. 11.

Marie Dolan shot 72 to post the second low net in the top flight. Marie Brown had low putts with 31.

In the second flight, Marge Harper and Jane Fleig tied for low gross with matching scores of 106.

Marion Corbin had the low net of 74, followed by Ellie Scutt with 79. Ester Smith had low putts with 30.

Janice Owens shot 103 for low



gross in the third flight. Low net winners were Louise Blizzard with 72 and Marilyn Athan and Emily Laughlin with scores of 77. Laughlin and Owens tied for low putts with 35 each.

Chip-ins during the round were recorded by Laughlin at the second hole and Mary Nicol and Corbin at the 18th.

Carolina Shores Men

Nat Peavy's hole in one at the 17th hole highlighted the Carolina Shores Men's Golf Association tournament at Brick Landing Plantation last Thursday.

Ewart Lockyer fired the low net of 71 in the first flight, followed by Jim Sullivan and Bob Russo with rounds of 73.

Joe Gainer led the second flight with net 62. Runners-up were Dick Malatesta and Mike Stachowiak with 67s and Joe Fremgen with 68.

On Friday, 60 golfers competed in a progressive format tournament. Bob Kilgore, Al Ballinger, Hank Hettinger and Sandy Howard won with a 115.

Finishing one shot back in second place was the team of Dan Roberts, John Ward, Joe Gainer and John Healy.

Ewart Lockyer, Bruce Kibblehouse, Stan Marcey and Roger Thompson placed third with a round of 118.

Closest-to-the-pin winners were Joe Fremgen at the third hole, Russ Nickens at the eighth, Gene Bilz at the 12th and Don Rose at the 16th.

On Feb. 15, the team of Gary Mott, Dick Brooks, Stan Marcey and Bill Rice shot 137 to win the Carolina Shores men's tournament.

Foursomes counted the low net ball and low gross ball on each hole to determine the team score.

Second place went to the team of Bill Teschier, Charlie McDonald, Mike Stachowiak and Nat Peavy with 140.

Jim Sullivan, Bill Grice, Ted Paliwoda and John Healy shot 141 to finish in third place.

Closest-to-the-pin winners were Bill Marsh at the third hole, Bill Grice at the 16th and Dan Roberts at the eighth and 12th.

Ruth's Renegades

Members of Ruth's Renegades golf group competed in a low net tournament last Thursday, counting odd-numbered holes and using half of their handicaps.

Maxine Grey shot 39 to lead the field of 24 women who played at Carolina Shores. Runners-up were Madeline Harris with 44 and Jenny Briggs with 44.5.

Ruth Brown had the low gross of 114. Betty O'Rourke had low putts with 31. Jenny Briggs chipped in at the 16th.

At Brierwood, Toni Kobos won on a match of cards with net 35. Runners-up were Elizabeth Carter and June Whipkey, also with net 35.

Barbara Pointer had the low gross of 103 and low net of 72. Ruth Jacobs had low putts with 30, and Dot Frey chipped in at the 13th hole.

Brierwood Homeowners

Bob and Molly Hoke fired a seven-under-par 137 to win the Brierwood homeowners golf tournament Saturday.

Both members of the couple added their net scores on each hole to determine the team score. Finishing one shot back in second place were Paul and Doris Dunfee.

Joe and Rose Reiter placed third with a one-under-par 143, followed by Dave and Marge Harper with 144.

Foxy Ladies

Ethel Brown shot gross 91 and Claire Aston fired net 72 to lead the first flight in the Foxy Ladies tournament last Thursday at The Pearl Golf Links.

Joanna Lang shot net 75 to finish second in the top flight. Golfers played the Pearl's west course.

In the second flight, Gerri Parsons had the low gross with 104. Low net winners were Betty Maerker with 70 and Pierrette Tompkins with 73.

Lou Akers shot 107 for the low gross in the third flight. Molly Hoke had the low net of 74, followed by Bettilou Bayne with 75.

Birdies were carded by Ruth Linder and Tompkins at the second hole, Aston at the 13th and Brown at the 14th.

Brierwood Men

The team of Howard Bayne, Al Butler, Bill Goldsberry and Joe Reiter shot a nine-under-par 135 to win the Brierwood Men's Golf Association two best ball event last Thursday.

Two teams tied for second place. John Cowie, Bob Sterner, Roy Havenga and Bill Rose shot 138 to tie the team of Hal Schuler, Bill Allen and Nick Lacerenza.

Last Wednesday, the threesome of

Joe Reiter, Barbara Baxter and Louise Blizzard shot 34 to win the nine-hole mixed scramble.

On Feb. 17, Dick Anzelone won a full-handicap points tournament with eight points.

Golfers received two points for eagle, one for birdie, zero for par, minus one for bogey and minus two for double bogey.

Emile Vrydaugh finished second with three points, followed by Roy Havenga, Bob Hoke and Charlie Stransky with two points each.

Howard Bayne and Bob Wareheim tied for fourth with one point each, and Al Hierman and Joe Reiter finished fifth with zero points.

Sea Trail Ladies

Joan Llewellyn shot 34 to win the first flight in the Sea Trail Ladies Golf Association tournament last week.

Golfers counted scores on odd-numbered holes only and competed on the Jones course.

Runners-up in the top flight were Pat Reid with 35.5 and Kitty Smoker and Robin Walters with 36.

Top finishers in the second flight were Marge Gallop with 35 and Nancy Mehne with 35.5. Henri Moulton, Dinah Gore and Dorothy Cambria tied with 36.

Betty Dawley led the way in the third flight with 51. Patty Metheny shot 52 and Jerry Moore shot 55.

Carolina Shores Ladies

Peg Sawyer shot 31 to lead the way in the first flight of the Carolina Shores Ladies Golf Association tournament last Thursday.

Runners-up in the top flight were Jean Krisher with 32 and Betty Kibblehouse with 44.

Golfers counted scores on even-numbered holes on the front nine and odd-numbered holes on the back nine.

Top finishers in the second flight were Betty Goodwin with 30.5, Pat Reardon with 34 and Ruby Vanderburg with 35.5.

Dottie Russo led the way in the third flight with a net 30.5. Runners-up were Kathy Deming with 32 and Dot Trostle with 34.

Fourth flight winners were Carol Szarks with 27.5, Lois Howard with 33 and Claude Kyker with 34.5.

Marge Schober, Russo and Szarks tied for low putts with 29 apiece.

Chip-ins were recorded by Dorcen Spearin at the first hole, Vanderburg at the fourth, Inky Remas at the 11th, Krisher at the 13th, Ann Hierman at the 16th and Gloria Lucas at the 18th.

Birdies were carded by Reardon at the 12th hole and Anna Mae Huber at the 16th.

Songwriters' Golf Tourney Ends Tied

Two teams tied for first in the Songwriters' Golf Festival captain's choice tournament held over the weekend at Sea Trail Plantation.

Jimmy Wood, Walter Green, Al Stanbury and Kent Hungerpillar tied the foursome of Al Morrison, Paul Dennis, Dean Walters and songwriter Tommy Rocco.

Originally planned as a two-day tournament, the event was shortened to one day due to rain Sunday morning.

Sea Trail Corp. sponsored the festival as a benefit for the Brunswick Community College Foundation.

Although the golf tournament was shortened, participants still enjoyed two evenings of entertainment by several Nashville songwriters.

The following three teams tied for second place in the tournament: J.R. Kelly, Jeff Gilley, Joe Holder and Bill James; Al Laughinghouse, Robert Cox, Robby Davis and Tommy Phillips; and Charlie Harless, Bob Small, Mickey Smathers and Chip Young.

Scott Irby of Calabash took home a new golf bag as winner of the putting contest held Saturday morning as part of the tournament.

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