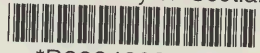


DECISIONS
BY THE
RULES OF GOLF
COMMITTEE
1911
WITH INDEX

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DECISIONS

BY THE

RULES OF GOLF COMMITTEE

OF THE

ROYAL AND ANCIENT GOLF CLUB

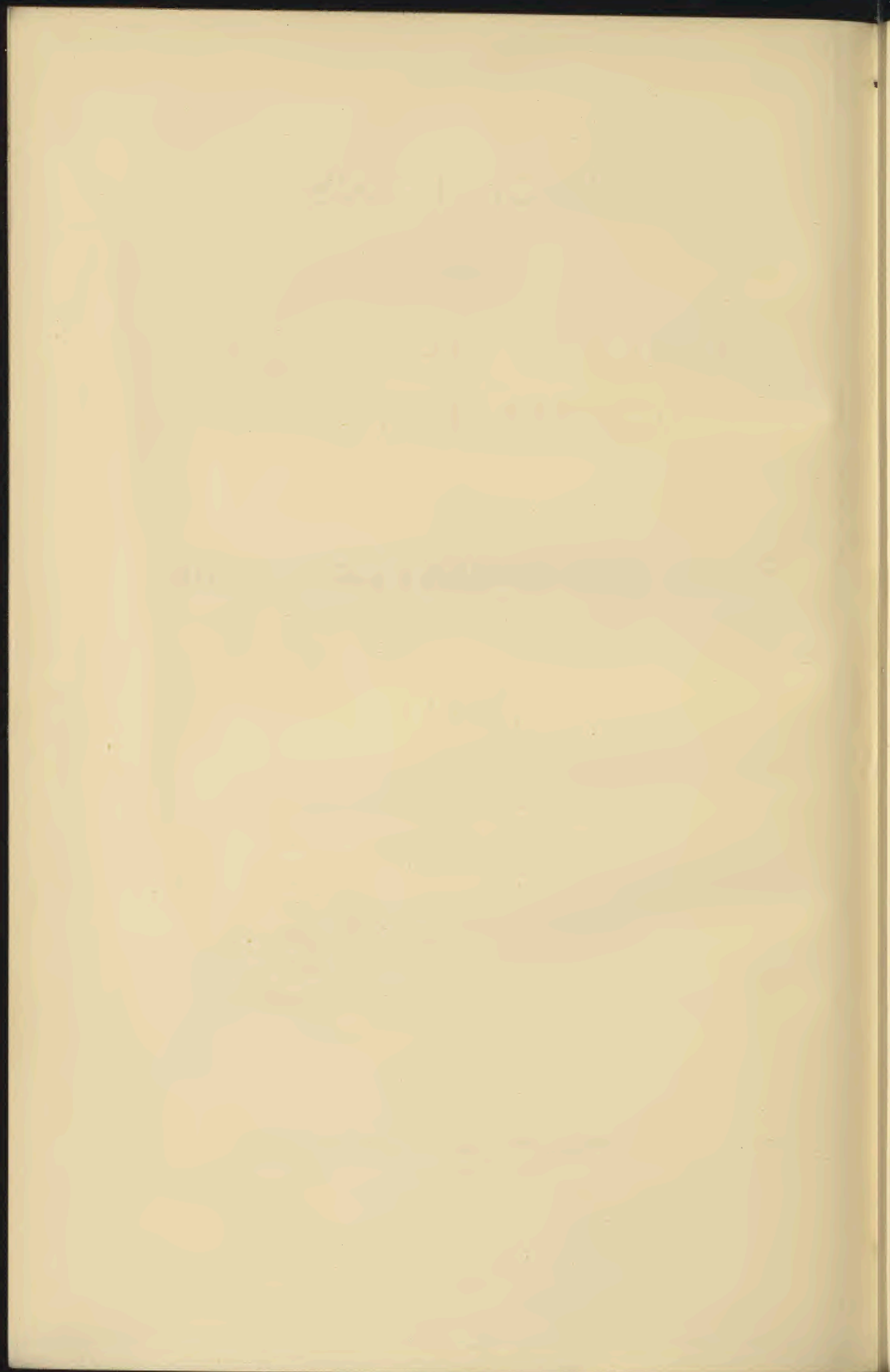
1911

WITH INDEX.



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PREFACE

THE Rules of Golf Committee finds that many of the cases submitted to it arise owing to competitions being held under conditions which were insufficiently stated.

Such points as the following should be provided for :—

1. The time and method of starting.
2. The limit of time within which the matches in each section of a tournament shall be completed.
3. The manner in which halved matches shall be decided, whether played on level terms or under handicap.

In competitions where the finalists are allowed to arrange the date of the final within certain limits, the committee in charge of the competition should announce that the final must be played at a stated hour on the last day of the period, unless the finalists agree to a prior date.

Before starting in handicap competitions, competitors should check their handicaps with the official list.

In match play handicap competitions, competitors should make themselves aware of the holes at which they give or receive strokes.



DECISIONS BY THE RULES OF GOLF COMMITTEE.

1911.

1. **Peterhead Golf Club.**—At the summer meeting of this Club two players tied for the scratch trophy, and the Committee decided that the tie be played off by 18 holes—medal play. In playing off the tie, both players took shelter on the way to the tenth hole and again after driving for the 14th. On resuming play to the 14th, A played a ball belonging to another player outside the match, and did not discover his mistake until he had holed out. At this stage A was six strokes less than B. Having played the wrong ball A was considered disqualified, and B being six strokes more would not take advantage of A's mistake and accept the trophy, but was willing to play the match over again. A, however, would not do this. Were both players disqualified by taking shelter before A disqualified himself by playing the wrong ball? If so, should the trophy remain unsettled for the year, the tie be ordered to be played over again, or what should be done in the matter?

Answer.—B won the trophy. In the case of a tie where only two players are interested they are at liberty to discontinue play by mutual consent, as there are no other competitors who can be affected by their delay.

2. Ashford Golf Club.—In a Stroke Competition A played two shots and could not find his ball. He dropped another ball, played two shots, and then found his original ball. The competitors did not know if they had searched five minutes or not, as they had no watches. The Committee ruled that, had five minutes been expended in the search for the first ball, the second ball counted; but, if five minutes had not been expended, the first ball counted. Was this *decision correct*?

Answer.—The decision was not correct. A player or competitor may never have two balls in play. The only Rule which permits a provisional ball to be played is Rule 23 (2). If the competitor searched for five minutes, the second ball became in play the moment the competitor made a stroke with it, and it continued in play whether the first ball was subsequently found or not. If the competitor did not search for five minutes he is disqualified.

3. Bloemfontein Golf Club.—In a Match between A and B the latter's ball fell off the tee just before the club reached the ball, and did not touch it. B completed his stroke, and claimed that he could replace the ball without penalty.

Answer.—Rule 2 (1) clause 3 only gives permission to re-tee a ball which falls or is knocked off the tee in addressing it. B played a stroke—see Definition 13—and lost the hole by replacing a ball which was in play—see Definition 18, and Rule 6.

4. Brisbane Golf Club.—In a mixed foursome stroke competition, at the 17th tee, from which a creek has to be carried, A drove out of bounds. B thought she was unable to carry the creek, so her partner openly, and in the hearing of their opponents, told her to miss the ball—B did so. Later A mentioned the incident to other players, stating the miss was intentional. A and B tied for first place. As *against* A and B it is contended that according to the definition of a "Stroke" in Definition 13, B's action was no stroke (there being no *intention* to hit the ball),

and she should have played again. Consequently should A and B have been disqualified by the Committee either under (a) the decision of the Rules of Golf Committee in Cheltenham Golf Club (No. 22 of 1909) and Jarrow and Hepburn Golf Club (No. 52 of 1909) ? or (b) Stroke Rule 5 (2) if the penalty for playing out of turn in a foursome is two strokes penalty under Stroke Rule 14 ? On behalf of A and B it is contended that the definition of "Stroke" in Definition 13 is meant to deal with practice swings only. The decision of the Rules of Golf Committee is sought on the following points :—(1) What penalty was incurred by A and B, giving reasons ? (2) The opinion of the Committee as regards the contention raised on behalf of A and B. (3) Where is the authority in the Rules of Golf for stating the penalty for playing out of turn in a foursome is disqualification, bearing in mind Rule 3 and Stroke Rule 14 ?

Answer.—B's action was not a "Stroke" and therefore her partner played out of turn. A and B are disqualified. If players in a foursome stroke competition play out of order, it is entirely problematical how many strokes they would have taken had they played in their proper turn. It is therefore impossible to fix any penalty, except disqualification, which would meet the case.

5. New Forest Golf Club.—On the teeing ground a player took a practice swing, struck the ground near his teed ball, and caused the ball to fall off the tee. (1) Did he incur a penalty ? (2) Would he have incurred a penalty if the club had touched ball ? (3) What penalty is incurred when either incident occurs through the green ?

Answer.—No. The practice swing was not a stroke, and the teed ball was not in play. Through the green, in the first instance, the penalty is one stroke under Rule 12 (3). In the second case any contact between the head of the club and the ball, resulting in movement of the ball, constitutes a stroke (see Definition 13).

6. Leicestershire and Rutland Golf Union.—A and B were playing off a tie in a Stroke Competition; 36 holes. No Referee was appointed, and A and B marked each other's cards. A putted on a certain putting-green and his ball struck B's ball. Discussion arose as to the penalty, and it was agreed that there was a penalty of one stroke against A. B then putted without replacing his ball. A made no remark. At the end of the 36 holes the cards were added up and signed. B asked A to take *both* cards and post them to the Secretary. A took the cards to his home and before posting them looked up the Rule to make sure whether he had incurred a penalty, and then discovered that B should have replaced his ball. A then forwarded the Cards to the Secretary, detailing the circumstances and asking whether B should be disqualified. The cards showed another tie.

(1) Is it too late for A to claim the penalty?

(2) Is A disqualified for not claiming the penalty at the time? The Committee decided that, subject to the Decision of the Rules of Golf Committee, the tie should be replayed. This was done and B won.

Answer.—B infringed Stroke Rule 13 (2), and is disqualified. See Stroke Rules 13 (2) and 10 (1).

(1) No. (2) Penalties are not "claimed" in score play. The question seems to be based on Special Rules for Match Play, No. 2. The Committee strongly recommends all Competitors to carry a copy of the Rules of the Game.

7. Cape Town Golf Club.—In a stroke competition A's ball lay close to the hole. B's ball lay 30 yards from the hole. B requested A to lift his ball, or play. A refused on the ground that B's ball was more than 20 yards from the hole. Was B entitled to have A's ball lifted or played?

Answer.—Yes. See Stroke Rule 13 (3).

8. Donaghadee Golf Club.—In a mixed foursome Competition A played one off three on a putting green and while his ball was in motion he accidentally moved the opponent's ball. A's ball

subsequently went into the hole. What is the penalty? Would it make any difference if A had moved the opponent's ball after his own ball was in the hole?

Answer.—A lost the hole—See Rule 18. (2) Yes; there would have been no penalty, because the play at this hole was finished.

9. Haddington Golf Club.—In a match play competition, A and B were playing C and D in the semi-final. At the 14th hole both sides played with the opponent's ball. A and B holed out before the mistake was discovered. C and D were about to putt when they discovered the mistake, claimed the hole, and, without waiting for the acquiescence of A and B, lifted their ball. Apparently A and B then acquiesced in ignorance of the Rules, for they confessed themselves 'one down,' and allowed the honour at the next tee to C and D. (At 13th hole the match was all square.) Playing on to the 18th, C and D finished two up. The matter was then referred to the Committee, who directed that the last five holes should be played again next day. On arriving at the links C and D refused to play five holes, and demanded that the whole match be played again. (If C and D had been penalised, for lifting the ball, by the loss of 14th hole, the original match would have ended all square. The Committee had not laid down previously by what method halved matches were to be settled.) A and B acceded to C and D's demand without reference to the Committee, and the round ended in victory for C and D, who were then beaten in the final, but claimed 2nd prize. (1) Were the Committee right or wrong in ordering the five holes to be played again? (2) Should both couples have been disqualified for breaking the Rules on 14th green? (3) And again, for neglecting the Committee's orders on re-playing?

Answer.—If A and B had claimed the hole when C and D's ball was lifted they would have won the hole. As A and B apparently yielded to the claim of C and D and gave up the hole, they could not claim it after the balls had been struck off from the next teeing-ground (see Rule 36).

(1) If the Committee considered that the Match was halved, it had the right to determine how the Match should be decided. (2) No. The players cannot be held to have agreed to waive a penalty, as they were unaware what the penalty was. (3) The Committee would be entitled to disqualify Competitors who did not conform to its orders. The method of deciding halved matches should have been stated in the original conditions of the Competition.

10. Ravenscliffe Golf Club.—A's ball came to rest through the green at the top of a bare steep slope, where the slightest touch would cause it to roll to the bottom. B played, and his ball struck A's ball. A desired to replace it, because if dropped it would roll back down the hill, and be 30 yards further from the hole, and make the next shot a blind one.

(1) Under these circumstances could A replace the ball ?

(2) Must A be penalized (as he undoubtedly would be) by dropping the ball ?

Answer.—(1) No. (2) A must take his chance of what happens to the ball if he decides to drop it under Rule 9 (2).

11. Prospect Garrison Sports Club, Bermuda.—A and B have reached the 17th hole in a match : A is one up. The 17th hole is a short one, about 180 yards. The green, situated in a deep quarry with perpendicular walls on three sides, is invisible from the tee, owing to an intervening hill. Caddies go up to the top of the hill to mark the tee shots, but cannot see the green. A played his tee shot, and the ball was seen by his caddie to go into the quarry. B takes three strokes to get into the quarry. On reaching the green, A's ball cannot be found. A's caddie then tells him that after the ball went into the quarry he saw a boy come out, and called to him asking whether he had seen the ball. The latter replied "No," and went to the Clubhouse. After searching for five minutes A gave up the hole as "lost ball"—B won the 18th hole and match. On reaching the Clubhouse the boy who had been seen coming from the 17th green

was caught, and on being searched A's ball was found in his possession. Can A claim under Rule 17 (3) to have his ball replaced on the green after having given up the hole and finished the match ?

Answer.—A lost his ball and therefore lost the 17th hole. If

A had been able to obtain the evidence of the boy within five minutes of the time when he commenced to look for the ball, he could have availed himself of Rule 17 (3).

12. Royal West Norfolk Golf Club.—In a match a ball played towards a certain hole pitched on the fairway of another hole, lying parallel to the hole played at. Before the ball had stopped, it struck a horse-mowing machine which was at work coming towards the player on the adjoining fairway, the knives of the machine cut a large piece off the cover of the ball, and the roller of the machine went over the remainder of the ball, forcing it into the ground. The ball, because of the piece sliced off, became unplayable. What should the player do ?

Answer.—The player was, in equity, entitled to assume that the ball came to rest before being rolled into the ground. Rule 17 (3) applies. The player could therefore have dropped another ball.

13. Barossa Golf Club.—A and B played together in a stroke competition. Both balls lay on the putting-green. B laid his bag of clubs on the ground about 10 feet from the hole. A putted, and his ball overran the hole and was stopped by B's bag. (1) Does B lose two strokes under Rule 18 and Stroke Rule 14 ? or (2) does A lose two strokes under Stroke Rule 13 (1) or (3) is there no penalty under Stroke Rule 10 (1) ?

Answer.—There is no penalty (see Stroke Rule 10 (1)). B should not have placed his clubs behind the hole anywhere near the line of A's putt. A should have had the clubs removed before playing. In Rule 18 the term "opponent" shows clearly that the Rule is only applicable to Match Play. There is no "opponent" in Stroke Play. Stroke Rule 13 (1)

refers to the flag-stick and the person standing at the hole and not to the incident mentioned, which is provided for by Stroke Rule 10 (1). Such an incident ought never to occur.

14. Horsforth Golf Club, Ltd.—A and B were playing a match. A had a caddie, B had not. At a certain hole B could not see the flag, and asked A's caddie to hold it up. B played, and the ball struck the caddie. B claimed the hole. A objected on the ground that the caddie was engaged by B for the particular shot. Which view is correct ?

Answer.—B is correct. A need not have allowed his caddie to show the hole to B.

15. Longcliffe Golf Club.—In a stroke competition A's ball lay close to a hole, but instead of holing out A struck it away with his club to a spot some distance from the hole. A then picked up the ball, and claimed to be in order in replacing it under a penalty of two strokes at the spot near the hole from which he knocked it away. Was A right ?

Answer.—A is disqualified. In knocking the ball away from the hole A played a stroke, and should have played his next stroke from the spot where the ball then lay.

16. Sundridge Park Golf Club.—Hummocks, groups of hummocks and grass bunkers have been artificially formed on this course. May the club be grounded on these hummocks and in the grass bunkers ?

Answer.—A "bunker" is a depression in the ground where the natural soil is exposed, and sometimes top-dressed with softer soil or sand. It is the duty of the Authorities in charge of the golf course to define its hazards by Local Rule. In the absence of a Local Rule defining these hummocks and grassy depressions as hazards, the club may be grounded provided Rule 15 is not infringed.

17. Withernsea Golf Club.—May a professional act as caddie in stroke and match play competitions ?

Answer.—Yes.

18. Victoria Golf Club.—In the final round of a tournament by match play, A employs two caddies (the second caddie is not a fore-caddie). It is admitted that A does not ask for, or receive, any advice from either of these caddies. At the 8th hole B protests against A having more than one caddie. The referee reserves his decision. The match is played out. A wins. The Committee before whom the matter comes decides that the match shall be played *de novo*. A submits:—(1) That it is not contrary to the Rules of Golf to employ two caddies, always provided that no advice is asked for or accepted from these caddies. (2) That there was altogether unreasonable delay on B's part in not making his protest before arriving at the 8th hole. (3) That the point at issue is not on all fours with the decision of the Rules of Golf Committee as reported on page 28 of the Golfers' Year Book, 1905. N.B.—The decision referred to is No. 45, September 1903-May 1904.

Answer.—The Rules of Golf are framed on the supposition that a player has only one caddie (see for instance Rules 18 and 19). The Committee of the Victoria Golf Club adopted the right course in deciding that the match should be re-played.

19. Western Park Golf Club, Leicester.—In a stroke competition, A and B kept each other's cards correctly up to the 14th hole. On completion of the 15th hole it was found that B had lost A's card. They went back and searched but could not find it. For the 15th hole and subsequent holes, A's score was marked on B's card by himself and witnessed by B. On completion of the round a new card was obtained, and the scores copied on to it from B's card, and signed by B. As both scores had been entered on this card from the beginning of the round, nothing

was left to memory, and there was no doubt as to the accuracy of the score. Should the card be accepted? Is A disqualified for not returning the original card?

Answer.—As the Committee in charge of the competition is satisfied with the accuracy of the score, A should not be disqualified for the loss of his card by B. When damaged by weather or otherwise, an original card may be copied.

20. Ormskirk Golf Club.—The Secretary does not issue cards with the competitor's name and the date entered on the card. A and B played in a stroke competition. Each took a card and wrote his name on it. The cards were not exchanged, however, and A marked B's score on the card bearing A's name as the competitor. The Committee is satisfied that the card was in fact B's card and was a correct record of B's score.

Answer.—As the Committee is satisfied as to the correctness of B's score, the card should be accepted.

21. Castletown Ladies' Golf Club.—A and B played in a Match tournament. A kept a card. B did not. At the 16th hole both players believed that A was 3 up and 2 to play, and, being wet through, walked in. A posted the result, and placed her card in the box. Later in the day A began to think that the match was all square at the 16th hole, and asked the Secretary to consult the card. The card showed that this was the case. Should A and B have been disqualified under Rule 3 of Special Rules for Match Play Competitions? Should A have been accepted as the winner?

Answer.—The fact that a card was kept in a Match Play Competition does not enter into the question. B must be held to have given up the match at the 16th hole, and has no further claim. Rule 3, Special Rules for Match Play Competitions has no bearing on the case.

22. St. Augustine's Golf Club.—What is meant by "water" in the term "casual water"? Is it necessary to be of such a

depth that a ball will float in it, or is it any water which interferes with the lie of the ball ?

Answer.—It is any water which interferes with the lie of the ball or the stance of the player.

23. City of Chicago Police Golf Club.—A statement has been made “That a match tournament game of golf must be played even though the day is so dark the golf ball cannot be seen, and it is pouring rain, and that these conditions are in accordance with rules governing golf matches.” Is this correct ?

Answer.—The Rules of Golf Committee considers that the Committee in charge of a match tournament has power to decide whether the course is in a playable condition, and also whether there is sufficient light to play the game.

24. Auchterderran Golf Club.—The winners of the monthly medal competitions are entitled to compete for prizes. Notice of the dates and a list of those entitled to compete was posted in the Club House. The prizes were played for on a Saturday and the following Wednesday. A's name had been omitted from the list, and the name of B substituted. B was not entitled to compete, but he returned the best score. A was aware that he had qualified to compete but did not appear on either day. Is he entitled to any special consideration ? Can B be treated as winner ? The opinion of the Rules of Golf Committee is desired as to what should be done in the matter.

Answer.—As B had not qualified to compete, his score cannot be accepted. A should have informed the Secretary that his name was omitted from the list prior to the commencement of the Wednesday competition. As he took no steps to rectify the error, and did not appear, the prizes should be awarded to the competitors who returned the next best score to B.

25. Heaton Moor Golf Club.—(1) A prize is given yearly for the best gross return in any 18 holes Competition during the year.

A card is returned in a competition which ties with the then existing best gross score, but some hours afterwards the Competition is declared off owing to the holes becoming unplayable through rain flooding the greens. Will such return count for the prize ? (2) A time-starting sheet is used in Competitions, but, owing to heavy rain, very few intending Competitors turn up. The Committee decided to abolish the Time Sheet for that day's Competition, and allow intending Competitors to go out with whom they like and at what time they like. Considering Rule 2 (2) (Stroke Competitions) (a) Have the Committee power to do this. (b) A's partner not turning up or refusing to go out in the rain, is A disqualified for not going out at his time ? (c) Are D and C, being legitimate partners on the Time Sheet, disqualified for going out ten minutes after their time, no one having gone out before them or waiting to go out after them ? (d) Is E disqualified for going out at his right time but with a different partner than the one on the Time Sheet ?

Answer.—1. No. 2 (a) Yes. (b) No. The Committee had abolished the Time Sheet. (c) No. (d) No.

26. Narborough Golf Club.—A mixed foursome stroke competition was held on a certain afternoon. On the same morning the ladies held a bogey competition. One of the gentlemen who competed in the mixed foursome competition played on the course in the morning. No notice was posted warning gentlemen not to do so. (1) Was the gentleman disqualified under Stroke Rule 4 (2) ? (2) Was he disqualified for the sweepstakes, for which his entry money had been accepted without protest ? (3) If he is disqualified, is his partner also disqualified ? (4) Is a lady disqualified for the afternoon who had played in the bogey competition in the morning ?

Answer.—Stroke Rule 4 (2) presupposes that there is only one competition held during the day. In the case mentioned the Rule only applied to competitors in the bogey competition. None of the competitors referred to in the questions are disqualified.

27. Yelverton Golf Club.—In the course of a match, A's ball is lying in a hazard consisting of a large clump of furze-bushes. He goes into the furze, presses aside certain branches, and thus obtains a free shot at his ball. A contends that he is entitled to do this 'for the purpose of taking his stance.'

(1) Is A's contention right ?

(2) Apart altogether from the intentional (and admitted) pressing aside of the branches, A must necessarily *touch* parts of the bushes in getting to his ball. Does he thereby incur any penalty ?

Answer.—(1) A furze bush is a hazard, and therefore nothing shall be done which can in any way improve the lie of the ball. The player may, however, place his feet firmly on the ground for the purpose of taking his stance. See Rule 25. If A did more than this he lost the hole.

(2) A is entitled to take his stand in the hazard, and to find his ball as provided for in Rule 22 (1). Under certain circumstances, A may be obliged to touch parts of the bushes in order to reach the spot where his ball lies, and incurs no penalty by doing so.

28. Bangor Golf Club.—In a Match Play Tournament A and B halved their match, with the following point reserved :—At the 10th hole A's ball lay immediately under a gate. On reaching the spot A found that his caddie had opened the gate, and he played his next stroke with the gate open. The gate has been recently placed in the wall for the passage of players, etc. Under a Local Rule a ball lying within a club's length of the nearest point of a hedge or fence may be dropped behind under a penalty of one stroke. Should A have lost the hole under Rules 6 and 15, or could he claim under Rule 15—the right to move the gate, as being "not fixed" or "to enable him fairly to take his stance" ?

Answer.—In the absence of a Local Rule for gates, which should have existed, A should have observed the usual golfing

custom of leaving the gate in the position in which he found it. A should therefore lose the hole.

29. Sandy Lodge Golf Club.—A ball lay in a sand hole marked "Ground under repair." The player did not think it proper to drop the ball to the right of the sand hole, as it would then be on the fairway but dropped it behind between the edge and a mound. The ball when dropped lay so near to the sand hole that the player could not get a footing for his left foot. He therefore re-dropped the ball. Was he entitled to do so? The player infers from Rules 8 and 10 that he was entitled to do so.

Answer.—The player was not entitled to re-drop the ball. It had not rolled back into the sand hole—see Rule 8. Rule 10 merely states that when placing his feet firmly on the ground, the player shall not be penalised for having pressed down any irregularity of surface. The Rule does not say that a player may always have a stance which will enable him to play in the direction which he prefers. Such a Rule would be in direct contradiction to Rule 6.

30. Stepps Golf Club.—There are prizes for the best aggregate score made in the monthly medal competitions during the summer. The members compete in two classes, 9 handicap and under, and 10 handicap and over. The best five scores in each class to count. A is in Class B, and has three counting scores in this class, but in June his handicap was reduced to 9 strokes. In Class A he has two counting scores. His aggregate is 401, which is the best aggregate in either class. In which class is A the winner, or is he disqualified from winning in either class?

Answer.—The conditions of the competition should have provided for this case. Strictly speaking the player did not qualify for the prize in either division. The Rules of Golf Committee considers that this is perhaps a case which would be best decided in equity by the Stepps Golf Club.

31. North Middlesex Golf Club.—There is a Local Rule to the effect that the holder of the Club Challenge Cup must start 1 down when next competing for the cup. In the semi-final A, who is the holder, forgetting she ought to start one down, played B and beat her 2 up. The result was given in that A had won, and it was not until six days later that A remembered the rule and wrote to the Secretary to ask what she should do. (1) Should A be disqualified? (2) Should both be disqualified? (3) Should the match result be left as it was given in? (4) Should there be a re-play?

Answer.—It is the duty of every competitor to know his (or her) own handicap. A should be disqualified.

32. Alva Golf Club.—In a match play handicap competition, A informed B that he was entitled to 5 strokes. The match was played on these terms, and A won by 2 and 1. Subsequently B discovered that A was only entitled to 3 strokes. B considers that the match should be re-played, while A contends that B should have checked his (A's) statement with the list of handicaps.

Answer.—It is the duty of every competitor to know his own handicap. A should be disqualified.

33. Herne Bay Ladies' Golf Club.—A stroke competition was held on 18th August. On the 15th August the Committee reduced A's handicap by 1 stroke. On the 16th August the Secretary notified A of the fact. The scoring card issued to A showed that A's handicap had been reduced. On the completion of the round A found that her handicap had, by an oversight, not been altered on the official list in the Club House. Before starting A asked the Secretary why the handicap on the card had been altered, and was told that it was done by the order of the Committee. On the completion of the round A claimed that she had received no official notice in writing of the alteration of the handicap, and was entitled to return her card on the handicap shown by the list. Is this contention correct?

Answer.—A was sufficiently informed of the change in her handicap, and must play with the handicap marked on her card, as decided upon by the Committee.

34. Bishop Auckland Golf Club.—In a stroke competition, A's ball lay less than six inches from a hole. He played his ball into the hole, but the ball struck an upright socket in the bottom of the lining, and sprang out. The ball then lay on the lip of the hole, and was duly holed. The hole was admittedly not 4 inches deep. A, whose score was one stroke more than that of the winner, protested. What is the duty of the Committee in this case ?

Answer.—No deduction can be made from A's score. If A's protest amounts to a claim that the competition should be re-played with holes made in accordance with the provisions of Definition 11, his claim should be allowed.

35. The Whittaker Golf Club.—A and B play together in a medal competition. A, short handicap, B, long handicap. B always takes the honour. Does this disqualify them. Also suppose in a similar competition A and B decide to have a match. B receives, say, $\frac{1}{2}$ stroke a hole. A's honour at 1st hole, 2nd hole both take 5. B's stroke gives him the hole and he takes honour at 3rd hole ; does this still disqualify ?

Answer.—(1) The competitors had no right to disregard the instructions laid down in Stroke Rule 1 (3) ; but as no penalty is mentioned, they cannot be disqualified. (2) The honour should be taken according to the actual strokes taken at each hole in the Medal Competition. The competitors cannot be disqualified for the reason given in the first answer.

36. Southdown Golf Club.—A and B were playing off a tie in a Stroke Competition. At several holes A's caddie indicated the line of putt with a club and held the club in this position while A putted. The club did not touch the ground. Did A incur any penalty ?

Answer.—It is only allowable to point out a direction for putting “before the stroke is made.” See Rule 29 (1). The penalty for a breach of this Rule is the loss of the hole; in score play the penalty is therefore two strokes. See Stroke Rule 14.

37. North Wilts Golf Club.—A Local Rule states:—“A ball may be lifted and dropped without penalty when driven from the 3rd tee, and lying in the ditch running S. and N.” A player drives a ball from the 3rd tee which goes out of bounds. He tees another ball which he drives into the ditch referred to in the Local Rule. Is he entitled to drop without penalty?

Answer.—As the player drove the second ball from the 3rd tee, the Local Rule applies, and he is therefore entitled to drop without penalty.

38. North Surrey Golf Club.—In a stroke competition, two sheep droppings lay on or near the line of putt. The competitor flicked them aside with the point of his finger without touching the grass. Did he incur any penalty?

Answer.—The method of removing impediments from a putting-green is fixed by Rule 28. The Rules of Golf Committee believes that abuses are likely to arise if the word “lifted” in Section 1 is not interpreted in its strict sense. By flicking the impediment aside the player cannot strictly be held to have “lifted” it; nor did he take advantage of the special provision made in Section 2, under which he might have scraped aside the dung with his club; he must therefore be held to have incurred a penalty of two strokes.

39. Streatham Golf Club.—In a foursome, on the putting-green, both balls lay on the same side of the hole. As the player whose ball was further from the hole was about to putt, one of the opponents removed some leaves round the hole by scraping them aside with a club. The player claimed the hole under Rule 28. Can this claim be admitted?

Answer.—The opponent infringed Rule 28 (1), and the player was within his rights in claiming the hole. The opponent should not have interfered with any loose impediment which might have affected the player's stroke.

40. Buraham and Berrow Golf Club.—A and B are competitors in a Stroke Competition and mark for each other. On a putting-green A with his putter lightly pushes aside a loose dead piece of bent, lying away from the line of putt, and then putts out. B, assuming that A has in consequence incurred a penalty of two strokes, so informs A and includes them in the score for the hole.

- (1) Is B correct in scoring against A such a penalty under Rule 28 (1) ?
- (2) If B is incorrect in so doing, what is the object of the succeeding modifying section (2) of that Rule ?
- (3) If the loose impediment in question had been so removed by A from his line of putt, would that circumstance have affected the case ? And, if so, what rule or section thereof indicates any differentiation as between removal from line of putt and from any other position on the putting-green ?

Answer.—1 and 2—B is correct. The Rule expressly enjoins that all loose impediments, other than those enumerated in Section 2, must be "lifted." 3—No.

41. Penmaenmawr Golf Club.—In a Stroke Competition B was a single competitor. A played round with B and marked his card. At the end of the round A was observed arriving with a handkerchief of mushrooms in his hand. Some competitors raised the question of how much attention A could have given to B's play if he were at the same time looking for mushrooms. The Committee investigated the case, and found that at two places A sent his caddie to gather mushrooms, one spot being on the way to the 6th hole, and the other just above the 9th tee, and that therefore there was no reason to think that A did

not devote attention to B's play. There is no doubt that A was himself carrying the mushrooms on the last green. The Committee desire to know whether the card should be allowed to stand ?

Answer.—As the Committee in charge of the competition considers that A devoted his attention to B's play, there is no reason why the accuracy of the card should be questioned.

42. Whitehead Golf Club.—The 16 best scores in a Stroke Competition entitled the Competitors who made them to play in a Match Tournament. Players were allowed to play their matches by a certain date. A and B finding it inconvenient to play 18 holes on one evening, played 9 holes on two different evenings. Are they entitled to do so ?

Answer.—In the absence of any directions to the contrary in the Conditions of the Competition, A and B were entitled to play their match as stated.

43. Bedford Golf Club.—(1) Is it permissible in any circumstances to drive into players ahead ? (2) In case two players have lost their place on the green and refused to let the following couple go through, may the following couple drive into them in the attempt to pass ? (3) In match play, if one player has holed out and won the hole, or picked up his ball and abandoned the hole, has his opponent the right to continue playing until he has also holed out, or does he by doing so become a single player and so lose his status on the Links ?

Answer.—(1) No. (2) No. The last paragraph of Rule 1 (2), describes the course that should be adopted. If players refuse to conform to this Rule the matter should be reported to and dealt with by the authorities in charge of the Green. (3) The opponent does not become a single player, but in the cases mentioned the opponent should not continue to play if, by doing so, he delays the players who are following him.

44. Beverley and East Riding Golf Club.—In a stroke competition a competitor, in approaching a hole, played a ball beyond the putting-green, and over a road. The scoring cards show clearly at which holes a ball lying over the road is out of bounds. The ball referred to was not out of bounds, but the competitor on the advice of his caddie believed it to be so, dropped another ball, and holed out with it. (1) Does the score thus made stand ? (2) Does the competitor lose two strokes under Rules 23 (2) and 34 and Stroke Rule 14 ?

Answer.—(1) No. (2) The competitor is disqualified because he did not hole the stipulated round (see Stroke Rule 1 (1)).

45. Wimbledon Park Golf Club.—In a medal round A drove a ball from the tee which his partner and caddies thought had gone out of bounds. A, thinking otherwise, went forward to where he thought the ball would be on the course ; but, not finding it, at once returned and drove a provisional ball. He then went to play a second shot with the provisional ball, but on his way found his first ball on the course. Was his second ball a provisional ball within the meaning of Rule 23, and should he in the first instance, when looking for the first ball, have taken five minutes before presuming it to be out of bounds ?

Answer.—The intention of Rule 23 is that a provisional ball may only be played before the player has gone forward to look for his first ball ; when a player has begun to look for his first ball he should not interrupt his search by going back and playing a provisional ball. In the present case, if the player intended to resume his search for his first ball after playing a provisional ball, his mistake should not be penalized ; if he did not intend to resume his search, but presumed that his first ball was out of bounds without making a search of five minutes, he should be disqualified.

46. Ealing Golf Club.—Should a recognised water hazard on the boundary of the course (where it is impossible to drop a ball behind as provided by Rule 27) be treated as out of bounds, or may it be dropped on the course under penalty of one stroke ?

Answer.—A recognised water hazard cannot be “out of bounds.”

A ball may be dropped on the course under Rules 27 (1) and 27 (5), which provide for this case.

47. Links Golf Tournament, Aberdeen.—A and B were playing the final of a match tournament. A stone lay within 20 yards of a hole. A asked the referee if he could remove it. The referee gave his consent, and A removed the stone with his putter. B immediately intimated his protest to the referee. The hole was played out by A and B in the same number of strokes. B therefore informed the referee that he claimed the hole, but the referee declared the hole halved, and the game proceeded. B repeated his claim two holes later. Assuming the referee’s decision was right, the match was halved. (1) Was the referee’s decision right? (2) Has a referee absolute power to decide all questions, or is he bound strictly by the Rules of Golf? (3) In the event of the answer to Query (1) and the first part of Query (2) being in the negative, and the answer to the second part of Query (2) being in the affirmative, is B entitled to the hole and the match?

Answer.—Rule 36 states that the players have the right of determining to whom any point of dispute shall be referred. If the players agreed to abide by the decisions of the referee appointed by the Tournament Committee, they cannot make an appeal to the Rules of Golf Committee. If they did not so agree, the claim made by B must be upheld, because the decision of the referee was wrong in law. Under Rule 28 (1) A had the right to lift the stone, but not to remove it in the manner described. In cases where a referee is appointed, it is advisable that a Committee should ascertain from the players before the match begins whether they are agreeable to accept the decision of the referee as final.

48. Deane Golf Club, Bolton.—A Stroke Competition was played under the following conditions :—

Two rounds of the Course to be played—Competitors to choose their own fellow-competitors.

A and B competed together in their first round. In the second round B marked A's card, but did not play himself. The Committee was not consulted regarding this arrangement. Is A disqualified ?

Answer.—No. The fact that B discontinued play in the middle of the Competition did not render A a single Competitor.

49. Worlebury Golf Club.—A player, to improve his stance, picked up a flat stone, placed it under his feet, and played his stroke. Does he lose the hole, and, if so, under what Rule ?

Answer.—By the custom of the game the player is not permitted to build a stance. There is no Rule on the Subject.

50. Baildon Golf Club.—The following incident occurred in a foursome stroke competition. A missed the ball on the tee. His partner B lowered with his hand the ball on the tee before playing. Is the penalty two strokes under Stroke Rule 11 or is the penalty one stroke under Rule 9 ?

Answer.—No Rule has been drafted to meet such circumstances as are described in the question. Neither Rule 9 nor Stroke Rule 11 applies. As the player has committed a breach of Rule 6, which entails the loss of the hole, the player and his partner should be penalized two strokes (see Stroke Rule 14).

51. Cannock Chase Golf Club.—A and B played a Match. At second tee, A used a large quantity of sand to tee his ball, played, and only moved his ball one or two inches, so that it lay immediately in front of the sand tee. Is A entitled to remove the sand he used for a tee ?

Answer.—Yes. The sand used for a tee should be regarded as a loose impediment.

52. Delgany Golf Club.—A and B were the first competitors to start in a bogey competition. At one hole they moved the tee-box some 15 or 20 yards forward and struck off the altered tee. Are A and B disqualified? If so, is the rest of the field disqualified, or should the competition be declared null and void?

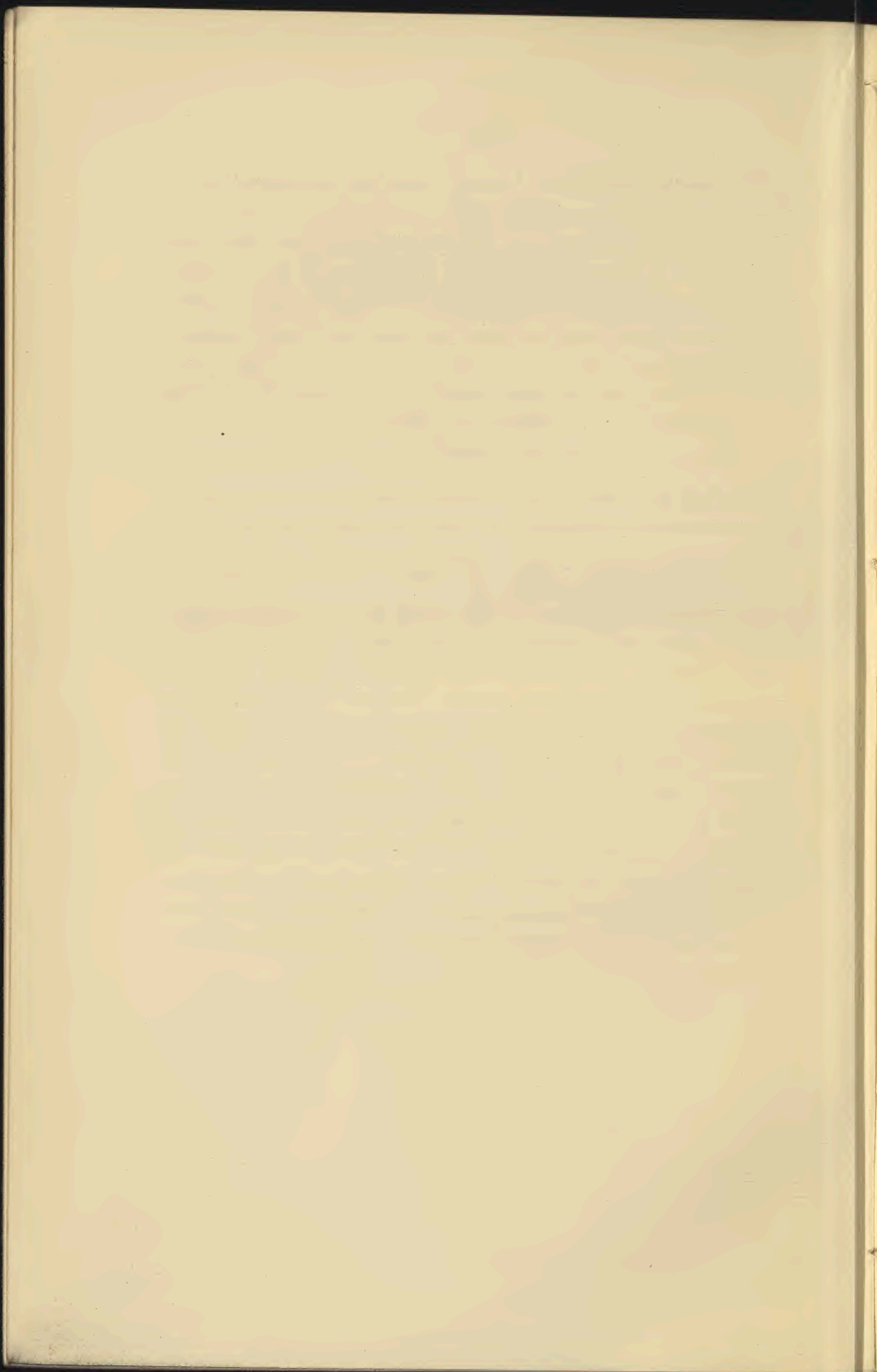
Answer.—A and B did not play the stipulated round and are disqualified. The rest of the competitors had no reason to doubt that the tees were in their proper places, and should not be penalised for the irregular action of A and B. Their scores should be accepted.

53. Cork Golf Club.—May a player stand outside the limits of the teeing-ground to play a ball which is teed within limits?

Answer.—Yes. Rule 2 refers to the position of the ball.

54. Warren Golf Club.—A and B tied for the monthly medal. They agreed, as is customary in the Club, to decide the tie by their scores in the next monthly competition. In this competition A made no return, while B returned his card marked "for the play-off only." The monthly competition scores are published, and B's card was a bad one. A claims that (1) as B's card was not returned for the competition, it cannot count for the play-off. (2) That the Committee has no power to accept a card with a condition attached. Are these claims justified?

Answer.—A and B mutually agreed to play off their tie upon the day of the next monthly competition. They were playing in two separate competitions. B was the winner of the tie.



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The following abbreviations are used :—

Decision—Dec.

Definition—Def.

Rules for play in Stroke Competitions—S.R.

Special Rules for Match Play Competitions—S.M.R.

Rules for Three-ball, etc., Matches—T.B.R.

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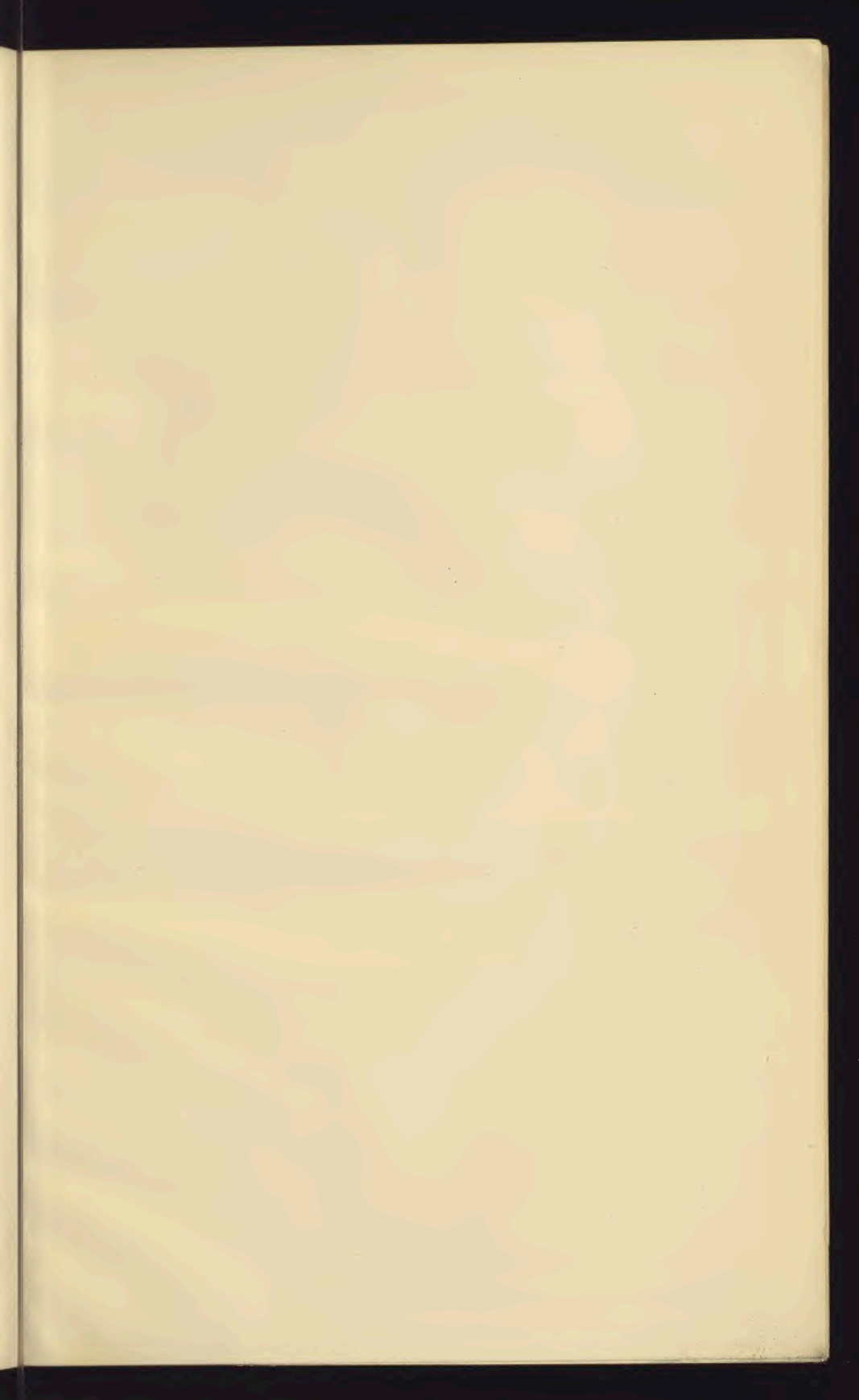
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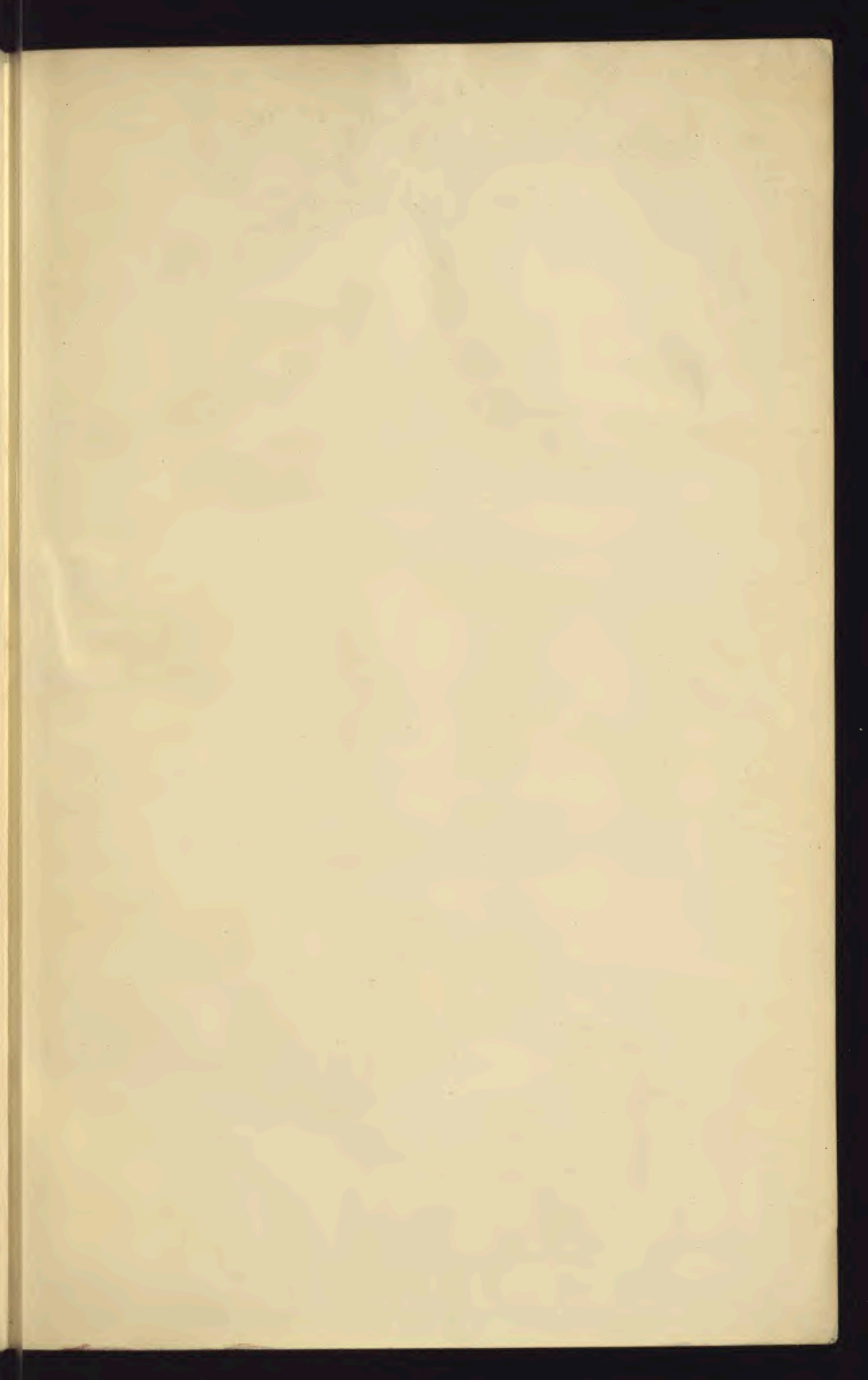
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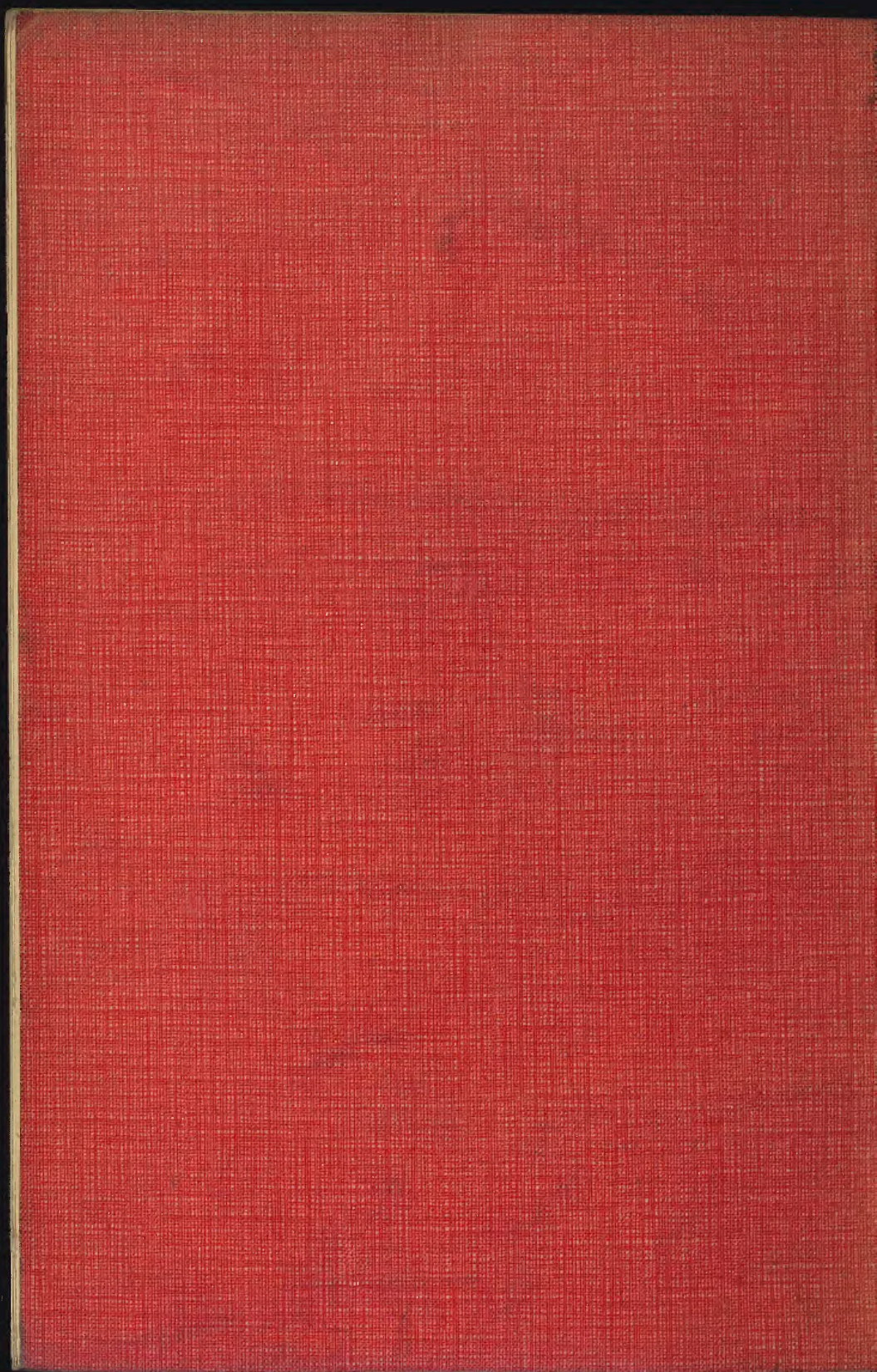
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