



DECISIONS
BY THE
Rules of Golf Committee
1909-1913

WITH INDEX

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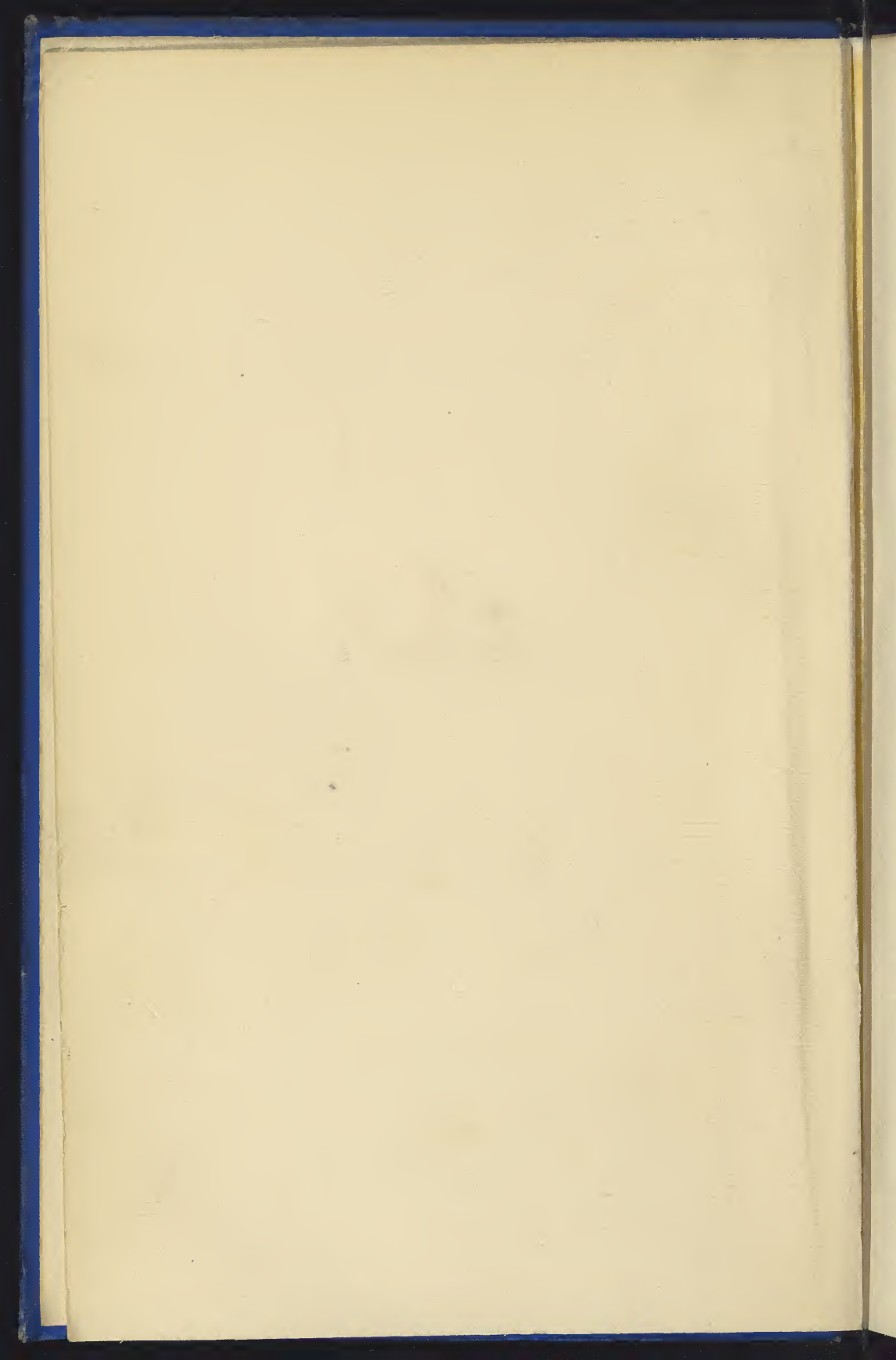
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DECISIONS

BY THE

RULES OF GOLF COMMITTEE

OF THE

ROYAL AND ANCIENT GOLF CLUB

1909-1913

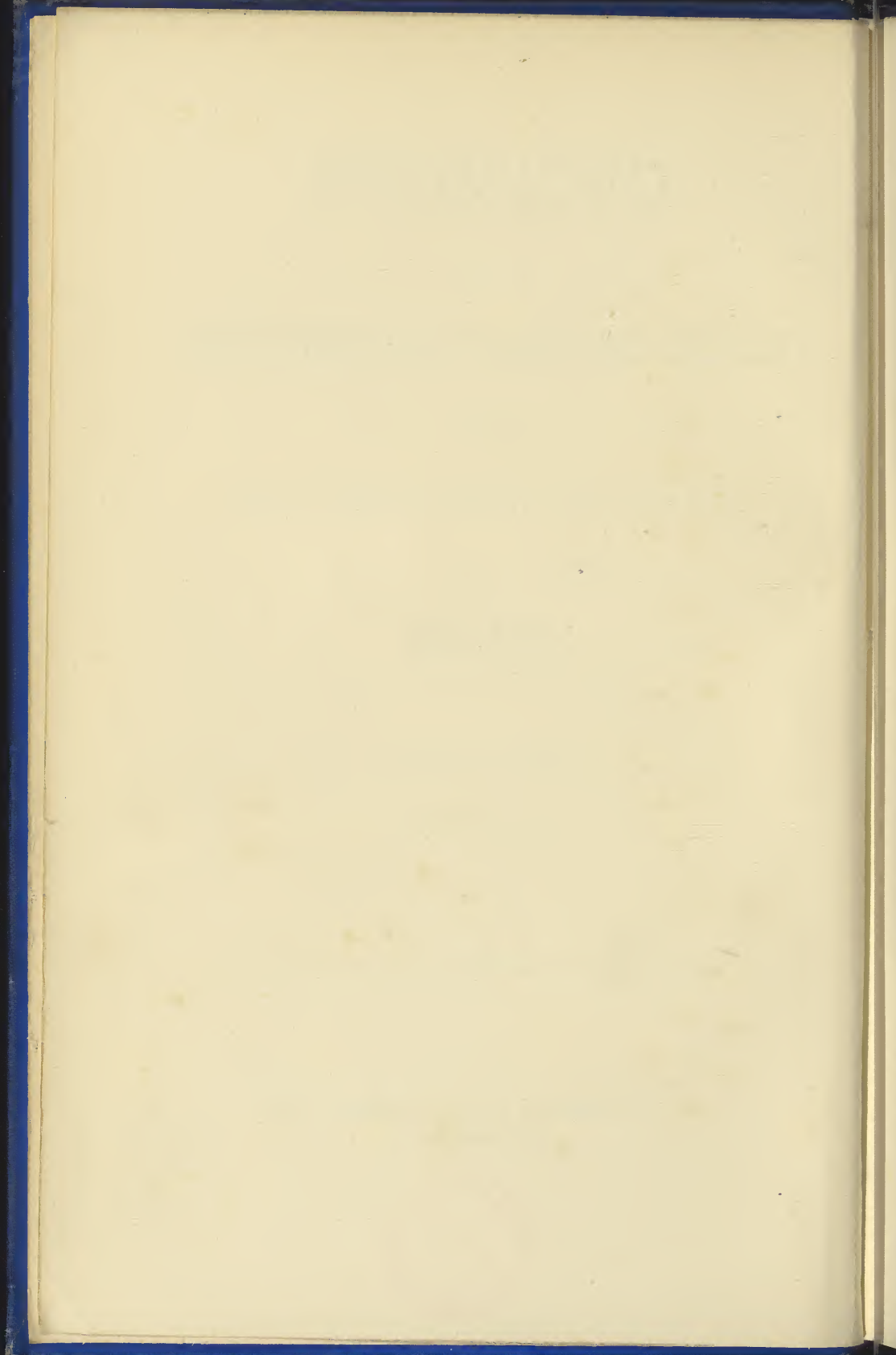
WITH INDEX

REVISED EDITION

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

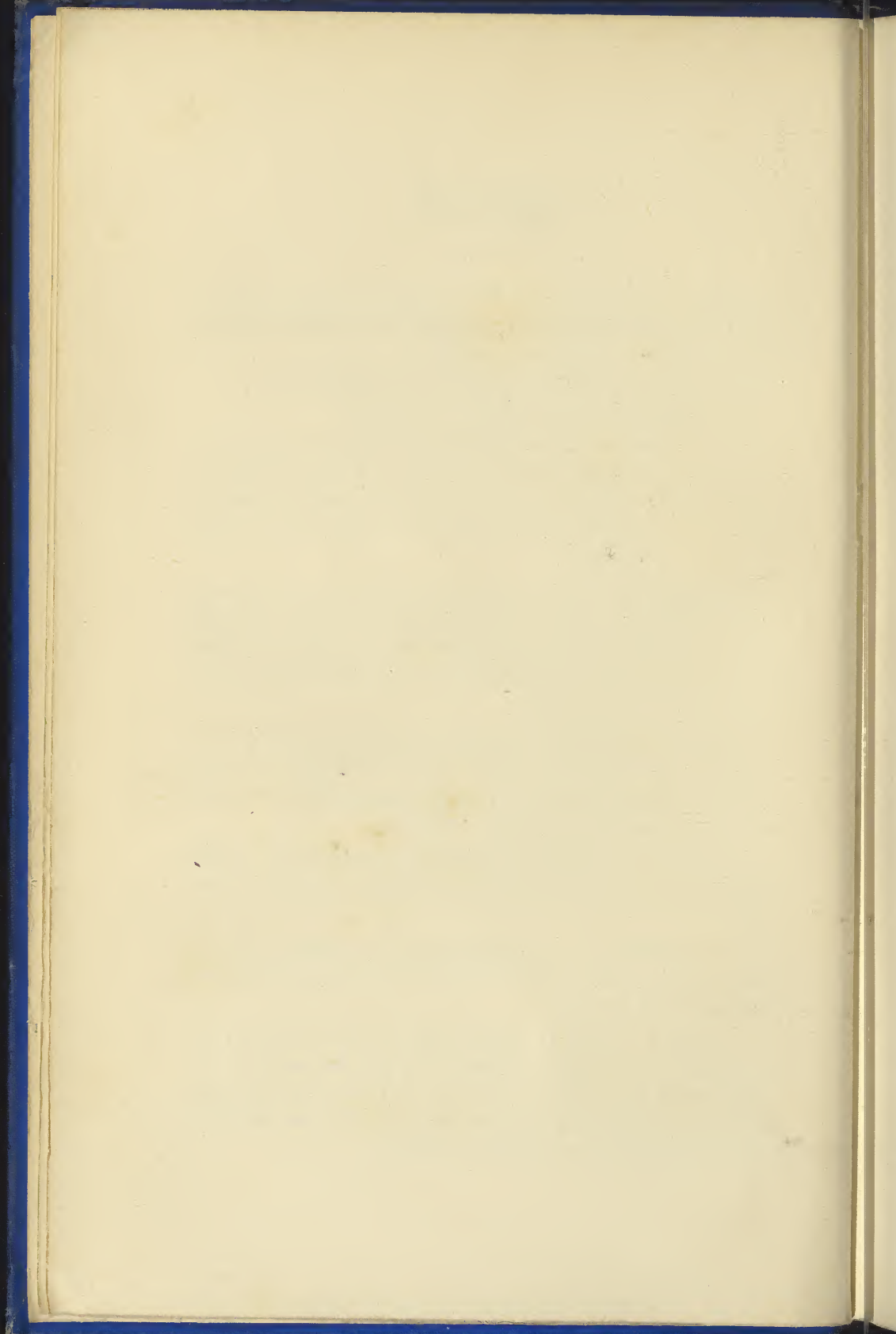
The use of two-columned cards for "Self" and "Opponent" is objectionable as likely to lead to mistakes in marking.

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.

If Competitions are not conducted in accordance with the Rules and Special Rules, the Committee cannot engage to answer questions which may arise.

The Rules of Golf Committee begs to point out that all correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary to the Committee at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, St. Andrews. Letters addressed to the St. Andrews Golf Club are delivered at that Club, and are consequently delayed.



DECISIONS BY THE RULES OF GOLF COMMITTEE



1. Sleaford Golf Club.—(1) A and B were playing a match against one another, when A asked B's advice as to what kind of stroke he should play next. B claimed the hole under Rule 4 in the General Rules ; was B correct in making the claim or not ? It has been argued by some that the words " his partner," in the said rule, mean B's opponent A. (2) If B had a right to claim the hole and did not claim it, what penalty did he incur under Rule 2 of Special Rules for Match Play Competitions ? *i.e.*, did B lose the hole for not claiming the penalty, or was he totally disqualified and thus lose the whole match ?

Answer.—(1) B had the right to claim the hole. The term " partner " is only used in threesomes, foursomes, best ball and four ball matches. (2) In a match play competition it was B's duty to claim the hole. If he did not take the claim he should be disqualified under Rule 2 of Special Rules for Match Play Competitions.

2. Hallowes Golf Club.—A and B were playing in a stroke competition. A did not employ a caddie. At a certain hole A's ball lay in a hazard in front of the green from which he could not see the flag or green. He therefore asked B to indicate the line to the hole. (1) Does this indication come under the heading of advice, Def. 2 ? (2) Under Rule 4 (3), by whom may a player have the line to the hole indicated to him.

Answer.—(1) No. (2) By anyone.

3. Buxton Golf Club.—Playing in a stroke competition a player tees in front of the tee, and his partner calls attention to the fact. The player re-tees within the limits. Is the player disqualified for receiving advice ?

Answer.—No (see Def. 2).

4. Bishopbriggs Golf Club.—A, playing from the tee, drove a ball which came to rest on the fairway. A cow, grazing on the Course, trampled upon the ball which became embedded in the cow's foot. The cow travelled a distance of, say, 30 yards before the ball got dislodged. Under these circumstances must A play the ball where he finds it, or is he entitled to replace it as nearly as possible where it came to rest when driven from the tee ?

Answer.—In the peculiar circumstances described, the cow must be held to be "an agency outside the match" (Rule 17 (3)). The result of her action is therefore governed by this Rule, and the player should have dropped a ball as near as possible to the place from which his ball was moved. It is important to note that a ball may be dropped, and not necessarily the ball which the cow may have rendered unfit for play.

5. Lees Hall Golf Club, Sheffield.—In a Match Play Four-some Competition, a player lifted and cleaned his ball in conformity with a local rule, and laid down his putter to mark the spot. After the competitor had replaced his ball, he lifted his putter and in doing so moved his ball with the putter. He then again replaced his ball by pushing it into its original position with his putter. Was this a stroke or a penalty stroke ?

Answer.—After the ball was first replaced it became "in play." The player must be deemed to have accidentally moved the ball and incurred a penalty of one stroke under Rule 12 (3). The next stroke should have been played from the spot where the ball then lay. Neither partner had the right to again replace the ball, and their side therefore lost the hole under Rule 6.

6. **Notts Golf Club, Ltd.**—A and B were playing in a stroke competition. A's ball lay on the putting green. A's caddie dropped a club which moved the ball. The caddie then lifted and replaced the ball on the spot from which it had been moved. A then holed out with it, and B marked the 7 actual strokes played, and referred the question of penalty to the Committee's representative on the completion of the round. The latter stated that he thought the penalty was one stroke. The score for that hole was then altered to 8, but before handing it in A and B referred to the Rules, and misinterpreting Stroke Rule 10, concluded there was no penalty, and altered the figure back to 7, handing in the card to the Committee's representative with a request that he would report the matter to the Committee and take their ruling. The Committee held that A was disqualified. Were they right in so deciding? and in particular, (1) after the accidental moving of A's ball by his caddie (which it is assumed entailed a penalty of one stroke, Rule 12 (3)) should the ball have been played from where it lay (under Rule 6), or was it properly replaced? and if properly replaced, under what Rule? (2) If the ball should have been played from where it lay after being accidentally moved, what further penalty was entailed by the subsequent action of A's caddie in picking up the ball and replacing it, there being no evidence that it was placed in accordance with Rule 11 (1) of the Special Rules for Stroke Competitions. (3) Incidentally, if a ball in play is accidentally moved by the player or his caddie, and the movement ceases by the ball dropping into the hole that is being played, what is the position (a) in match play, and (b) in a stroke competition? (4) If a card in a stroke competition be handed in, and a verbal statement of certain circumstances, making it doubtful whether a penalty has been incurred at a hole, be made at the time of the handing in of the card to the Committee's representative, are the Committee justified in accepting from the player a subsequently written statement of the circumstances as a sufficient compliance with Rule 5 (3) of the Special Rules?

Answer.—(1) The accidental movement of the ball entailed a penalty of one stroke. The ball should have been played from the spot where it lay after the accident. (2) Assuming that the ball was not teed behind the spot from which it was lifted (*vide* Stroke Rule 11 (1)) the competitor should have been disqualified. (3) The penalty is one stroke in both cases, and the ball is not replaced, but is considered to have been holed. (4) Yes.

7. Greenock Golf Club.—A and B were playing an aggregate stroke competition extending over three Saturdays, the two best scores to count. A's ball lay on the lip of the hole, and B knocked it into the hole with his putter before putting himself. (1) Is A disqualified for this round or for the whole competition? (2) Does any penalty attach to B for knocking A's ball into the hole?

Answer.—(1) Provided A replaced his ball and holed out with it he incurred no penalty. Otherwise he is disqualified for that round only. B should have conformed with Stroke Rule 13 (3). (2) B's action was apparently caused by absent-mindedness, and gave him no advantage. No penalty can be enforced in this case. The second part of Stroke Rule 10 provides only for a ball moved accidentally by a fellow-competitor. The Committee would be justified in debarring a player from competing in future, if it became apparent that he made a practice of striking away his fellow-competitor's ball intentionally.

8. Agra Golf Club.—A player drove apparently into a pond, bordered by trees and long grass. The ball not being found after due search it was considered to be lost in water, and the player dropped another ball under Rule 27, leaving his caddie to look for the ball in the pond. Before the players had holed out the caddie reported that he had found the ball in the long grass outside the pond. What should be done? In this case

the player continued with the ball he had dropped and won the hole.

Answer.—The player who dropped a ball lost the hole.

9. New Grange Golf Club.—In a stroke competition, A drove off with a white ball, but owing to a shower of snow he had difficulty in finding his ball. He therefore lifted and replaced it with a red one. The matter was reported to the Committee by A's fellow competitor. The Committee decided that under Rule 9 (1) and Rule 24 A had incurred a penalty of one stroke. Was this decision correct ?

Answer.—The decision of the Committee of the New Grange Golf Club is not easy to follow. Assuming that a breach of Rule 24 had taken place, the penalty under Rule 34 and Stroke Rule 14 is two strokes not one stroke. A's ball was not "unfit for play" as described in Rule 24, and A could only change his ball by lifting it under a penalty of two strokes and teeing a ball behind the spot from which the original ball had been lifted under the provisions of Stroke Rule 11 (1). If he did not conform to the provisions of this Rule he is disqualified.

10. Hunter's Hill Golf Club.—(1) Pursuant to a Local Rule, A lifted his ball, and, in dropping it over his shoulder, the ball fell into his golf bag which was slung over his shoulder. Was A entitled to re-drop without penalty, or should he have played the ball from out of the bag, or given up the hole ? Some contend that the ball "should be treated as lodging in anything moving" (Rule 17 (2)). Is there any difference in principle between a "ball played into the turned up part of the trousers which the player is wearing" and a "ball dropped into a golf bag which a player is carrying" ?

Answer.—A was entitled to re-drop the ball without penalty. The player, his caddie and his clubs cannot be held to come under Rule 17 (2). The difference between the cases

mentioned is that, in the first case, the ball is in play, and in the second case, the ball is not in play until dropped.

11. Greenore Golf Club.—In a stroke competition a player lifted his ball from a bunker under penalty of two strokes, and dropped it instead of placing it on the ground. Is he disqualified under Stroke Rule 11 ?

Answer.—No. In Definition 16 there is no method of “placing” the ball specified, and the player is at liberty to drop it.

12. Royal Eastbourne Golf Club.—Please state if (1) a ball embedded in a bank may be lifted out and then replaced for the sake of loosening it ; (2) if “through the green” an embedded ball may be treated in a similar manner ?

Answer.—(1) No. (2) No.

13. Knowle Golf Club.—In a match a player’s ball pitched on the putting green and remained embedded in the ground sufficiently to make putting impossible. Could the player have lifted it and played it from a position not nearer to the hole ? By local rule mud may be removed from a ball on the putting green.

Answer.—No. Under the local rule, the ball could have been lifted, wiped, and replaced. A local rule can provide for a ball which becomes embedded in muddy ground.

14. Royal Jersey Ladies’ Golf Club.—A player drove a ball into casual water in a hazard (dry ditch except in very wet weather). This was seen from the tee, but when the players found the ball it had floated some yards away from the water in the hazard into casual water ‘through the green.’ Please say if the ball can be dropped without penalty, or has it to be dropped under penalty of one stroke behind where it entered the hazard ? (Rule 26 was not broken in any way.)

Answer.—If when the player came up to his ball it was in ‘casual water through the green’ he had a right to drop it without penalty under Rule 27 (2).

15. Seaford Golf Club.—At the 7th hole in a match play competition A was 7 feet from the hole in 2 and B 3 feet from the hole in 3. A putted to within 3 inches of the hole, and without waiting for B to play, knocked his ball into the hole. There is some question whether A, by knocking his ball into the hole, intended to concede B the half. B thought that A did not so intend, and, after protesting against A's action, putted and missed. A's ball was not replaced before B putted, and if it had been would not have interfered with B's putt in any way. The hole was counted as won by A, who eventually won the match. The Committee, on hearing the facts from the competitors, disqualified both for a breach of Rule 1 of the Special Rules for Match Play Competitions. The majority of the Committee being of opinion that A did not intend to concede B the half. (1) Were they right in so doing? (2) If A had intended to concede the half, should both have been disqualified? Also, should the Committee have acted on the facts coming to their knowledge or waited for a protest from some competitor?

Answer.—Rule No. 1 of the Special Rules for Match Play Competitions was infringed, and both competitors were disqualified unless A intended to give B the half of the hole in which case neither competitor incurred a penalty. The Committee of the Seaford Golf Club, with the evidence before it, is in a better position to ascertain the facts of the case than the Rules of Golf Committee. The Committee did rightly in taking up the case.

16. Greenisland Golf Club.—(1) In a foursome, A and B were partners against C and D. In playing to the last hole, A and B holed out in 4 to 5 for the match. Sometime after entering the Club House it was discovered that A and B had played with a ball belonging to a player not in the match, and C and D claimed the hole and the match. Does Rule No. 20, clause 2, govern this, or does Rule No. 36 apply? Which side wins the hole? (2) In a foursome, E and F were partners

against G and H. F, in playing the second shot, hit the ball twice. Do G and H win the hole under Rule No. 3, or do E and F only lose a stroke under Rule No. 14?

Answer.—(1) Rule 20 (2) governs the case. C and D win the match. No dispute arose, and therefore Rule 36 cannot be applied. (2) E and F incurred a penalty of one stroke under Rule 14. A penalty stroke does not affect the rotation of play (see Def. 14).

17. Bedford Golf Club.—In a stroke competition A played a ball which fell out of sight. On walking to the place he found a ball lying where he expected his own to be. He played this ball out of bounds and dropped another, with which he holed out. On picking up the ball driven out of bounds, he discovered that it was not his own ball. His own ball was afterwards brought to him by another player. Does A incur any penalty?

Answer.—A is disqualified (see Stroke Rule 8 (2)).

18. 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.

19. Lee-on-Solent Golf Club.—In a stroke competition a competitor's ball lay in a deep ditch, for which it is provided by Local Rule that a ball in the ditch may be "lifted and dropped behind" under penalty of one stroke. The ball lay in a crack at the bottom of the ditch, and the competitor claimed that he had the right to lift it and drop it in the ditch without penalty. Is this contention correct?

Answer.—Provided that the crack referred to was formed in any manner provided for by Rule 11, the contention was correct. If the crack was merely a natural difficulty, the ball could only be lifted with a penalty of one stroke under the Local Rule, and it could be dropped either in, or outside the ditch, behind the spot from which it was lifted.

20. Stonehaven Golf Club.—In a match play knockout tournament played in foursomes, A and B as partners played C and D as partners. In playing to the third hole, the ball of the former couple went into the bunker, into which sand was being wheeled at the time, and it lay between two loads of sand which had not been raked down. After consulting together they agreed to lift out of the bunker and count two strokes. On playing, A and B lost the hole and also the match. Should C and D be disqualified from the competition under Rule 3 of Special Rules for Match Play Competitions for allowing A and B to lift as above instead of (a) playing the ball where it lay, or (b) if it was considered that that part of the hazard was under repair, of dropping it in the hazard as in Rule 11?

Answer.—The ball should have been lifted and dropped in the hazard under Rule 11 (last paragraph) without penalty. A and B lost the hole by lifting the ball from the bunker. Stroke Rule 11 does not apply to Match Play. C and D cannot be held to have infringed Rule 3 of Special Rules for Match Play Competitions, and are not disqualified.

21. Bredisholm Golf Club.—In a stroke competition a competitor's ball lodged in a tree. What should be done in the circumstances ?

Answer.—If the competitor's ball is found in a tree, Stroke Rule 11 (1) can be applied. Such obstructions as trees should, however, be made the subject of local rule, *vide* "Recommendations for Local Rules."

22 Kirkcaldy Golf Club.—In a stroke competition, A drove from the first tee when B was approaching the 18th green. The balls lay within a few feet of each other. A thought that B had played his ball, and in the presence of his fellow competitor lifted the ball which remained, and threw it to B, who threw it back. A is now satisfied that B played his own ball. A replaced his ball, and played on. The Committee disqualified A. Is this decision correct ?

Answer.—No. A lifted his ball for the purpose of identification, and replaced it in accordance with Stroke Rule 11 (2).

23. Old Fold Manor Golf Club.—A heap of sand was deposited on the rough grass at the edge of the fairway, one side of the sand touching the fairway. The sand was for the upkeep of the green. A player's ball lodged on the edge of the sand nearest to the fairway. Was the player entitled to drop the ball on the fairway, but not nearer to the hole, or should he have dropped behind the sand in the rough grass ?

Answer.—The ball lay on "ground covered up for the purpose of the upkeep of the course" (see Rule 11), and could be lifted without penalty and dropped as near as possible to the place where it lay, but not nearer to the hole. The player therefore had to drop his ball on the fairway.

24. The Glasgow North-western Golf Club.—A competitor in a stroke competition, with his second stroke, played his ball out of bounds. Instead of dropping ball at spot from which he had played, he dropped it at point of exit, claiming that he

had a right to do so under penalty of two strokes, as in Rule 14 Stroke Competitions. It is contended that in this case this Rule does not apply, but that Rule 3 in Special Rules for Match Play does—with penalty of disqualification—but the point is not quite clear.

Answer.—The player is disqualified. The Rules of Golf provide only one method of treating a ball played out of bounds (Rule 23 (1)).

The Special Rules for Match Play only apply to match competitions.

Stroke Rule 11 provides that a ball may be lifted from any place on the course under penalty of two strokes. The course is defined (see Def. 3) as “the whole area within which play is permitted.” Play is not permitted on any place which is out of bounds (see Def. 8).

25. Portishead Golf Club.—(1) Under Stroke Rule 11 does the lifting apply to a ball lying in a hazard? If so, may it be dropped outside the hazard? (2) Is a player disqualified if his marker (who is a member) is not a competitor? The player was a single competitor. (3) Is it permissible to negotiate a stymie by laying the club on the ground and lofting the ball by pulling the back of the club along the ground?

Answer.—Yes. See Definition 3. Stroke Rule 11 does not limit the distance between the spot from which the ball is lifted and the place where it is teed. (2) No, if the marker has been selected by the Committee. See Stroke Rule 1 (2). (3) No. It is not a fair stroke, but a scrape.

26. New South Wales Golf Association.—In a stroke competition, A's ball lay near the side of a putting-green in the edge of some scrub which adjoined a strip of wood where the trees were about 15-20 feet high. A few yards behind the spot where the player's ball lay there was a cleared space in the wood some 32 feet by 20 feet; and about 20 yards further back the teeing-ground for the next hole and the open course. The player instead of

keeping the spot from which the ball was lifted between himself and the hole, teed it at the side of the wood about 12 yards to the side and thus obtained a clear shot at the hole, contending that had he gone back he would have put fresh hazards between himself and the hole. (1) Was he right in doing this? (2) Does "behind" in Stroke Rule 11 mean "not nearer the hole" or does it mean "keeping the place from which the ball is lifted between the player and the hole"?

Answer.—(1) No. (2) The word "behind" signifies that the player shall keep the spot from which the ball was lifted between himself and the hole. The Rules of Golf Committee is of opinion that there was no difficulty in complying with Stroke Rule 11, more especially as a player is permitted to prepare his tee without the restrictions imposed by Rule 15.

The photographs show that from the cleared space some 32 by 20 feet in size, the ball could be played to the hole, as the man standing at the hole is visible. It is not unusual in lifting a ball under the provisions of Stroke Rule 11 for a player to play over hazards which were not between the hole and the spot from which the ball was lifted.

27. 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.

28. Yelverton Golf Club.—A and B were playing a match. At a certain hole both played their second shots. A's ball lay on the green, but B, being unable to find his ball, gave up the hole, and the players struck off from the next tee. The couple following them found B's ball in the hole, so B had holed out in two strokes. Who won the hole, A or B?

Answer.—Under Rule 1 (1) the hole is won by the side which holes its ball in fewer strokes than the opposing side, *except as otherwise provided for in the Rules*. It is otherwise provided (Rule 21) that if a ball be lost, the player's side shall lose the hole. B lost his ball and the hole.

29. Freemantle Golf Club.—In a stroke competition a competitor missed the ball on the first tee. While addressing the ball for the second stroke, the ball fell off the tee. The competitor replaced it, and drove off, counting two strokes played from the tee. Is this correct?

Answer.—Rule 2 (1) refers to a ball which is not in play. The competitor having made a stroke, his ball was in play. If the competitor grounded his club when addressing the ball for the second time, he incurred a penalty of one stroke, (see Rule 12 (4)), because the ball moved, and he should then have played the ball from where it lay. Provided he conformed to the conditions laid down in Stroke Rule 11 (1), he could tee the ball under a penalty of two strokes. If he did not conform to Stroke Rule 11 (1) the competitor is disqualified.

30. 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 off the tee 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.

31. 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. 172) and Jarrow and Hepburn Golf Club (No. 41) ? 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.

32. 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 the 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).

33. Prenton Golf Club.—Does a player incur a penalty of one stroke by moving his ball after grounding his club on the putting-green, the movement being made by pressing the top of the face of the putter against the ball by a forward movement of the shaft, the ball returning to its original position when released by the putter being brought back?

Answer.—If the ball left its original position in the least degree and did not merely oscillate, it has moved (see Def. 19), and the movement constitutes a stroke, not a penalty stroke (see Def. 13).

34. Preston Golf Club.—A and B are playing C and D a foursome. On the green it is C's turn to putt. He addresses his ball to putt, and takes his club backward in the action of putting the ball. Whilst taking his club back the ball starts to move, and moves about three inches. A calls out "That ball has moved," before C hits the ball with the forward action. Are C and D penalised?

Answer.—It is not stated whether the ball which moved three inches had come to rest, or was in motion when struck by C. C had grounded his club, and therefore incurred a

penalty of one stroke because the ball moved, Rule 12 (4). A penalty stroke does not alter the rotation of play. It was therefore C's turn to play the ball if it had come to rest, and if it was moving when struck C incurred no further penalty—see Rule 13. A had no right to speak to C while the latter was making his stroke.

35. Elie Golf House Club.—(1) In a competition by match play A and B were competitors. Playing one of the holes A played his second shot followed by B. The second shot of B was badly bunkered, and after several shots, he gave up the hole. A on coming up to his ball found he had played his second shot with a ball not in the match. The Committee, by a majority, awarded the hole to A on the ground that B gave up the hole—although in terms of Rule 20 (2) A seemed to have been first to lose it. Were they correct?

(2) In a cup competition, the conditions being that the competitors play a qualifying round by stroke play, under handicap—the eight best scores to qualify for match play—ties to be settled before the match play starts. Two competitors tied for 8th place—they played off the tie by match play, not by strokes. Were they in order in doing this, if not, what is the penalty?

Answer.—(1) By playing a ball not in the match, and failing to inform B of the fact before B played his second stroke, A lost the hole (see Rule 20 (2)).

(2) The first part of the competition was by stroke play and the competitors who tied were bound to decide their tie by stroke play. The match they played had no bearing on the competition, and if there was not time for them to decide their tie afterwards by stroke play they are disqualified.

36. 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.

37. Singapore Golf Club.—B has played four strokes, and his ball lies on the lip of the hole. A has played three strokes. A plays and hits B's ball and holes out, but with the same stroke, and whilst B's ball is moving, intentionally knocks it away with his club. Does A win, halve, or lose the hole ?

Answer.—The conditions under which a player may knock away a ball which lies on the lip of the hole are stated in Rule 32 (3), second paragraph. These conditions did not exist in the case mentioned. A must therefore be held to have "stopped" the ball—see Rule 18—and to have lost the hole. Rule 33 cannot be applied, as B was not "left with a stroke for the half."

38. 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).

39. 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.

40. Blackwell Golf Club.—In a Club match, a player's ball was on the green near the hole, and his opponent's ball, played from outside the limits of the putting-green, hit it and knocked it further from the hole. Could the player claim to replace his ball under Rule 32, Section 2, on the contention that at the time of contact both balls were on the putting-green ?

Answer.—The player could replace his ball under Rule 32 (2). It is not necessary that both balls should be on the putting-green.

41. Jarrow and Hepburn Golf Club.—In a foursome competition a competitor played his ball out of bounds, dropped a ball and played the subsequent stroke himself. Should the stroke have been played by the player or his partner ? If by the partner, what is the penalty ?

Answer.—The partner should have played the stroke. As the players did not "strike alternately during the play of the hole," they lose the hole (see Rule 3). In a stroke competition the penalty is disqualification.

42. 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 penalised (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).

43. Kilmarnock Golf Club.—A and B are playing against C and D in a four-ball match. A and C are approaching the green. A is further from the hole than C, and plays first, but C plays before A's ball has come to rest on the green. The balls strike one another on the green. (1) Is there any penalty incurred, and, if so, what penalty ? (2) If no penalty, are the balls to lie where they come to rest ?

Answer.—There is no Rule which meets the case when the ball is played from "through the green." This incident must be of such rare occurrence that it does not appear to the Rules Committee to be necessary to frame a Rule on the subject. Taking into consideration that it is the custom for players in four-ball matches to play as quickly as possible in order to avoid congestion of the course, the Committee is of opinion that no penalty was incurred, and that the balls should have been played from where they came to rest.

44. Heaton Moor Golf Club.—An interpretation of Rule 20 (b) is craved. In a four ball match A and B v. C and D, A played C's ball, A's caddie having informed him that it was his own ball. He discovered his mistake before any other player in the match played a stroke. A then played his own ball. C and D claimed the hole against A and B and picked

up their balls. (1) Is A disqualified for that hole? (2) Are A and B disqualified for that hole? (3) By virtue of C and D picking up their balls does not the hole go to B, for the side A and B?

Answer.—Rule 20 (b) refers to wrong information given by an opponent or an opponent's caddie. In this case the wrong information was given by the player's own caddie. The case resolves itself into the question whether Rule 7 of the Rules for Four Ball Matches over-rides Rule 20 of the Rules of Golf or not. The Rules of Golf Committee is of opinion that it does not do so. A was disqualified for the hole in question under Rule 20 (1), but the disqualification does not apply to his partner B (see Rule 10 of the Rules for Four Ball Matches). By lifting their balls C and D surrendered the hole to B for the side A and B.

45. Broughty Ferry Golf Club.—A, B, and C were playing a three-ball match. In playing the second shots to a hole A played B's ball and B played A's ball. On reaching the green A and B informed C of the mistake, and C claimed the hole from both. A and B played out the hole on equal terms. Was C right?

Answer.—C won the hole from A and B. As to A and B, B cancelled A's mistake (see Rule 20 (a)).

46. 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.

47. St. Annes Old Links Golf Club.—(1) A and B are playing a match game, both are on the green, it is A's putt, which he holes. B putts for the half, but misses, and *after passing the hole* hits A. Is this: (1) a win for A under Rule 1; (2) a win for B under Rule 18; (3) a half under Rule 33? If the latter, what is to prevent a player left with a difficult putt deliberately trying to secure a half by hitting his opponent instead of finding the

hole? (2) In a stroke competition "A" sliced a shot which he thought went out of bounds near the green. He dropped another ball in accordance with Rule 23 (2) and actually holed out with the shot he then played. He subsequently discovered that his first ball was *not* out of bounds. What is the correct thing to do? (3) A and B are playing a match game, both are on the green. A putts and leaves himself dead on the far side of the hole. B putts, hits A's ball, and follows on 18 inches past the spot where A's ball originally rested. A claims the right under Rule 32 (2) to replace, but in doing so replaces on a spot which leaves B a stymie. B claims that if the ball was replaced in its correct place he would have a clear way to the hole. Who is to decide? (4) In a stroke competition, "A" sliced a shot which he thought went out of bounds near the green. He dropped another ball (in accordance with Rule 23 (2)), but made three successive shots with the dropped ball before reaching the place where the first ball was likely to be and then discovered that the first ball was *not* out of bounds. Is "A" disqualified? If so, under what rule? or which ball should be played from the time when the first ball is discovered to be in play?

Answer.—(1) A half under Rule 33. The Rules of Golf are framed on the supposition that golfers play honestly. If A had conformed to the first clause of the Etiquette of Golf it is very unlikely that the incident could have occurred. (2) The ball which he holed was a provisional ball, and the player should have disregarded it and played out the hole with the first ball. (3) If neither side is prepared to give way it is not possible to come to any decision. (4) The player was entitled to continue to play with the provisional ball until he reached the spot where the first ball was likely to be. On finding the first ball, it should continue in play (see Rule 23 (2)). The words: "In order to save delay . . . he may at once play another ball" do not limit the number of strokes which may be played with that ball in accordance with the Rule.

48. 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).

49. 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.

50. Horsforth Golf Club, Ltd.—In a match neither of the players had caddies. A played his tee shot straight down the fairway and then put his driver inside his bag, which was lying against the sand box. His opponent B then played his tee shot, and the ball struck a portion of stone wall and rebounding, struck the bag of clubs lying by the box, and belonging to A. B then claimed the hole from A under Rule 18, but A maintains that B was not entitled to this as the clubs were not in what might be termed the “line of play,” and having no caddie he was entitled to lean them against the sand box. Which player is right?

Answer.—B was right. A lost the hole under Rule 18.

51. 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 over-ran 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.

52. 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.

53. Yelverton Golf Club.—In a Foursome Stroke Competition (for which the Rules do not specially provide) if a player's ball strike his partner, is the penalty two strokes by the combined operation of Rule 19 and Stroke Rule 14, or one stroke on the analogy of Stroke Rule 9 ?

Answer.—The Committee is of opinion that the Rule for Stroke Competitions No. 9 should be applied.

54. 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.

55. Burhill Golf Club.—A player in a Competition drives his ball from a tee into the rough, which consists of longish grass, and in searching for it inadvertently treads on it. Would the Rules Committee kindly say whether the player should be penalised, or whether the incident should be treated as a rub of the green ?

Answer.—The penalty is one stroke, see Rule 12 (3). The term "rub of the green" only applies to a ball in motion, see Rule 17 (1).

56. Elderslie Golf Club.—The Match Committee consists of four members. Three members conducted a stroke competition. A took charge from 10 till 1 o'clock, and having a single competitor, went out to complete the ballot. B arrived at 1 o'clock, and desired to play then so as to assist in the ballot later. As there was no other competitor expected for two hours, A suggested that B should take a juvenile member to mark his card, as there was no one else in the Club House. This was done. C was in charge when B completed his round, and approved of B's action. B returned the winning score. B's card was objected to because (1) B had no opponent; (2) because the marker was ineligible. The Match Committee dismissed the protest. The objector then appealed to the General Committee of the Club on the following grounds:—(a) That A was in charge. (b) That if B was in charge, it was out of the question for him as Committee-man to appoint a marker for himself as a competitor. (c) B did not ballot.

Answer.—The marker was not ineligible. If the conditions state that competitors' names shall be balloted, B's score cannot be accepted, as he was not a qualified competitor in terms of the conditions.

57. The Murcar Links Golf Club, Ltd.—If a ball is lying among bent, is a player entitled to ground his club? Is bent a hazard?

Answer.—Bent is not a hazard; but Rule 15 may not be infringed.

58. 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.

59. 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.

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

Answer.—Yes.

61. 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.

62. Longcliffe Golf Club.—In a Bogey competition a marker entered a 4 at a hole where he should have marked 5. The Bogey score for the hole is 6 and the result was marked plus. The card was returned as one up on Bogey. Should the player be disqualified under Rule 5 (2) as in any case the error did not affect the result of the hole ?

Answer.—In competitions held under Stroke Rules the players must see that the score for each hole is correctly marked before their cards are handed to the Committee. If a card contains a score less than that actually made the competitor is disqualified under Stroke Rule 5 (2) and Rules for Bogey Competitions No. 2.

63. Longcliffe Golf Club.—In a Bogey competition (4th hole, Bogey 3) B holed out in 3, and his marker called out "Half" but recorded the result as "4" "0." The error was not observed until after the card had been handed in. The player urges that he kept a check record and that his marker called out the Bogey result.

Answer.—The score must stand as “no alteration can be made on any card after it has been handed in” (*vide* Stroke Rule 5 (2)). Reference to Bogey Rule No. 1. shows that at each hole where a competitor makes a return either equal to or less than the fixed score, the marker is responsible for the marking of the correct number of strokes played. The player checked the result of the hole—a matter which could have been corrected by the Committee in checking the cards—but omitted the important duty of checking the actual score for the hole.

64. Southampton Golf Club.—A member playing in a bogey competition returned a card showing him 3 down. On examination it was found that his partner had marked a plus at the 7th hole instead of 0 (bogey 3, strokes taken 4, member receives stroke at this hole), so that the card should have shown 4 down. (1) Should the card be disqualified or should the error be corrected? (2) In the same competition, A takes 3 strokes at this same hole (bogey 3, receives stroke). B marks his score as 4, but knowing that A had won the hole marked a plus. Should this error cause disqualification or should the hole be disallowed?

Answer.—(1) The marker is only responsible for the “marking of the correct number of strokes” at certain holes (see Bogey Rules No. 1). He need not place the signs, which are subject to correction by the Committee. (2) The figure 4 must stand, and A halves the hole.

65. Consett and District Golf Club.—In a bogey competition is the marker responsible for showing the holes won or lost, and the total result up or down on Bogey, or does his responsibility end with marking the strokes taken?

Answer.—The responsibility of the marker ends with marking the “correct number of strokes at each hole at which the competitor makes a score either equal to or less than the fixed score.” Any error in placing the signs, or working

out a handicap, or in the result, falls to be corrected by the Committee.

66. Little Aston Golf Club.—Bogey foursomes competition. At the 16th hole a competitor discovered that the marker for his side had entered no figure for the score of any hole, but had filled in the signs. The marker proposed to fill in the score for each of these holes from memory. (1) Is this permissible? (2) Does the fact that no score is marked at the time the hole is played out disqualify the player? (3) Does the omission to mark the score immediately after holing out throughout the round carry a greater penalty than the omission to mark the score at one or two holes only. (4) Supposing a protest to be lodged by a competitor regarding the matter, should his protest be accepted? (5) Supposing a protest to be lodged by a spectator with possibly a financial interest, should the protest be accepted?

Answer.—(1) No. At the first fifteen holes the competitors must be held to have made no return, and to have lost these holes (see Rules for Bogey No. 1). (2) Not necessarily. For example, if the marker delayed filling in the score for a hole until the competitors had struck off from the next tee, no penalty would be incurred. (3) Subject to the answer to question number 2, every hole at which no return is made is a lost hole. (4) and (5). It is the duty of a Committee to take cognizance of, and, if necessary, investigate every case of irregularity that comes to its knowledge whatever the source of the information may be.

67. Accrington and District Golf Club.—(1) A stroke competition was held and four members tied for first place. It was arranged that these four should play off on the following Saturday. One of the four played round the course before commencing his round in the "play off." New holes were not cut for this occasion. *Query.*—Was the player disqualified? (2) The Secretary does not issue cards for stroke competitions as required by Rule 5 Stroke Competitions. Cards are provided

and players take them when commencing their rounds. A card was returned, signed correctly by the marker, but the player's name was omitted. The player was identified by reference to the marker. Was the player disqualified by reason of the omission of his name from the scoring card ?

Answer.—(1) No. (2) As the Committee had no doubt as to the identity of the card, the player is not disqualified.

68. Brisbane Golf Club.—In a stroke competition A and B took out blank scoring cards. The cards are double scoring cards, with one side headed for "player" and the other side for "opponent." A put his name in the place where B's should have been, and marked the score for himself and B in the wrong columns. A made up B's total correctly and signed the card. Can A's card be admissible as a record of B's score ?

Answer.—Yes. The practice of using double cards leads to confusion, and should be discouraged. Stroke Rule 5 (1) states that cards should be issued with the date and the player's name entered on the card. The card in question is correctly signed and added. It obviously refers to the score made by B, and should be accepted.

69. Hyde Golf Club.—A and B competed in a stroke competition. B placed A's card in the box kept for cards without signing it. Almost immediately afterwards B asked the Secretary to open the box and allow him to sign the card. This the Secretary refused to do. (1) Was the Secretary justified in his refusal ? (2) Was A disqualified ?

Answer.—(1) Yes. (2) Yes, unless the action of the marker prevented the Competitor from complying with Stroke Rule 5 (1), which provides that the onus of seeing his card handed in lies with the competitor, who should see that the card is accurate, and that it is signed.

70. Burbage Golf Club.—The winner of a stroke competition was presented with the cup competed for. It subsequently

came to the knowledge of the Captain that the winner and her fellow-competitor had gone out for their second round without their scoring cards, and had waited on the first green while their caddies went back to the club house for the cards. Two members of the Committee were aware of this, but did not protest at the time. Is the winner disqualified, and if so, is the Committee justified in demanding the return of the cup ?

Answer.—The players discontinued play and should have been disqualified unless the reason for discontinuing play was considered satisfactory by the Committee (see Stroke Rule 2 (1)). The Rules of Golf Committee is of opinion that the Committee of the Burbage Golf Club should decide that it is satisfied with the reason the players gave for their delay ; if the Committee disqualifies the players, the cup must be returned to the Committee.

71. Exmouth Golf Club.—A and B were competitors in a stroke competition. On the completion of the round A asked B for his (A's) card. B asked A to wait, as he was not finished with it. As they entered the Club House A again asked B for the card, but was told by B that he had added up, signed, and placed the card in the locked box kept for the purpose. A was not satisfied, and persuaded the official in charge of the box to show him his card, which the official did. The card was unsigned. The Secretary, who appeared at the time, authorised B to sign the card. The correctness of the card has not been disputed. Should the card be accepted ?

Answer.—With regard to handing in scoring cards, Stroke Rule 5 (1) states “that the card shall be signed by the person who has marked it, and the competitor shall see that it is handed in as soon as reasonably possible.” The duty of seeing the card handed in lies with the competitor, who in this case did his best to comply with the Rule, but was prevented from doing so by B. The card should be accepted.

72. Tullamore Golf Club.—At an open meeting held here the winner in the men's singles returned his card with only the initials of the marker on it. The Committee on checking the cards discovered this, and being of the opinion that initials did not constitute a signature they decided not to award prize until they had the opinion of the Rules of Golf Committee on the matter. No objection has been lodged by any of the other competitors.

Answer.—The action of the marker was irregular. The Rules Committee is of opinion that if the Committee of the Tullamore Golf Club can identify the marker by the initials they should accept the card.

73. 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.

74. 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.

75. Troon Merchants' Golf Club.—A and B were competitors in a stroke competition, and marked each other's cards. At the last hole A stated that he had taken 7 strokes, which statement was not questioned by B, who marked a 7 for the hole, signed the card, and placed it in the box. After A had left the Club House, B came to the conclusion that A had taken 8 strokes to the last hole, and reported to the Captain of the Club, in the absence of the Secretary, that he, B, had marked a 7 for an 8 on A's card. The Committee disqualified A on the spot without hearing what he had to say on the matter. A says that he had two witnesses to prove his score correct. Can a marker alter his fellow-competitor's card after he has signed and returned it ?

Answer.—No, but a marker should certainly report to the Committee any error he is aware of having made in marking a card. The Committee should then take all available evidence and decide in accordance with the facts.

76. Tavistock Golf Club.—A stroke competition and "bogey" competition was held on the same day. Since the previous competition the "bogey" score had been altered and also the handicap of the members. A entered for both the stroke and "bogey" events ; he was one of the members whose handicap had been altered. On completing the round he retained his card, during the time of lunching—a period of 45 minutes—in order to make it up in accordance with the altered conditions of the "bogey" score and the adjusted conditions of his own handicap. A returned the lowest score under handicap in the score competition, but the Green Committee disqualified him, holding that he had not returned his card as soon as was reasonably possible. Was this decision correct ?

Answer.—As the Green Committee of the Tavistock Golf Club is apparently satisfied that A did not return his card as soon as was reasonably possible, he should be disqualified.

77. Churchdown Golf Club.—The conditions of a stroke competition state:—Cards to be in by 5.30 p.m. A and B returned their cards immediately on the completion of their round at 5.50 p.m. A protest was lodged against these cards being accepted, and the Committee disqualified A and B. A, who is a member of the Committee, questions his disqualification because, at the meeting of Committee at which the details of the competition were arranged, the Committee was of opinion that the time fixed (5.30 p.m.) was needlessly early and that allowances should be made. No formal vote was taken on the matter. A also claims that, as a member of the Committee, he had power to extend the time and did so. It is obvious that A and B relied on the time limit being extended, as they did not start till 4 p.m. Did the Committee decide correctly in disqualifying A and B?

Answer.—The Committee decided correctly and in accordance with the printed conditions.

78. Corwen Golf Club.—In a stroke competition two competitors agreed that their caddies should mark for them. They corrected the caddies' marking at each hole, and the competitors (not the caddies) signed the cards on the completion of the round. Are the competitors disqualified under Stroke Rule 5?

Answer.—The competitors are disqualified. Stroke Rule 5 (1) states that the scores shall be kept by a marker or by each competitor noting the other's score. A caddie cannot be considered a marker.

79. Chorley Golf Club.—In a medal competition blank cards were handed out, and previous to starting out both A and B signed their names in the blank space at the foot of the card. A's score is marked on the card already signed by A, which,

with B's name at the top, was returned. Should the card be disqualified? The other card was not returned.

Answer.—It is difficult to ascertain how the error in heading the card occurred. Where blank cards are issued such errors are common. It is contrary to Stroke Rule 5 (1) for the marker to sign a card before the completion of the stipulated round. As A has signed for his own score the card cannot be accepted.

80. Selangor Golf Club.—In a stroke competition, A playing in the morning at the end of his round tore up his card. Learning from some of the other competitors that no better scores had been so far returned, he pinned the card together and copied the score on another card. This was checked and signed by the original marker and put in with a note of the circumstance. There were other competitors to play in the afternoon. Should the card be disallowed?

Answer.—If the card was not handed in as soon as was reasonably possible the player should be disqualified, *vide* Stroke Rule 5 (1).

81. Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Club.—In a stroke competition the marker of a card wrote the competitor's name instead of his own in the place intended for the marker's signature. Can the card be accepted?

Answer.—No. The card was not signed by the marker.

82. Birstall Golf Club.—In a stroke competition A returned a winning score, and her name was posted in the Club House as a winner. Two days afterwards she was disqualified by the Committee because her card was not signed. Was the Committee right in disqualifying A?

Answer.—No. It is the duty of the Committee to examine the cards before posting the names of the winners. After having posted the names the Committee must be held to have accepted the card as in order.

83. Headingley Golf Club, Ltd.—In a thirty-six hole stroke competition one competitor does not return his card until the end of the thirty-six holes. Should he be disqualified?

Answer.—It is customary to hand in cards on the completion of eighteen holes. The question must be decided by the custom of the Club. If it is the custom of the Club to hand in cards on the completion of the first round, the player is disqualified.

84. Bushey Hall Golf Club.—A cup was competed for under the following conditions:—"36 holes medal play, cards to be returned up to 9 p.m." The course consists of 18 holes. No starting times were allotted. Some competitors began play in the morning. A and B played 36 holes in the afternoon, taking an interval of about fifteen minutes between the first and second 18 holes, during which A returned to the club house, and B rested at a house alongside the first tee, for refreshments. A and B took out cards for the second 18 holes, but did not return their cards for the first 18 holes until they passed the club house after 27 holes had been played. The Committee disqualified A and B for not handing in their cards on the completion of 18 holes, which is the custom of the Club. A and B hold that the stipulated round or rounds was 36 holes and that their cards were in order if handed in at the completion of 36 holes, before 9 p.m. If A and B are right in this opinion, are they not disqualified for taking an interval of fifteen minutes at the end of the first 18 holes, thereby losing their place on the green? Did the Committee act correctly in disqualifying A and B?

Answer.—As it was the custom of the Club for competitors to hand in cards on the completion of 18 holes, the Committee were right in disqualifying A and B. The contention of A and B cannot be upheld. Stroke Rule 1 (1) describes the extent of the competition in the words "round or rounds"; Stroke Rule 5 (1) defines the time when a card

must be handed in, viz. : "on completion of the stipulated round."

85. Shanklin and Sandown Golf Club.—A and B competed in a 36-hole stroke competition. On the completion of the first 18 holes, they were uncertain whether the cards should be returned then or on completion of the 36 holes, and no notice was posted on the subject. They were prepared to take the latter course, when a member informed them that he thought the cards for the first 18 holes should be returned. A, therefore, returned B's card, and asked B to return his (A's). B did so, but omitted to sign it. B, however, had kept a copy of the score, and entered this on A's card for the second 18 holes, and signed for the total for the 36 holes. The Committee holds that it is the custom of the Club to return cards on the completion of the first 18 holes, but no 36-hole competition has been held for two years. A was not aware of the custom of the Club. The Committee disqualified A for returning a card which was not signed. (1) Was the decision correct? (2) On the result of the 36-hole competition, the Committee reduced A's handicap. Were they justified in doing so?

Answer.—(1) In the absence of any definite conditions, and as there does not appear to have been any well known or established custom as to whether cards should be handed in on the completion of 18 or 36 holes, A might have been justified in adopting either course. In either case, however, A should have seen that his card was signed before it was handed in. Under the circumstances A must be disqualified. (2) The Rules of Golf Committee understands that Handicapping Committees make use of all information available.

86. 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.

87. Pau Golf Club.—The Secretary checks competitors' cards on behalf of the Committee. In a mixed foursome stroke competition played under handicap, there were two prizes. The Secretary checked the best cards, 72 and $76\frac{1}{2}$, and tore up the remainder of the cards. Shortly after the prizes had been delivered to the competitors with scores of 72 and $76\frac{1}{2}$, it was reported that a card of 76 had been handed in. The Secretary remembers a card marked 86 net. This card was subject to a deduction of 10 strokes handicap. As Stroke Rule 5 (2) states that "no alteration can be made on any card after it has been returned," can this card be now considered? Neither the lady nor gentleman who returned the card checked it before it was placed in the card box.

Answer.—Under Stroke Rule 5 (2) the signature of the marker is a certificate that he has marked the correct score for each hole. Neither he, nor the competitor for whom he has marked the card need add up the scores taken at each hole, or add or deduct handicap allowances. Should the competitor return a card wrongly added up, or with the handicap wrongly added or deducted, it is the duty of the Committee to correct it, and the card is valid. Reference to Stroke Rule 5 (2) makes it clear that it is only the scores marked for each hole which cannot be corrected after a card has been returned. Considering the number of cases

in which competitors have been disqualified some time after being declared prize winners, the cards returned in a stroke competition should always be kept for a reasonable time by the Committee. Assuming that the card of 86 was wrongly marked "net," it should have been corrected and the 10 strokes deducted. If the Committee is satisfied that this card correctly represented a net score of 76 the competitors who returned it were entitled to the second prize. When the "scores are called out after each hole" as recommended in Stroke Rule 5 (1), there is nothing to check on the completion of the round except the addition, in which an error does not affect the validity of the card.

88. 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.

89. Shanklin and Sandown Golf Club.—In a stroke competition a competitor lifted his ball on a putting-green owing to casual water. Instead of placing it, he dropped it. Should he be disqualified?

Answer.—Yes. Rule 27 (3) directs that the ball is to be placed by hand, so as to be "in the nearest position" which affords a clear putt to the hole.

90. Haddington Golf Club.—Is casual water on a putting-green in a frozen state treated as casual water, even if frozen solid?

Answer.—Yes, this is the usual custom both on the putting-green and "through the green."

91. Sidcup Golf Club.—In a match, A's ball lay about 6 yards from the hole, and B's ball about 4 yards from the hole. B's ball

stymied A's ball. Under Rule 27 (3) was A entitled to place his ball in a position not nearer to the hole, which afforded a putt to the hole without casual water intervening? Rule 27 (3) makes no mention of whether a stymie affects the Rule.

Answer.—A was entitled to lift and replace his ball in accordance with Rule 27 (3). Rule 6 directs that a ball must be played wherever it lies, or the hole be given up, except as otherwise provided for in the Rules. Rule 27 (3) is an exception to Rule 6. As each player has the right to lift in his turn, the stymie could not recur, A's ball being played to the hole from the new position before B's ball is placed in its new position. It is important to note that a ball lifted in accordance with Rule 27 (3) may not be placed on *any* spot not nearer to the hole, but *must be placed on the nearest position* to the spot from which it was lifted which affords a putt to the hole without casual water intervening.

92. Tollygunge Club, Ltd.—In a foursome match competition, A and B v. C and D, A and C drove from the last tee. C was doubtful whether his ball was out of bounds or not, and played a provisional ball. The original ball was found at a spot which all four players believed to be on the course, so the provisional ball was lifted and the original ball played. C and D holed out in 4. A and B failed to hole in 4, lifted their ball and gave up the hole and the match. Some ten or twenty minutes after the players had left the green a member of the Committee informed A and B that the spot from which C's original ball was played by his partner was out of bounds under a local Rule. A and B thereupon claimed the hole and the match, and the Committee upheld their claim. (1) It having been admitted that none of the players in the match were aware of the Local Rule referred to, and the last green having been left some considerable time before a claim was made by A and B, did Rule No. 36 and Decision No. 46 govern the case, and were C and D the winners of the match? (2) Was the member of

Committee justified in interfering, or A and B entitled to accept and act upon his advice? (3) Assuming that the member of Committee was a competitor in the competition, did this give him any better claim to interfere on his observing a breach of the Rules by other competitors? (4) Were the Committee justified in acting upon the information of one of their number apart from any claim of the players, and if so justified, is there any time limit within which the Committee may take action?

Answer.—A and B having agreed to their opponents playing out the hole with the original ball are debarred from making any subsequent claim. A Committee may act at any time on information it receives whether given by a competitor or non-competitor. Anyone is justified in reporting to a Committee any breach of rule he may observe.

93. Royal County Down Ladies' Golf Club.—In a foursome A and B and C and D, A and B were 1 up and 2 to play. At the 17th hole D played as he thought past the side of a pond, but could not find his ball where he thought it should be. C and D turned back to look for it when B's caddie came up from behind with a ball which he said he found in the water at the edge of the pond. This was identified as D's ball. D at once said that he thought his side could claim the hole. B disputed this, because the ball was unplayable, but nobody had seen the lie of the ball except the caddie who lifted it. As B would not admit D's claim to the hole, D said they could play out the hole and refer the point afterwards. This was done, and the hole was won by A and B. The last hole was won by C and D, who claimed the match by one hole. B objected that the claim of C and D to the 17th hole was not properly made, and that by playing out the hole C and D had abandoned their claim. (1) Was the claim of C and D substantially made? (2) Were they entitled to the hole on account of a breach of Rule 18?

Answer.—(1) The claim was sufficiently stated, and as it was not admitted by the opponents the proper course was

adopted in playing out the hole, and leaving the validity of the claim to be decided after the match was finished. (2) Rule 18 was infringed. The match was therefore won by C and D. When a ball lies in a water hazard, only the player's side may determine whether their ball is to be played or lifted in accordance with Rule 27 (1).

94. Dollymount Golf Club.—In the final of an inter-club match play competition (7 players a side), A putted out of turn, holing the ball. B claimed the hole, and A, through ignorance of the Rule, acceded to the claim. As A's ball was not replaced, are both competitors disqualified under Rule No. 1, Special Rules for Match Play? If both players are not disqualified, does A lose the hole by acceding to an illegal claim? A holed out in at least two strokes less than his opponent would have done. Otherwise, can A be deprived by his ignorance of a hole which he has won, as B did not exercise his right under Rule 31?

Answer.—B might have claimed that A's ball should be replaced: his claim to the hole was illegal and cannot be upheld; A therefore won the hole. The Special Rules for Match Play Competitions only govern tournaments decided by rounds such as the Amateur Championship; they have no effect on play in an inter-team match.

95. Queen's Club, Maidenhead.—Some of the greens are under repair and covered with charcoal and sand. A ball lying on such ground may, by local rule, be lifted and placed not nearer to the hole. May a ball lifted under the local rule be cleaned before being placed, in order to remove sand or charcoal? There is no local rule which allows a player to wipe a ball.

Answer.—Certainly not. See Rule 24, and recommendations.

96. Banff Golf Club.—The conditions of a competition are that the eight competitors who return the best cards in a stroke competition shall be entitled to compete in a match play com-

petition. After the stroke competition the names of the eight competitors who had qualified were drawn for the first round and the names posted in the club house. One of the competitors who had qualified then discovered that he had infringed Stroke Rule 12 in the stroke competition, having lost his ball and returned to the spot from which he had played, but had omitted to count a penalty stroke, and was consequently disqualified under Rule 5 (2). The Committee then brought into the competition the competitor who was ninth in the stroke competition and re-drew the names. Were the Committee entitled to act as they did, and were they within their powers in having a re-draw ?

Answer.—The Committee acted rightly in bringing in the ninth competitor, and were afterwards within their rights in making a fresh draw.

97. Kingsknowe Golf Club, Limited.—While a stroke competition was in progress the Secretary handed the cards as they came in (and unchecked) to a local correspondent, who telephoned the scores to the Saturday's evening papers and sent a written report to the Monday's morning paper. A's score was reported as taking third prize. After the correspondent had left the Club house the Secretary checked all the cards and found A's card unsigned, and wrote to him on Monday that, in terms of the Rules of Golf (Stroke Competitions, Rule No. 5 (1)), his card could not be accepted as it was unsigned. A now draws attention to a decision by the Rules of Golf Committee regarding a case in the Birstall Golf Club. In that case an unsigned card was disqualified two days after the member's name had been posted in the Clubhouse by the Committee, but this was over-ruled. A claims that his score should stand in view of the above decision. Is A right in his contention that publication of his name in the newspapers report constitutes acceptance of his score by the Committee, keeping in view the fact that the newspaper correspondent got the cards as they came in for the purpose of his report and before they could be checked ?

Answer.—It is a usual custom to inform the Press of the scores returned by competitors. This custom does not commit the Committee to any expression of opinion as to the validity of the cards, which afterwards have to be checked in the usual way. The competitor should be disqualified.

98. Banstead Downs Golf Club.—In this Club it has been the custom for competitors in all competitions to choose their own partners, whether they are competitors or not, and to start when they liked, as it has not been found necessary to have a special committee for conducting competitions. On the 7th January 1909 the Ladies' Medal Competition was played. Several of the ladies played with partners who were not competing, and one lady (A), whose partner failed to turn up, asked another (B), who she knew was competing (and whose brother was going to mark for her), to play with her, but B refused, and so A, failing to obtain a partner, joined in with another couple who asked her to play with them (as under the Old Rules). Was B right in refusing, seeing that A was unable to obtain another partner, especially as a notice had been on the Notice Board for some time requesting members to make themselves acquainted with the New Rules before taking part in any competition after 1st January? What penalty do the three who played together incur? These three tore up their cards on their return as they were told they were disqualified, one of them having done a good score—better than the one returned. Some would-be competitors did not play at all, as they were told they would be disqualified, their markers being non-competitors. The result was that only one card was returned played under the New Rules. Owing to the misunderstanding and dispute amongst so many of the members, the Committee held a meeting and decided that the competition for the Medal should be replayed. Were they right? and have they the power to do this?

Answer.—Players playing otherwise than in couples, or players playing with non-competitors, except with the sanction of

the Committee, are disqualified (Stroke Rule 1 (2)), but it seems impossible to bring the case in question under the operation of the above Rule as there appears to have been no committee to conduct the competition, *e.g.*, A, who wished to conform with the Rules, should have been provided by the Committee with a fellow-competitor, or with a player or marker. Looking at the irregularity of the circumstances, the Rules of Golf Committee is of opinion that the competition should be replayed in conformity with the Rules.

99. Mount Ellen Golf Club.—The Club held an aggregate stroke competition. Competitors were allowed to count the three best scores made on any of the following days, *viz.* :—the first and third Wednesdays of June, July and August. A played only three games, the last of which is in dispute. It was played on an exceedingly wet day, when A was the only competitor who turned out, or was on the course. The Committee was not represented either on the course or in the club house. A asked the greenkeeper to mark the card, which he did. The score has been objected to because (1) as A was the only competitor on the day in question, there could be no competition, (2) that the greenkeeper was not eligible as a marker. Neither the objectors nor the Committee question the accuracy of the score. If the score is allowed to stand, A is the winner. The objection to the score was made at a meeting of Committee on 27th August. A pleads that had the score been questioned before the third Wednesday of August (the 25th) there would have been time to compete a fourth time. Is A disqualified ?

Answer.—This competition was not conducted in accordance with the Rules of Golf. It is the duty of the Committee to provide a single competitor either with a player or a marker (see Stroke Rule 1 (2)). A was distinctly entitled to compete, as the date was one of those fixed for the com-

petition. As the Committee was not represented, A had to make her own arrangements for competing, and as the Committee is satisfied as to the accuracy of the score, it should be allowed to stand.

100. Cramond Brig Golf Club, Ltd.—(1) A foursome stroke competition was being held, but one of the couples were unable to get another couple to play with them. A week before the date of the competition they acquainted the steward of the club with this fact; he also failed to secure a couple to play against them. The steward did not represent the Committee, and no member of Committee was present. On the day of the competition, before starting, they referred it to the professional of the Club, but he could not advise them as to their standing in the competition. Accordingly, they got another member of the Club to play against them and mark their card. At the end of the competition it was found they had won. Should they have been disqualified or should they have been recognised as the winners? (2) Assuming that the competitors referred to are disqualified, should their handicaps be reduced on account of the cards handed in?

Answer.—(1) These competitors were in a similar position to a single competitor. As the Committee was not represented, and therefore could not provide them with a marker or player (see Stroke Rule 1 (2)), the competitors adopted the only course open to them, and should not be disqualified. (2) The Rules of Golf Committee understands that handicapping committees make use of all information available.

101. Cramond Brig Golf Club, Ltd.—Notice of a stroke competition was given to members stating that competitors might choose their own fellow competitors. Play to commence each day at 9 a.m. On the opening day of the competition the Secretary was unable to reach the course until 10 a.m. A and B had arranged to compete on the arrival of the 9 a.m. train, but before starting found that C had nobody to compete with. A,

B and C then played three balls. When the paired competitors had started, there was a single competitor left who could have paired with C. The Committee disqualified the competitors, one of whom objects because of the ruling in the Mount Ellen case. Was the Committee justified in disqualifying A, B and C ?

Answer—Certainly. As the Committee was not represented on the course at 9 a.m., C might have adopted either of the courses which are open to the Committee under Stroke Rule 1 (2). Playing three-ball matches is not permissible.

102. Castlereagh Golf Club.—Can a Committee arrange a stroke competition so that competitors be allowed a choice of two different days to do their round ? The above procedure is suggested so that members unable to play on one day may be able to do so on the second day.

Answer.—Yes ; but the Stroke Rules of Golf do not of course make any special provision for such a competition.

103. Claremont Golf Club.—The order and times of starting for a mixed foursome competition were arranged on a Thursday night, and the competition was held on the Saturday. In consequence of the short notice to competitors the Committee decided that competitors who were late for their number should be allowed to start later. Each competitor had notice of his time of starting, but not of the decision of the Committee, nor was the decision posted in the Club House. Before starting, the winners (who were twenty minutes late) were protested against by their opponents under Stroke Rules 1 (2) and 2 (1). Had the Committee power to make the decision referred to regarding the order of starting ?

Answer.—Under the circumstances the Committee was justified in qualifying Stroke Rule 2 (1), but should have given notice to all the competitors that a temporary alteration of the Rules had been made. As the competitors were unaware of the decision of the Committee, a protest was

almost inevitable, but cannot, in the circumstances, be entertained.

104. Baildon Golf Club.—A foursome stroke competition was played under the following conditions:—The winners to be the couple with the lowest nett score for two rounds—36 holes. The first round to be played on a given date, and the six lowest scores to qualify to compete in the second 18 holes a week later. After the completion of the second round, it was discovered that the winners had holed out with a wrong ball in the first round. The fact is admitted. (1) Can the Committee, after the second round has been played, disqualify these competitors for a breach of Rule in the first round? (2) If so, would the second round have to be re-played, bringing in the seventh card?

Answer.—(1) Certainly. (2) As the competition took place some months ago, no arrangement seems possible which might not be unjust to one or more of the competitors. The Rules Committee recommends the Committee of the Baildon Golf Club to disqualify the competitors who were apparently winners, and to award the prizes to the competitors with the next best score.

105. 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.

106. Wimbledon Town Golf Club.—In the final of a match tournament A played a stroke in a bunker, but did not get the ball out of the bunker. Before playing his next stroke, he smoothed with his foot the heel marks made by his stance. This in no

way improved the lie of his ball, which lay several feet in front of the position from which it had been played. The opponent B said : " I think I could claim the hole, but I will not do so under the peculiar circumstances." (1) Did A lose the hole by smoothing the heel-marks ? (2) Are A and B both disqualified under Rule 2, Special Rules for Match Play Competitions ? (3) Has the Committee power to interfere unless asked to do so by A and B, and formal objection is raised ?

Answer.—(1) Every golfer should smooth his heel-marks in a bunker, but the proper time to do so is after the ball has been played out of the bunker, when no objection can be raised. Under the circumstances the Rules Committee is of opinion that A did not incur any penalty. (2) Under the Rule quoted, only B could incur a penalty of disqualification. B was evidently in doubt as to whether he could claim the hole, and could not therefore have been held to have waived a penalty. A and B should have held the result of the hole in abeyance until they could ascertain the effect of A's action. (3) Yes.

107. Freshwater Golf Club.—In a bogey competition may a competitor leave out a hole and count it a loss ?

Answer.—Yes : but such a proceeding is not in accordance with the spirit of the game.

108. County Louth Golf Club.—On Club fixture card, printed for current year, a mixed foursome competition against bogey is announced to be played on a certain day and hour for a prize given by a member. No conditions stated. A pair arrive at the advertised hour ready to play. There are no other competitors. The competition was not postponed by the Club Committee. Has this pair a right to the prize ?

Answer.—In the absence of any conditions stipulating that a certain number of competitors must compete for the prize, the competitors referred to are entitled to the prize if they care to accept it.

109. Blyth Golf Club.—The conditions of a stroke competition state that the best aggregate of three cards out of five shall win the prize. Members may compete on third Wednesday and third Saturday in each month. New holes had not been made for at least a week prior to the first competition day (Wednesday) and were not altered between the Wednesday and Saturday. On the Saturday a player played nine holes, and on returning to the Club House learned that it was a competition day. He took out a card for the competition and played a round in the usual way. Should he be disqualified for having played nine holes prior to competing ?

Answer.—Stroke Rule 4 (2) can hardly be applied to a competition of this kind. The competitor was not disqualified.

110. St. Cuthbert's Golf Club.—Twelve couples entered for a foursome match play competition. The six foursomes were arranged by ballot, and played on the same day, leaving three couples to continue the competition. The Committee again balloted the couples in order to determine which couple should have a bye. A protest has been lodged that the original ballot was sufficient, that the first two couples should have played together and the third on the list should have had the bye. The conditions under which the competition was held state that when byes are necessary they shall be balloted for first and be placed at the top of the list for the second round.

Answer.—The tournament was not conducted in accordance with the conditions under which the competition was supposed to be held; under these conditions four byes should have been placed at the top of the list for the second round. The Rules of Golf Committee is of opinion that the Committee of the St. Cuthbert's Golf Club, having made the initial mistake of not drawing the byes before the tournament started, took the best course which was open to it at the beginning of the second round.

111. Burghhead and Duffus Golf Club.—(1) The conditions of a competition state that there shall be a qualifying round to determine the eight players to take part in the subsequent rounds. On the date fixed for this qualifying competition, owing to the nature of the weather only 6 players put in appearance. They did not play, but claimed that they had qualified and accordingly drew for opponents. The Committee ruled the whole proceeding out of order as eight players had not turned up to play, and appointed another day on which the competition should be held. Was the action of the Committee in order? (2) In the event of a player in the first round of such a competition being unable to meet his opponent is a bye thereby established in favour of the latter or should the 9th player be taken in so as to make eight players?

Answer.—(1) The Committee seem to have acted in the best interests of the competition. (2) Only the eight players who have qualified in the first part of the competition can play in the second part. If a player is unable to meet his opponent, the opponent receives a bye.

112. Helensburgh Golf Club.—(1) A foursome match play competition is held during the winter. The Course was originally 9 holes, and was extended to 18 holes about five years ago. The original 9 holes are drier and in better condition than the new 9 holes, especially during the winter months. In the first round one foursome agreed to play their match on a certain day which followed a lengthened period of rainy weather. They agreed in the circumstances to play the original 9 holes twice over. Was this permissible? The conditions make no mention of the Course to be played over. (2) The conditions of a match play competition state that the entry money shall be 1s, and that no member may compete until he has paid his entry money and Club subscription. A and B started to play off their match, and in course of the game A recollected that he had omitted to pay his entry money, and mentioned the fact to B. They agreed that A should pay the 1s on his return, and if the legality

of the proceeding was questioned, they would then re-play the tie on the same day and treat the first match as a friendly game. A reported the matter to the Secretary, who had no power to decide the matter for the Match Committee. A and B therefore played again, and A won. A protest was lodged. The Committee in view of Rules 2 and 3 of the Special Rules for Match Play Competitions disqualified both A and B, on the ground that the condition regarding the payment of the entry money was a Local Rule. Was this decision correct ?

Answer.—(1) Assuming that it is the custom of the Club to play its competitions over the 18 hole course, the competitors were not entitled to play the original 9 holes twice over without permission. If the new part of the course appeared unplayable the competitors should have reported the fact to the Committee, who could then have decided whether the match should stand as played, or be re-played. If the whole course was playable, the competitors should be disqualified provided they did not re-play their match on the proper course before the date fixed for the completion of the first round. (2) If there was no order or stated time of starting, A and B were within their rights in treating their match as a friendly game. The Special Rules for Match Play Competitions refer to the play of the game, and cannot be applied to the conditions regarding entry money. A would have been disqualified had B not made the arrangement referred to.

113. Fairhaven Golf Club.—A and B played together in a stroke competition. B had not paid his subscription, and was therefore disqualified. Is A also disqualified, as B who marked his card had not paid his subscription. As B was not eligible to compete, is A disqualified for not "playing in couples" as provided for in Stroke Rule 1 (2).

Answer.—It was the duty of the Committee to object to B as a competitor before he started. A was justified in assuming

that B was entitled to compete, and his card should be accepted.

114. **Timperley Golf Club.**—Under a Rule of the Club, no member may play in a competition if his subscription has not been paid. A and B played in a stroke competition. B had not paid his subscription. Should A's card, marked by B, be accepted under these circumstances?

Answer.—Assuming that no official notice was given which would enable A to know that B was ineligible as a competitor, A's card should be accepted.

115. **Darwen Golf Club.**—In a recent competition on the Darwen Golf Links, two competitors had completed sixteen holes when one of them was urgently called away, and as there was no other member within call he instructed his caddie to carefully mark his partner's card and hand the same to him afterwards, which the caddie did. It eventually turned out that this was the winning card, but the objection has been raised that as two holes were marked by a caddie the competitor is disqualified (1) Does the fact that the card was marked by a caddie under these circumstances disqualify the competitor? (2) Does it make any difference that the marker who authorised the caddie to mark the last two holes happened to be the Captain of the Club?

Answer.—(1) On the strict interpretation of Stroke Rule 5 (1), the caddie cannot be considered a "marker." Under the urgent and exceptional conditions of the case, however, the Committee would be justified in accepting the card. (2) No, unless the Captain of the Club represented the Committee.

116. **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.

117. Hallamshire Ladies' Golf Club.—A and B competed in a stroke Competition. At the 5th hole A was taken ill, and retired. A marker was sent for to the Club House to mark for B, but before the marker arrived B played three holes with another couple in the competition, C and D. B's reason for joining C and D was the fear of being disqualified for discontinuing play. Was B disqualified, and were C and D disqualified ?

Answer.—Under the exceptional circumstance of a competitor becoming ill during play in a competition, a circumstance which is not provided for by the Rules of Golf, the Rules of Golf Committee is of opinion that the competitors did their best, and that the Committee of the Hallamshire Ladies' Golf Club should accept their scores.

118. Wigan Golf Club.—In a Stroke competition a competitor lifted up the disc on the teeing-ground while making his tee-shot, and then replaced it. The ball was teed within the limits of the teeing-ground. Does the competitor incur any penalty ?

Answer.—There is no Rule under which the competitor can be penalised. As he appears to have replaced the disc in the exact position from which he lifted it, he did not alter the limits of the teeing ground for the competitors who followed him. The action of the competitor was most irregular, and should be discouraged by the Wigan Golf Club.

119. Enfield Ladies' Golf Club.—In the final medal competition, competitors are divided into two distinct classes, and there are separate prizes in each class. The Committee decided that, under Special Rule 1, for Stroke Competitions, competitors in

class I. were not entitled to play round with and score for competitors in class II., as they would not be competing for the same prizes, and notice was given to this effect. There were an even number of competitors in each class, and so there was no necessity to appoint any scorers. A competitor in class I., however, insisted on playing round with a competitor in class II., although partners from their own division had been found for them both. The Committee disqualified them under Rule 1 (2) as they considered that they were not competitors within the meaning of the Rule—"Competitors shall play in couples." Were they justified in so doing?

Answer.—Yes. The decision of the Committee was quite correct.

120. Thanet Ladies' Golf Club.—In a stroke competition a competitor returned a card marked as for a bogey competition and was under the impression that she was playing in a bogey competition. The score for each hole is correctly marked. Should the card be accepted?

Answer.—If the competitor observed the Rules for Stroke Play throughout the round, the card is in order, as the score for each hole is correctly marked.

121. Manchester Ladies' Golf Club.—In a stroke competition, A's ball lay about three yards from the hole. B's ball was within twenty yards of the hole. Neither A nor B thought that there was any risk of B's ball striking A's ball. B played, and while the ball was in motion his caddie ran forward and picked up A's ball. Did either A or B incur a penalty?

Answer.—It is clearly to be inferred from Stroke Rule 13 (5) that the ball of a fellow-competitor may not be lifted while the player's ball is in motion. B should therefore, in equity, be penalised one stroke. The Rule provides for the usual golfing custom of the ball nearer to the hole, being lifted by its owner or his caddie.

122. 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.

123. San Remo Golf Club.—(1) In a handicap competition the players ended all square at the 36th hole. Should the same handicap continue on further holes until one party wins, or should further handicap be disallowed and the contestants play without handicap? (2) Can either player insist on the match being played over again?

Answer.—(1) The Rules of Golf Committee is of opinion that the match should be replayed. If, however, the conditions of the tournament direct that each match shall be played to a finish, the handicap of the preceding round shall continue during the deciding hole or holes. (2) Provided that the conditions of the competition do not direct that each match be played to a finish, either side may insist on the tie being replayed.

124. Woolton Golf Club.—A and B tie in a match play tournament. Fourteen days are allowed to play off the tie. A says

that he is willing to play on any of the first twelve days, but that engagements prevent him from playing later. B says that he is going away and can only play on the 13th and 14th day. (1) Which must give way? (2) If neither yields, to which, if either, should the Committee award a place in the next round?

Answer.—The nature of the conditions lends itself to the difficulty that has arisen. Under the circumstances the Committee should, if not too late, arrange a date suitable to both players.

125. Kyles of Bute Golf Club.—A and B were the finalists in a cup tournament. The Committee allowed them to select any day between the 18th and 23rd August to play off the final. They selected August 23rd, at 2.30 p.m. On the morning of the 23rd A, being ill and unable to play, requested a friend to write and inform B and also the Secretary of the fact. B replied to the friend expressing regret and hoping that A would be able to play in the afternoon, as it was the only day "we can play." A quorum of the Committee could not be collected by 2.30 p.m., at which hour B was on the course and claiming the cup as A was not present. Is B entitled to the cup or can the Committee postpone the final?

Answer.—B is entitled to claim the cup. The Committee could have postponed the final with the consent of both players.

126. Hendon Golf Club.—A member of this Club won a monthly medal, thereby qualifying him to play in the final medal competition for the year. Before playing for the monthly medal he entered his name in the competition book. The members' names qualified to play in the final are posted up in the Club House as they qualify. The winners of the monthly medals play off in the final on a day fixed by the Club. The member referred to did not enter his name in the competition book before playing in the finals. On a previous occasion he did enter his name, thereby signifying his acquiescence with the usual and

invariable custom of the Club. The Committee disqualified him on the ground that he had failed to enter his name in the competition book before playing, in accordance with the custom of the Club. Should he have been disqualified?

Answer.—The question is one for the Committee in charge of the competition to decide in accordance with the custom of the Club in such competitions. The Rules of Golf Committee is of opinion that the custom described should have been clearly stated in the conditions of the Competition.

127. "66" Golf Club, Edinburgh.—A and B are members of the Club who tied for the Captain's prize under the following circumstances. The tie occurred on the two best scores in the competitions of the season. The Summer competition and either the Spring or Autumn competitions to count for the prize. A's score—Spring competition, 100 less 25 = 75; Summer competition, 95 less 17 = 78—153. B's score—Summer competition, 87 less 11 = 76; Autumn competition, 87 less 10 = 77—153. In playing off the tie, the question has arisen, should the players compete with the handicap they had at the Autumn competition, viz.:—A 17 and B 10, or should the average of the two handicaps under which the players tied be allowed, viz.:—A 25 and 17 = 42—21; B 11 and 10 = 21—10, or should the handicaps in the three competitions be averaged in deciding the winner of the prize? It may be added that both A and B played in the three competitions. A's handicaps at each of these meetings were 25, 17 and 17, and B's handicaps 12, 11 and 10.

Answer.—The conditions of the Competition should have provided for this case. Under the circumstances, A and B should play the final under their Autumn handicaps.

128. Ardglass Golf Club.—The conditions of a stroke competition state "the cup to be won three times by the same competitor, not necessarily in succession." A won the cup twice, but subsequently resigned his membership. Since then

A has been re-elected a member. In the event of A winning the cup again should he be considered to have won it outright, or must he compete *de novo* after his re-election.

Answer.—The conditions under which the cup is competed for do not appear to the Rules of Golf Committee to debar A from counting his previous wins.

129. 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.

130. Colwyn Bay Golf Club.—(1) May a player, who intends to compete in a competition, drive from either side of the tee in the direction of the green for which the tee is intended on the day of the competition? (2) In a knockout competition (there being no local rule) can a competitor break the round at any point and go into the Club House for refreshments?

Answer.—(1) A competitor may drive from a teeing ground, or from any other spot, provided he does not infringe Stroke Rule 4 (2). (2) Provided a competitor in a match play competition has the consent of his opponent, and does not delay the course of the competition, he may discontinue play, and go into the Club House or elsewhere.

130a. Tuam Golf Club.—On the day of a competition, a competitor, before starting, rolled two balls towards the hole with his hand on two occasions. He had no clubs. Should he be disqualified under Stroke Rule 4 (2)? It is argued that, as no club was used, the Rule cannot be applied.

Answer.—The competitor's action is plainly contrary to the spirit of Stroke Rule 4 (2), and the Rules of Golf Committee recommends that the competitor be disqualified.

131. Wimbledon Town Golf Club.—For a monthly stroke competition, competitors were allowed to play on a certain Thursday or Saturday. The two competitors who returned the two best scores were playing on the course on the Thursday, but did not take out cards and compete till Saturday. Their cards have been objected to on the ground that they are disqualified for playing round the course on the Thursday.

Answer.—The objection cannot be entertained.

132. Bredisholm Golf Club.—In a mixed foursome competition a gentleman failed to find a partner at the first ballot, played several holes, and returned later. He then found a partner in a subsequent ballot. The lady was not aware that the gentleman had already been playing. Both were allowed to start as competitors. Are the couple disqualified or the gentleman only?

Answer.—The gentleman infringed Stroke Rule 4 (2), and is disqualified. The score made by him and his partner cannot be accepted.

133. Kenmore Golf Club.—Stroke competitions are frequently held here in the afternoon. Formerly, under Rule 3 of Stroke

Competition Rules, new holes were made at luncheon time, and this allowed competitors to play on the putting-greens in the morning. We have continued this practice hitherto this year, but an objection has now been made to it, on the ground that the word "thereafter" is no longer found in Rule 4, sec. 2 of Rules for Stroke Competitions, which says, "on the day of the competition." We should, therefore, be much obliged if your Committee would kindly say (1) whether the Rules of Golf forbid the practice or whether it is still to be understood that play on the putting-greens is still allowable before the new holes are made; and (2) If the Rules of Golf do forbid it, whether our Green Committee is entitled to make a Special Rule overriding this Rule of Golf with reference to our afternoon stroke competitions.

Answer.—Rule 4 (Special Rules for Stroke Competitions) assumes that the competition commences in the morning. As the competition in this case commences in the afternoon, the Club should make its own arrangements regarding morning play.

134. Ormskirk Golf Club.—On the day of, but prior to his commencing play in a competition, A was practising brasseé shots. He took four balls and played across the course, the drive being from one fairway, over another, on to a third. The shots were not played from a tee or in the direction of a green. The third ball played was sliced, and rolled on to a green a hundred yards to the right. It is admitted that A did not intentionally play at the green on to which the ball rolled. Was A disqualified from entering the competition on the same day?

Answer.—Under the circumstances, A was not disqualified.

135. Ormskirk Golf Club.—What is the difference between the case submitted by this Club (No. 134) and the case submitted by Glasgow Postal Golf Club (No. 138) where the decisions are directly opposite?

Answer.—The intention of the first part of Stroke Rule 4 (2)

is to prevent competitors from acquiring knowledge of the strength of the putting-greens either by pitching on to them or by putting upon them. In the case submitted by the Glasgow Postal Golf Club it would be impossible to apply this part of the rule if a competitor were permitted to pitch without penalty on to a putting-green under the circumstances described ; these circumstances rendered the accident more than likely to occur, and by the accident the competitor was enabled to gain the information which the rule prohibits. The second part of the rule is intended to prevent competitors testing the carry from any given spot to a hole, and was not intended to penalise a competitor who merely drives a ball across the course, even if by chance an erratic stroke should cause the ball to roll on to a putting-green, because the competitor in this case gains no information whatever as to the play of a hole in the stipulated round.

136. 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 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.

137. Helouan Golf Club.—Is it allowable to practise on the

putting-greens, etc., prior to playing a match in a match play competition on the knockout system, in which the competitors may choose their day for playing ?

Answer.—The Rule forbidding practise-play on a putting-green only concerns competitions decided by stroke play and governed by the Stroke Rules.

138. Glasgow Postal Golf Club.—Is intention implied in the first part of Stroke Rule 4 (2) “no competitor shall play on, or on to any of the putting-greens.” Prior to commencing a competition, a competitor pitched three balls towards one of the tees. There was a putting-green between him and the tee, and one of the balls which he played landed on the putting-green. The player states that this was an accident and unintentional. Was the player disqualified ?

Answer.—The competitor should be disqualified. Intention is not implied in the first part of Stroke Rule 4 (2). The competitor ran a needless risk and must abide by the consequences. This part of Stroke Rule 4 (2) differs from Stroke Rule 3 under the 1902 code.

139. Golf Championship Committee of the River Plate.—A stroke competition was held which extended over two consecutive days, 36 holes each day. New holes were made before play commenced on the first day, and were not altered for the second day. There was a separate draw for each day. Two competitors, before starting in the competition on the second day, approached on to the 18th green and holed out. Should they have been disqualified under Stroke Rule 4 (2) ?

Answer.—No. Stroke Rule 4 (2) refers primarily to Stroke Competitions which begin and end “on the day of the competition”; that this is the meaning of the Rule is shown by the use of the definite article “the.” When a competition is continued on two or more days, competitors who practice on the second or following days cannot be

deemed to have infringed Stroke Rule 4 (2), which refers to play "before starting" *i.e.*, before the player starts in the competition.

140. Portishead Golf Club.—A and B tie for a monthly medal. The Committee fix a date for playing off the tie. On the morning of this date, A plays round the course before playing off the tie. Is A disqualified?

Answer.—A is not disqualified. The day selected for playing off the tie is not the "day of the competition" referred to in Stroke Rule 4 (2).

141. Hale Golf Club.—We have a Bye-law which reads as follows:—"No cards will be issued for any competition after 3 p.m., except in May, June, July or August, when the time shall be 3.30 p.m." On a competition day, recently, a player took out his card before 3.30, but did not start until 4 p.m. Is he disqualified?

Answer.—The Rule appears to have been drafted with a view to regulating the time of starting, although this is not explicitly stated. If this is so, the Committee would be justified in disqualifying the competitor unless he is able to adduce a satisfactory reason to the Committee for his delay in starting (see Stroke Rule 2 (1)).

142. Huyton Golf Club.—In a stroke competition A discovered on reaching the first putting-green that his putter was not among his clubs. He sent his caddie for it, and before he received it, and holed out with it, two couples had passed. (1) Did A, commit a breach of Stroke Rule 2 (1)? (2) Should A be disqualified?

Answer.—(1) Yes. (2) Yes.

143. Weymouth Golf Club.—A and B were playing in a stroke competition and marking each other's card. After finishing the 16th hole, A remained on or about the putting-green and took shelter from the rain. B proceeded at once to the teeing-

ground and drove off, but he had to wait without shelter for about ten minutes till A came and was in a position to mark for him. The Committee disqualified A, and decided that B was not disqualified as he had not taken shelter and could not continue his game without a marker.

Answer.—The Committee decided correctly.

144. Cleveland Golf Club.—In a foursome competition under match conditions, on the knockout principle, two couples, after playing five holes, mutually agreed to shelter, owing to rain. As the rain continued, they agreed to continue the round next day. Are they disqualified under any of the Rules of Golf?

Answer.—The players are not disqualified under any Rule of Golf, but the Committee would be justified in disqualifying them if the competition was delayed through their action.

145. Killarney Golf Club.—In a stroke competition, two rounds of nine holes each had to be played. As some trains were found to arrive so late that it was impossible for competitors arriving by them to play 18 holes before lunch, the Committee decided that competitors starting late on account of trains, or for any other valid reason, should be allowed to take luncheon after the completion of 9 holes. A was a single competitor, and was not provided with a marker by the Committee until late, and he took luncheon after completing 9 holes. B has lodged an objection to A's score, on the grounds (1) that A discontinued play, and should be disqualified. (2) That the Committee has no power to grant permission to late starters to take luncheon on the completion of 9 holes. The Committee decided that A's reason for discontinuing play was satisfactory under Stroke Rule 2 (1). The opinion of the Rules of Golf Committee is requested.

Answer.—Under the circumstances described the Committee acted within its powers in granting permission to certain competitors to discontinue play after completing 9 holes, and in deciding that A had a satisfactory reason for taking advantage of that permission.

146. Carlisle City Golf Club.—A and B started off in an Eclectic Competition of two rounds under Medal Rules. At the first hole A outdrove B and after the latter had taken her second shot they walked together towards the former's ball. On the way they were met by a young child holding out the ball and saying, "I've found a ball." "What are we to do" asked A, but as both were uncertain and in order not to make any mistake it was agreed to go back and ask the Ladies' Secretary, B's caddie being placed in charge of her ball. That official stated "Tee another ball and start again." This was done and the round was completed. The secretary then informed A and B that she thought they were both disqualified, but that they had better play the second round as she was uncertain. When the eclectic score was taken it was found that B had won the competition and she was then told by the secretary that she was disqualified "for coming back." Now assuming that the secretary's instructions to A "to start again" were correct—it was obviously B's duty to be there also to see her tee her ball, so B's disqualification appears scarcely logical. Will the Rules of Golf Committee give a ruling on the point?

Answer.—There are no special rules for Eclectic Competitions, but the Committee is of opinion that the principles which are embodied in Rule No. 2 for Bogey Competitions should be applied in Eclectic Competitions. Under Stroke Rule 2 (1), discontinuance of play only entails disqualification when the Committee considers that the reason given by the competitor is not satisfactory, and in this case the secretary who presumably represented the Committee, raised no objection at the time under Stroke Rule 2 (1). It therefore appears unfair that at a later time either player should be disqualified under this rule by the Committee.

147. Willingdon (Eastbourne) Golf Club.—(1) Does Stroke Rule 13 (1) apply to match play? (2) Does it apply in stroke competitions when the competitor's ball is within 20 yards of the hole, but in a hazard? (3) When a dispute arises between

members of a club other than the Royal and Ancient, is one of the disputants justified in referring the matter to the Green Committee of that Club and insisting on their decision being taken as final, or is there an appeal to the Club to which the members belong?

Answer—(1) No. (2) Yes. The rule begins “when a competitor’s ball lying within 20 yards of the hole” etc. (3) The Rules of Golf Committee is of opinion that Rule 36 clearly indicates that it rests with the players to determine the person or body of persons who shall be asked to decide the dispute. This body is usually the Committee of the Club to which the players belong. In the event of the players not being able to agree as to an arbiter, the Rule provides that the matter may be referred by either side to the Rules of Golf Committee, whose decision is final.

148. Durham County Golf Club.—A and B were playing an ordinary foursome against C and D and the latter were one up at the seventeenth hole. At the eighteenth A and B were bunkered, but were lying within about 20 feet of the pin after playing three. C and D found their ball from their drive lying in casual water in a hazard, and after consulting each other, called to A and B, suggesting that they could lift without penalty. A went across and told them that the road was a hazard and that they could drop outside and lose a stroke, but they claimed that they could lift and drop in the hazard without penalty of a stroke, and did so, and the hole was played out on this supposition that they were right, and they credited themselves with winning the hole in five to their opponents’ six, and entered the result as two up. Had they counted a penalty stroke, the score would have been six each, and by not doing so A and B were prejudiced, because, had the stroke been counted as lost when the ball was lifted, A and B would have played for a five and probably won the hole on their merits; but, as it was, they had to try for a four (a half being no use to them) and overran the hole a good distance, and failed to hole a long putt. Rule 27 was pointed

out to C and D immediately the position was reached, but no notice was taken of it. A and B claim that Rule 27 means that a ball in casual water in a hazard can be lifted and dropped only on condition that a stroke is immediately lost, and if this is not done, that the defaulting players lose the hole instanter, without any consideration being taken of the subsequent play and without any necessity arising for a claim or protest by A and B under Rule 36, which rule applies only, it is submitted, to cases of dispute, whereas in the present case there is no dispute as to facts. (1) Does the penalty under Rule 27 attach immediately on a player lifting and dropping without losing a stroke, and if so, would A and B have been right in picking up and claiming the hole or are they bound to play it out?

Answer.—When neither side knows the rules, nor apparently carries a copy for reference, difficult situations naturally arise which should be postponed for decision until reference can be made to the Rules. Under Rule 27 (1), C or D could have dropped their ball either in the hazard or behind it under penalty of one stroke in either case. A's remark to C and D was, therefore, only partially correct. Under the circumstances, A's remark amounted to a protest and had A and B felt certain of Rule 27 (1) there is no reason why their play should have been prejudiced. The hole was halved in 6. (1) C or D dropped the ball at a spot sanctioned by Rule 27 (1). At this point A and B would have had no right to claim the hole, but they could have insisted when the hole was finished that C and D should count the penalty stroke incurred. (2) A's action, as stated, amounted to a protest and the incident was in dispute. Rule 36 therefore applies.

149. Yelverton Golf Club.—Under Stroke Rule 11, if a player lift a ball, the rule says he *shall* tee a ball, etc. If instead of teeing the ball he drops it over his shoulder is the player disqualified?

Answer.—No. Definition 16 states that a ball "may be placed

on the ground," etc. There is no definition of placing, and the player may drop the ball. Provided he play from the place mentioned in Stroke Rule 11, no penalty is incurred.

150. Quennevais Golf Club.—An eclectic competition of two scores, to be sent in on two specified dates, was recently held. A in the first round shelters for a few minutes at the 13th green. A's score in the second round is, however, so good that she does not require the assistance of the first round score to enable her to tie for the prize. Presuming A was disqualified in the first round, does this disqualification extend to both rounds?

Answer.—A is disqualified for first round, but this disqualification does not extend to the second round.

151. Acton Golf Club.—Members who intend to compete for the Medal have to enter their names in a book kept for the purpose. A returned the best score, but was disqualified because her name was not entered. A stated that she had entered her name, and it was found at the end of a list of competitors who had played in a Bogey Competition three weeks previously. Is A disqualified or not?

Answer.—A appears to have mistaken the page of the book on which the entry should have been made. The Rules of Golf Committee is of opinion that the committee of the Acton Golf Club would be justified in accepting the card.

152. Alloa Golf Club.—At the last hole of a stroke competition A drove his ball into a railway line, and went in search of it. B, his fellow competitor, followed his own ball, holed out, and waited till A arrived. He then informed A of the number of strokes he had taken and asked A to enter them on the card and sign it, which A did. In the circumstances was B's card valid?

Answer.—B's action was most irregular. If the Committee is satisfied that the number of strokes that A signed for is correct, the card should be accepted.

153. County Sligo Golf Club.—A and B play together in a stroke competition for a challenge cup, each marking the other's score. A is returned the winner and B the runner-up. The cup and prizes were then presented and the result published in the papers. No complaint has been lodged, but it has come to the ears of the Committee in charge of competitions that A played his third stroke out of bounds when going to the last green, and instead of following the out of bounds rule and going back and losing distance, he played from where the ball lay and holed out in 5.

(1) Is A disqualified for playing from out of bounds or is A disqualified for returning a wrong card in not marking a penalty of two strokes (Rule 23) ?

(2) Is B disqualified for allowing A to play from out of bounds ?

(3) Would it make any difference in the decision if neither player was aware of the out of bounds rule ?

Answer.—1. A is disqualified for not playing the stipulated round.

2. No.

3. No.

154. Bellahouston Golf Club.—The Committee fixed a certain date for the final of a competition. A and B were the finalists. On the evening previous to the date fixed for the final A informed B by letter that he was unable to play on the following day. B, thinking it was out of their power to postpone the match without consulting the Committee, wrote to A to this effect, and turned up on the course on the date and at the hour fixed by the Committee. A did not appear, and B claimed the tie. Should A be disqualified ?

Answer.—The Rules of Golf Committee is of opinion that, as A did not appear on the course at the time fixed by the Bellahouston Committee, nor previously make any communication to them craving an adjournment of the tie, he should be disqualified.

155. Lee Golf Club.—Is it customary for Golf Clubs to allow competitors to compete in the final of the monthly medal competitions, when they have resigned their Club membership previous to the date of the Final competition, which takes place two months after the commencement of the Club year ?

Answer.—The Rules of Golf Committee has no means of ascertaining the usual custom of Golf Clubs in such a case. The matter is one for the Club to decide. A member who has resigned has no claim to compete in a Club competition which takes place subsequent to his resignation.

156. Wallasey Golf Club.—Two players have reached the final of a match play competition and both disqualify themselves under Rule 1 of the Special Rules for Match Competitions. How is the result of the competition to be determined ?

Answer.—As the finalists have defeated the rest of the field, the question for the Committee to decide is whether the prize should be awarded at all or the match replayed. Special Rule 1 for Match Play is intended to prevent players from debarring the stymie. If the Committee is of opinion that the finalists broke the Rule with the intention of debarring stymies, the prize should not be awarded. If, however, the ball nearer to the hole was played first under the honest belief that it was the further from the hole, the match should be replayed—there being no other competitors interested except the finalists.

157. Edinburgh Woodhall Golf Club.—A and B are finalists in a hole and hole competition, due to be played on or before 6th September. A is the challenger and does not challenge his opponent. On 3rd September B writes A offering to play his score against A's in a stroke competition, to be held by their Club on the 4th September. A replies to B after the competition has been played that he does not care to play on such conditions. Nothing further is done in the matter until 30th October, when A writes B in reference to the tie, and B replies that owing

to business engagements he cannot now play the tie, and accordingly scratches. A then refers the matter to the Committee, saying that he does not intend to accept the tie from B. Which player is entitled to the tie? (According to the conditions of the competition, A (the challenger) is bound to give B one week's notice of his intention to play the tie, failing which B will be awarded the prize).

Answer.—It appears from the letters of A and B that A was away on holiday for some time previous to 6th September. B was engaged on the three last Saturdays of September. The matter thus hung on till 30th October, when A wrote to B asking him to fix a day to play off the final. B replied that he was unable to get away till 2 p.m., and that want of light prevented a match being played at that hour, and that therefore he would scratch. The Rules of Golf Committee would point out that a match cannot be decided by score play. Under the conditions it was A's duty to challenge B at least one week before 6th September. A did not conform to this condition, and B therefore became the winner.

158. Appleby Brackenber Golf Club.—A and B tied for the final of a stroke Competition. Under the conditions the competition had to be completed in November. A suggested 8th or 9th November, but B was unable to agree owing to illness. B then suggested 18th November, but A said that he had no time left for playing and that the competition must fall through. What course should B take?

Answer—When the finalists were unable to agree upon a date they should have reported the matter to the Committee, who should then have fixed a day and time for playing off the final round or rounds.

159. Sutton Golf Club.—A and B were playing in a stroke competition. A's ball lay within 20 yards of the hole. B stood at the hole holding the flag-stick. A played, and while his ball

was in motion, B moved away and laid the flag-stick on the ground behind the hole sufficiently distant, as he thought, to be out of the way of the ball, but the ball passed the hole and struck the flag-stick. The Committee decided that the penalty was two strokes under Stroke Rule 13 (1). A questioned this decision on the ground that the Rule only applies if the person is standing at the hole, and contends that the incident is a rub of the green under Stroke Rule 10 (1).

Answer.—As no previous case has ever come to the knowledge of the Rules of Golf Committee of one competitor laying down the flag-stick in the line of his fellow-competitor's putt when the latter's ball was in motion, and thereby stopping the ball, Stroke Rules 10 (1) and 13 (1) do not entirely cover the case. The Rules of Golf Committee is of opinion that the ball did not strike, but was stopped by the flag-stick, and that no penalty was incurred according to the spirit of Stroke Rule 10 (1). Had the flag-stick been placed on the ground before A played, the penalty would have been two strokes. Stroke Rule 13 (1) was altered at the General Meeting of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club on 26th September 1909. The Rule now reads :—
 “When a competitor's ball lying within 20 yards of the hole is played and strikes, or is stopped by, the flag-stick or the person standing at the hole, the penalty shall be two strokes.”

160. Ilkley Moor Golf Club.—In a match play competition A's ball lay within 20 yards of the hole. A played and his ball struck the flag-stick, which had been removed by and was held by his own caddie. What was the penalty, (1) in match play, (2) in medal play ?

Answer.—(1) Loss of hole (see Rule 32 (1)). (2) Penalty of two strokes (see Stroke Rule 13 (1)).

162. Gosforth Golf Club.—In a match play competition a competitor played his ball when within twenty yards of the

hole and struck the flag-stick, which had not been removed. What was the penalty ?

Answer.—Under the circumstances the player cannot be penalised. A player can only be penalised when the flag-stick has been removed by himself, his partner, or either of their caddies. See Rule 32.

163. Rowlands Castle Golf Club, Hants.—A and B played a match under the agreement that if the match was halved they should play another eighteen holes. At the 19th hole A played from within 20 yards and struck the pin. B claimed the hole, to which A acceded. Afterwards they discovered that there was no penalty incurred, and agreed to re-play the match which B had won. What ought to have been done under the circumstances ?

Answer.—By acceding to B's claim, A gave up the hole and the match must stand as played.

164. Glasgow Licensed Trade Golf Club.—In a match tournament A played from within twenty yards of a hole, and struck the flag-stick which was in the hole. B claimed the hole. Was he entitled to do so ?

Answer.—Certainly not. (See Rule 32 (1)). If the opponent wished to do so he could have removed the flag-stick before the player played his stroke.

165. Kobenhavns Golf Club.—In a match, it was A's turn to putt. B's caddie removed the flag-stick from the hole and planted it in the ground beside the hole. The caddie did not then hold the flag-stick. A played, and his ball struck the flag-stick. Did A incur any penalty ?

Answer.—No. A incurred no penalty. There is no penalty except when the flag has been removed by the player or his caddie.

166. Pannal Golf Club.—In a stroke competition, a player was putting, and as the ball approached the hole the caddie attempted to pull out the flag, but he pulled out both the flag and the metal support which fits the hole.

The ball hit the flag support and, rebounding, came to rest about nine inches away and the player holed out from where the ball then lay.

The competition was under Stroke Rules, Medal Play.

What penalty should the player incur ?

Answer.—Assuming that the competitor's ball lay within 20 yards of the hole when he played the stroke referred to he must be held to have struck the person standing at the hole Stroke Rule 13 (1), and so incurred a penalty of 2 strokes. The caddie could have ascertained that the flag-stick had become fixed before allowing his master to play.

167. Lahinch Golf Club.—In a stroke competition a competitor played his ball on the putting-green without removing the flag-stick. The ball trickled into the hole, and did not touch the flag-stick till it had dropped into the hole. Was any penalty incurred ?

Answer.—The penalty was two strokes under Stroke Rule 13 (1).

The object of the Rule is to prevent players putting at the hole without removing the flag-stick.

168. Falsterbo Golf Club.—B was putting. A's caddie held the flag-stick. At the moment when B putted, A's caddie put the flag-stick in the ground, with the result that B's ball hit the flag-stick. Did A incur any penalty ?

Answer.—A's caddie stopped B's ball, and A incurred the loss of the hole under Rule 18.

169. Haydock Park Golf Club.—A and B are playing a match ; it is A's turn to approach the hole, and B, who has approached with the flag-stick in the hole, tells his caddie to remove the flag-stick before A plays. A wishes the flag-stick to remain

in the hole while he plays. (1) Can B insist on its removal?
 (2) Is the case covered by Rule 32?

Answer.—(1) Yes. (2) Yes.

170. Jedburgh Golf Club.—Is it permissible, in showing the position of the hole, to allow the flag to rest in the hole, touching the edge remote from the ball, at an angle of say 45 degrees?

Answer.—It is permissible to hold the flag in the hole in the manner described.

171. Tankersley Park Golf Club.—(a) A player is playing through the green, and is about to take his shot. He swings back, but stops on his downward swing—the ball remaining stationary—Is this a stroke? (b) In a four-ball match a player plays an opponent's ball. Who is disqualified, or loses the hole—the player who plays the ball only or the player and his partner also? (c) (1) A, B, C, D are players in a four-ball match. A and B being partners and C and D. A's ball is on the green near the hole; C (his opponent) approaches and knocks A's ball nearer to the hole still. Is A *compelled* to replace the ball? (2) If the exact place cannot be ascertained what is the player to do?

Answer.—(a) No, if there was no intention to strike the ball, (see Definition 13). (b) The player is disqualified for the hole in question under Rule 20 (1), but the disqualification does not apply to his partner (see Rule 10 of the Rules for Four Ball Matches). (c) See Rules for Three Balls, etc., Matches No. 2.

172. Cheltenham Golf Club.—In a foursome stroke competition A and B were competing with C and D. A played from a tee when B should have done so, and they struck alternately during the play of the hole. A played from the next tee. Was there any penalty incurred?

Answer.—A and B are disqualified. The order of play in a foursome is stated in Rule 3.

173. 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.

174. Carlisle and Silloth Golf Club.—(1) If a player, before playing the odd, says “I have this for the half,” and holes his ball, can his opponent claim a half without putting. (2) Under the same circumstances, if the player misses his putt, can his opponent claim the hole, the assumption being that the player has given him the putt.

Answer.—The expression “I have this for the half” does not constitute any contract between the players. If in doubt the player should ask if he is playing “the odd, etc.” (see Definition 21).

175. United Service Club, Victoria, British Columbia.—(1) The course or fair green going to the hole in question is cut with a horse mower, and with average width between rocks on either side of about seventy yards. The rocks are in continuous masses with little hollows in between. In these crevices are loose stones among the long grass and weeds, etc. The player B slices his ball off the fair green to the right, which falls into one of the numerous crevices between the rocks. B

claims that he can ground his club, and moved loose stones and other impediments within a club's length because the definition of hazard in St. Andrews rules does not say that "long grass" or "rocks" are hazards. A, his opponent, contends that long grass, rocks, etc., and other rough ground, though not actually mentioned, are, in the spirit of the rule, hazards, and must be treated accordingly. (2) Please state which player is correct. Formerly, the rule of golf stated that "grass in a hazard was not part of the hazard." The new rules, 1909, omit this. Is it, therefore, not permissible now to ground the club or move loose impediments within a club's length in a hazard, grass, or otherwise?

Answer.—(1) Long grass is not a hazard, though it may be a difficulty. When the ball lies on grass, whether long or short, which is not within the boundaries of a hazard, any loose impediment may be removed in accordance with Rule 12 (1). Loose stones are loose impediments. Rocks embedded in the ground come under the head of "things fixed," Rule 15. (2) Grass within the boundaries of a hazard is part of the hazard. Rule 25 therefore applies.

176. Littlehampton Golf Club.—In a four ball match a player's ball landed on ground under repair, and could not be found. All the players and their caddies were agreed that the ball was on ground under repair. Which Rule is applied?

Answer.—Rule 21 applies. It is impossible to apply the directions laid down in Rule 11, as there is no means of determining the place where the ball lay.

177. 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.

178. Carlton Golf Club.—May a player, playing through the green, in addressing a ball, ground the club in front of the ball? If the answer be in the negative, what is the penalty in (1) match play and (2) medal play?

Answer.—The player may ground his club provided he does not infringe Rule 15.

179. North Wilts Golf Club.—(1) A drives a ball from a tee. B follows, and on proceeding finds his ball in a bunker. In addressing his ball to play out he grounds his club and A claims the hole. When they go forward, A cannot find his ball. Does A win the hole or is it halved? May B insist on A finding his ball before he admits A's claim to the hole? (2) Does Rule 21 "lost ball" imply that a player who has lost his ball may insist on his opponent finding his own ball before admitting the opponent's claim to the hole? (3) Is it possible under any circumstances for a player to win a hole when he has lost his ball? (4) A player drives his ball into a hazard from which the local rule allows a ball to be lifted without penalty, the said hazard being a piece of wood and a ditch which lie almost in the line of play, and punish a good drive but not a less good one. If, on search being made, the player cannot find his ball, must he count it a lost ball, or may he drop another as though he had found his ball in the "no penalty area," if he and his

opponent, be it in match or medal play, are both satisfied that the ball does lie in the above-mentioned area ?

Answer.—(1) B lost the hole by infringing Rule 25. B may not insist on A finding his ball. (2) Yes. (3) Yes, under such circumstances as stated in question (1). (4) To lift a ball from a hazard, without penalty, is contrary to the spirit of the game of golf. The Rules of Golf Committee suggest that the area in question should be considered “out of bounds,” in which case this question would be provided for by Rule 23.

180. Lee-on-the-Solent Golf Club.—(1) A player in a sand bunker taking the club with which he intends to make the stroke, grounded his club in the bunker about four yards from the ball before taking his stance and without improving the lie of the ball. What is the penalty if any ? (2) A player's ball was in a rut in a road, he went 50 yards down the road and practised shots in a similar rut without a ball. What is the penalty if any ?

Answer.—(1) Loss of the hole in Match Play. Two strokes in Stroke Play. (2) Loss of the hole in Match Play. Two strokes in Stroke Play. The whole of the road must be treated as the hazard under Rule 25.

181. Lindley Golf Club.—(1) Under Rule 25 or any other Rule, should a player lose the hole if he grounded his club in a bunker if not addressing the ball or improving the lie ? (2) Should a player lose the hole if he did not ground his club but took a swing of his club through the grass in the bunker to test the strength of the grass although not addressing the ball ?

Answer.—(1) The player loses the hole. Under Rule 25 a player (whether he is addressing the ball or not) may not ground or sole his club within the limits of a hazard. (2) The player loses the hole. Rule 25 distinctly says that “nothing may be touched” when a ball lies in a hazard, except under certain stated circumstances. The action of the player

is not made legal by any of the exceptions mentioned in the Rule.

182. North-West Golf Club.—In a foursome A and B are partners. Their ball lies in a bunker. It is A's turn to play. B makes a practice swing to show A how, in his opinion, the ball should be played. He strikes the sand in the bunker about three yards from where the ball lies and does not in any way interfere with the ball or its lie. Do A and B lose the hole ?

Answer.—The object of the words "The club shall not touch the ground" in Rule 25 is, *inter alia*, to prevent a player from testing the consistency of the soil. B's practice stroke might have conveyed this information to his partner A. The Committee therefore considers that in equity A and B should lose the hole.

183. The South Leeds Golf Club.—*Re* Rule 4 (3), would a direction post be illegal under the Rule ?

Answer.—No. Rule 4 (3) treats only of marks which it might be the desire of a player to have placed in the line of his stroke and has no reference to guide-posts which are placed on the course by those in authority.

184. Baldovan Golf Club.—A and B, whose handicaps have not been touched for years, start in match play competition. Under handicap, B receives one hole. At sixteenth hole B is dormy—reckoning 2 up and 2 to play, the hole received as odds having escaped his memory. A won last two holes and match was declared drawn. It was agreed to decide the tie by playing nine holes. A considered he had won when 3 up and 2 to play ; and it then came to B's mind that, under handicap, he had won his match at sixteenth hole of first round. On protest the Match Committee decided that B ought to have claimed the tie before starting on another round ; that a nine-hole match under handicap was null, and ordered replay. Did the Match Committee do right ?

Answer.—It was B's duty to see that the hole which he was conceded was counted. As he did not do so, the original match was halved and B's protest cannot be entertained. If the conditions of the tournament state that halved matches shall be replayed, and the stipulated course was 18 holes, the Match Committee has certainly the right to make A and B play 18 holes. If there were no conditions laid down as to how halved matches were to be decided, A and B were within their rights in playing any number of holes mutually agreed upon, and the result of the nine-hole match should stand as played—A winning by 3 and 2.

185. Merton Park Golf Club.—A has holed out. B who has played 4, asks A how many he has played. A replies: "Six, you have that for it." B then putts and misses. A then says: "I am sorry, I've only played 5, you only had that for the half." Does B win the hole under new Rule 4 (2) or does A get his half under Rule 33?

Answer.—Rule 33 applies. There should have been a cross reference to Rule 33 in Rule 4 (2).

186. Mendip Golf Club.—The conditions of a "knock out" competition state that if a match is halved "play must be continued until match is won." In the third round A and B halved their match and played another round. Did they incur any penalty?

Answer.—Whichever player first won a hole was the winner, and the result of the round cannot be considered. If A and B delayed the conduct of the competition by their action, they should be disqualified.

187. Rowlands Castle Golf Club, Hants.—In a handicap match tournament A had to concede three strokes to B. Their match was halved. Three strokes fall to be taken at the 1st, 7th, and 14th holes. A and B agreed to decide the match by playing the 19th hole on even terms. Were they within their right in making this arrangement?

Answer.—Yes. In the absence of any conditions for playing halved matches (see preface to “Decisions of the Rules of Golf Committee”) the players are at liberty to make their own arrangements.

188. 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.

189. 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.

190. 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.

191. West Cheshire Golf Club.—In a match play competition A (scratch) conceded B 12 strokes. B entered from the above Club. The match was halved, and the Committee instructed these competitors to play another 9 holes. A and B were under the impression that the strokes fell to be taken at the same holes as in the original match, viz., 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, but at the 5th hole, which both A and B holed in 4, the referee informed them that the strokes were to be taken at holes No. 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 in the 9 holes match. Under the original table played in the long round B would have won the 5th hole. Both A and B protested to the referee that it was unfair to alter the stroke arrangements without informing the competitors. The 9-hole match was halved, and another 9 holes were played. A won this match. B then protested, claiming that he really won the first 9-hole match under the original stroke table. The Committee of the Club, on whose green the competition was held, disallowed the claim. Under the conditions of the competition the decision of the Committee was final. Was the decision of the Committee right?

Answer.—Yes. The action of the Committee in altering the stroke table without informing A and B was most irregular, and A and B would have been justified in stopping their match of 9 holes and replaying it. This they did not do. Under the conditions, the match had to be played with the stroke table as altered by the Committee. B's claim that he won the first 9 holes under the original stroke table cannot be entertained.

192. Bedford Golf Club.—In a match play competition, B receives

6 holes from A. On the completion of the match of 18 holes, A and B were all square. The conditions stated that if an even number of holes were given, halved matches were to be decided by playing 9 holes. A and B played 9 holes, A saying to B: "Thank goodness I have not to give any more holes." They played on even terms and A won. A month later B informed one of the Committee that these 9 holes were played on even terms, whereas B should have received 3 holes. A eventually won the cup. What should the Committee do?

Answer.—The Committee should allow the competition to stand as played. B should have made herself aware of the conditions governing the competition, and insisted on receiving three holes. Apparently neither A nor B had read the conditions.

193. Royston Golf Club.—The Club held a number of separate handicap stroke competitions on May 25th, 27th, and 28th. The conditions state that (1) "Handicaps may be altered at any time by the Committee." (2) "Members of the Royston Golf Club will play on their Royston Handicap, Visitors on their lowest handicap." A visitor playing in the open competitions objected to his handicap being altered on the ground that he was not a member of the Club. Should his objection be upheld?

Answer.—The visitor was entitled to play the first of the competitions on his lowest handicap; the Committee was entitled subsequently to alter his handicap, as the conditions state clearly that handicaps may be altered at any time.

194. Hanger Hill Golf Club.—Has the Committee of a Club the right to bring down a competitor's handicap after he has started playing? In the Autumn meeting competition a competitor, who had won in one of the competitions on Friday, started playing at ten o'clock on Saturday morning in a different competition. After he had started, the Committee reduced his handicap; the competitor has objected.

Answer.—The player's handicap should have been posted in the Clubhouse before the hour fixed for starting the competition.

195. Seaford Golf Club.—No one is eligible for membership until 18 years of age. In August, A, being then under 18, entered for a handicap competition open to him as a member's son, and received a handicap of 10 strokes. A was elected a member of the Club on 13th December. On 25th December, A's father went to the Clubhouse to see the Secretary about A's handicap. The Secretary was absent through illness, so A's father asked the Steward whether A could play with a handicap of 10, and the Steward replied he believed he could. No application for a handicap for A was received by the Secretary or Committee in writing or otherwise. A entered for a club competition on 26th December, paid his entry money, and returned the best score at a handicap of 10. The Committee disqualified A. Was their decision correct?

Answer.—Yes. A had not been handicapped as a member of the Club.

196. 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 over-sight, 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.

197. Hanger Hill Golf Club.—In a match tournament A had to allow one stroke to B. They quite forgot about this stroke until after they had played several holes past the seventh hole where it should have been given. They both agreed that it would, if allowed, have made a difference of one hole. A was quite willing to concede it but B would not accept the hole as he did not claim it at the time. Will the Rules of Golf Committee please give a ruling on this point ?

Answer.—After the players struck off to the 8th hole it was too late for B to claim the stroke : the hole must therefore stand as played.

198. New Galloway Golf Club.—The Club holds a Summer Meeting when different competitions take place, and amongst them a challenge cup for the best scratch score, another for best handicap score, and a club medal are played for, and a match play competition takes place. In the year 1906 it was decided by the Committee that handicaps should be reduced (when in their opinion justified) during the Meeting, except in the match play competition. This practice has been the custom ever since. In 1909 the Macmillan challenge cup for best scratch score was played for on August 5th, and the Shepley challenge cup for best handicap score on August 6th. A few days previously the Secretary put up a notice as follows :—“ Best aggregate score (under handicap) in the Shepley and Macmillan challenge cups. Mrs. C. G. H. has kindly presented a silver inkstand as a prize.” A was runner-up in the Macmillan challenge cup on August 5th with a net score of 5 under the Bogey of the course. The Committee that evening reduced A’s handicap from 15 to 10, and decided that A should only have a handicap of 10 in the Shepley cup on August 6th for the purpose of calculating his aggregate nett score in the two events. The Committee of the New Galloway Golf Club desires to know (1) whether their decision was right, looking to the fact that it is the custom of the Committee to reduce handicaps during the Meeting, and also having regard to the wording of the notice as to the aggregate prize.

(2) Whether it is customary to reduce handicaps during a Meeting when there are many competitions taking place. (3) Should A's handicap have been reduced in the middle of the aggregate competition as applying to that competition only, having regard to the wording of the notice as to the aggregate prize.

Answer—(1) The Committee appears to have acted within its powers. (2) The Rules of Golf Committee is aware that in some Clubs it has been customary to reduce handicaps during Meetings which extend over a short period. The time at which a player's handicap may be altered is a matter which should be determined by the Rules of the Club in accordance with the wishes of its members. (3) The Committee appears to have acted within its powers in reducing A's handicap on the evening of August 5th, consequently A had to play on August 6th with his reduced handicap in the Shepley cup, and the nett score returned under the reduced handicap must be counted in ascertaining his aggregate score, as there is nothing to the contrary in the wording of the conditions.

199. Trent Golf Club.—A and B qualify to play for Captain's Cup, April 3rd. A and B are drawn together first round under handicap match. (1) A and B arrange to play off first round match, and at the same time take their scores for medal (being medal day, arranging same time to have no stymies). Are they disqualified, for both match and medal play or for match play only? (2) Are two players allowed to arrange for no stymies in any match under Match Rules? (3) If A qualifies to play for cup, and plays first round upon 24 handicap, then before playing second round his handicap is reduced to 15, does he continue the remainder of his matches in cup competition with 15 or 24 handicap? no mention having been made by Committee, *re* reduction or otherwise.

Answer—(1) A and B are disqualified for both competitions. (2) Certainly not. (3) The time at which a competitor's handicap may be altered is a matter which should be

determined by the Rules of the Club in accordance with the wishes of its members.

200. West Hove Golf Club.—The Club holds a match tournament which extends over three months. Is it usual to alter competitors' handicaps during this kind of competition ?

Answer.—The Rules Committee is aware that in some Clubs handicaps are altered in match tournaments which extend over a long period. The matter is one which should be determined by the Rules of the Club in accordance with the wishes of its members.

201. Preston Golf Club.—With regard to definition 6 and Rule 25 there is the following Local Rule in this Club :—“ Hazard. In addition to the hazards mentioned in Rule 1, *e* (Old Rules), hedge, pit (wet or dry), and ravine shall be added.” In almost all the hazards there is permanent grass, and under the Old Rules the club has been grounded when playing the stroke, provided the ball lay on grass. The Committee wish to know if this is now strictly prohibited under the New Rules, and if so, should this Club make a Local Rule permitting the player to ground his club. The point is a matter of some importance as all the hazards are perfectly natural and difficult to play out of, the course being of a very undulating character. The ravine mentioned is a disused gravel pit—40 feet deep—from which players, under a Local Rule, are allowed to lift under penalty of one stroke.

Answer.—Ground covered by permanent grass, though it is adjacent to or surrounded by hazard, is not necessarily regarded as hazard. In each particular case it is for the Local Committee to define accurately the extent of the hazard.

202. Needles Golf Club.—In a stroke competition a competitor placed his bag of clubs in a hazard or bunker while playing his ball out of the hazard or bunker. Is he penalized under Rule 25 ?

Answer.—No, provided the action of the player did not in any way assist him in making his stroke.

203. Huddersfield Golf Club.—There is a drain being made at the edge of the course, which at the present time is open and about a yard deep. A ball is driven on the course to within a foot of the drain, not actually on to the ground under repair, but the drain interferes with the stance and makes the ball practically unplayable. Can the ball be dropped no nearer the hole? *vide* Rule 11 and Rule 27 (4).

Answer—Rule 11 applies only to a ball lying on ground under repair. Rule 27 (4) applies only to casual water. The Huddersfield Golf Club might provide for this temporary obstruction by Local Rule.

204. Walton Heath Golf Club.—A's ball lay near the face of a bunker on the side farther from the hole. In taking his backward swing A struck the bank with three separate efforts, abandoning the continuation of the stroke on each occasion. A altered his stance on each occasion. Did A incur any penalty?

Answer.—Provided the player did not, in striking the bank, make his next stroke easier, he incurred no penalty. It is a custom of the game for a player, when doubtful if there is room to swing a club, to touch the side of the bunker, etc. (see Rule 25 (2)), in order to gauge his distance.

205. Woking Golf Club.—The Committee wish to know whether "heather" comes under the category of a hazard.

Answer.—Heather is not a hazard.

206. 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.

207. Hutton Golf Club.—In a stroke competition one of the competitors, having a short putt, placed his hand into the hole and putted the ball into his hand. Is he deemed not to have holed out, and is he therefore disqualified ?

Answer.—The competitor is disqualified. A ball cannot be deemed to be holed out in this manner.

207 (a). Royal West Norfolk Golf Club.—A is dormy 3. B wins the 16th hole and takes the honour at the 17th, which is halved. Who takes the honour at the 18th ?—A, who has won the long match, or B, who had the last honour ?

Answer.—A, who has won the long match, takes the honour.

208. Banstead Downs Golf Club.—In a Bogey Competition a competitor arranged at several holes that his fellow-competitor should drive off first though it was not his honour. The reason given was that by enabling the shorter driver to play first there was a saving of time. Are either or both competitors disqualified ?

Answer.—Both competitors are disqualified, see Stroke Rule 7 (1).

209. 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.

210. Seascale Golf Club.—(1) Is it permissible to touch the

ground behind the hole in order to point out the line of a putt ?
 (2) Is the hole lost because the player's partner or caddie holds a club behind the hole to indicate the line of putt, while the putt is being played ?

Answer—(1) No. (2) Yes. No mark may be placed.

211. Denbigh Golf Club, North Wales.—Playing in a stroke competition the other day, A mentioned to B (with whom he was playing) that he was carrying a left-handed mashie. B said “You must lend it to me if I want it.” The occasion did not arise, but if it had :—(1) Would A have been justified in lending it ? (2) Would B have been disqualified under Rule 6 ? (3) If the law does not forbid the loan, what is the etiquette in such cases ?

Answer.—(1) Yes. (2) No. (3) A was not obliged to lend his club, but the loan of a club is a common act of courtesy.

212. Victoria Golf Club, Stirling.—On the course on which this Club plays, a number of fences have been erected to protect the greens. There is a bye-law framed by the premier club in the district that ‘a ball be played where it lies.’ Some of our members desire that we make a bye-law to be in force in our own Club, ‘That when a fence or post be in the direct line of play, a ball may be lifted, and dropped clear of the same.’ Can we, as tenants of the Club already referred to, make such a rule, or must we when playing on the course abide by the rules already applying to the course ?

Answer—Such a bye-law as is suggested would not be contrary to the Rules of the game. A bye-law dealing with the subject mentioned has been drafted by the Midland Counties Association, with the approval of the Rules of Golf Committee and reads as follows, viz. :—

(a) A ball lying on the putting-green or outside the green within three club lengths of the fencing guarding it and not in a hazard, in such a position that the fencing interferes with the stroke, may be lifted and placed in

a playable position within one club's length from the place from which it was lifted but not nearer the hole, without penalty. If the ball is lifted from outside the fencing, it must be placed outside the fencing, if from inside it may be placed inside, but not nearer the hole.

(b) In playing to a putting-green, if a ball strike any of the fencing between the player and the hole, the player may drop a ball and replay the shot without penalty.

(c) In case the ball hit the fence a second or subsequent time at the same place, the stroke or strokes so played shall be counted, but the player shall on each occasion have the benefit of his option.

213. Grangemouth Golf Club.—Local Rule No. 2 states "A ball lying on the course in such a position that, in the opinion of the player, the wire or posts of the fence round any putting-green would interfere with his stroke, may be lifted and dropped by the player behind such fence without penalty." Under this Rule is a player entitled to move the ball if wire or post is in the line of the stroke, or does it only apply if these obstacles interfere with the sweep of the club?

Answer.—It is difficult for the Rules of Golf Committee to give a decision on a Local Rule where the meaning is doubtful: the interpretation of the Rule should lie with those who drafted it.

214. Portmarnock Golf Club.—In a stroke competition a competitor driving from the first tee sliced his ball, and assuming it had gone into the sea, or on to the seashore, which at this point runs parallel to the hole, he teed another ball and drove it. Before he had played his second stroke with the second ball, the player's first ball was found not to have gone over on to the seashore at all, and he finished the hole with the first ball. There is a Local Rule dealing with the "sea hazard" which reads—"The shore under high-water mark going to the first and third holes must be considered a hazard, and should

a ball lie or be lost there, a ball may be dropped on the course (but not nearer the hole) under the penalty of one stroke."

The Committee disqualified the player, being of opinion that the player considered his first ball to be in the sea or on the seashore, and as he played his second in this belief, he ought therefore to have dropped the ball instead of teeing it, and continued the hole with the second ball, under penalty of one stroke. Further, had it been the intention of the player to treat his first ball as a "lost" ball, he ought in any case to have continued play with the second ball, paying the penalty of one stroke. Were the Committee correct in disqualifying the player?

Answer.—The player had no right to play a second ball before he had ascertained that his first ball lay "on the shore under high-water mark." He should therefore be disqualified.

215. 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.

216. Colwyn Bay Golf Club.—In an open stroke competition, a visitor returns a score of 82, which is second best. At the first hole he, however, plays into a road for which there is a Local Rule, reading as follows:—"In or over the road is out of bounds, except at the first hole, where the player must pick out, under a penalty of one stroke." This Local Rule has only recently been made; a printed notice having been put up in the Club House a week or more before the competition. The competitor, being ignorant of this Rule, plays out. On the back of the scoring card (similar cards being issued to all com-

petitors) the old Local Rule is printed, which leaves it to the option of the player whether he plays out of the road or drops behind under a penalty of one stroke. The competitor in question states that he was not even aware of this rule, not consulting the back of the card at all. Should he therefore be disqualified or penalised, or can his card be touched at all under the circumstances?

Answer.—A competitor who conforms to the conditions printed on a scoring card cannot be disqualified. The conditions on the cards should have been altered in conformity with the new rule.

217. Southerndown Golf Club.—The 15th and 18th greens of the Southerndown Golf Club are separated by a pot bunker. In approaching the 15th green, a player's ball over-ran the 15th green and the pot bunker, and lay on the 18th green. Local Rule 4 provides that:—"A ball lying on a green, other than that of the hole played for, unless the following stroke shall be played with a putter, must be lifted and placed on the Course, not nearer to the hole played for, without penalty." The player, not desiring to use his putter, lifted his ball for the purpose of taking it off the 18th green and dropping it through the green, not nearer to the 15th hole. Did the player violate the letter or spirit of any Rule of Golf or Local Rule by selecting the spot where he chose to drop his ball through the green, so long as that spot was through the green and not nearer to the hole he was playing to? An objection was taken that the player should have dropped the ball at such a place only as would necessitate his negotiating the pot bunker when playing his ball on to the 15th green.

Answer.—The Local Rule governs the case, and the competitor conformed to its conditions.

217 (a). Ingram Golf Club.—A and B were playing in a Stroke Competition on a course which has a local rule to the following effect:—"If a ball lie on a putting-green other than the one played to, it must be lifted and dropped so that it shall not lie

further than three club lengths from the margin of the green and not nearer the hole than before. No penalty. The green is defined by the railing which surrounds it. When playing to the relief greens the 20 yards limit shall apply." A, in approaching, when within 20 yards of the pin, struck it, and B claimed that he had incurred a penalty of two strokes. A thought the local rule quoted exempted him from any penalty. Is A's view correct ?

Answer.—The local rule only affects the particular purpose for which it was drawn up, viz. :—the lifting of a ball from a green other than that being played to. The local rule cannot be held to affect the definition of a putting-green (see Definition 10) or the application of Stroke Rule 13 (1).

218. 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.

219. Highfield Golf Club.—May the hand in any circumstance be used to remove loose impediments from the putting-green, or must all such, including loose leaves, be removed with the club ?

Answer.—Under Rule 28 (1) the hand may in all cases be used to lift loose impediments. In the case of certain loose impediments, specified in Rule 28 (2), it is also permissible to make use of a club in order to scrape them aside. As

loose leaves are not among these impediments specified in Rule 28 (2) they must be lifted.

220. 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.

221. Burnham 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.

222. Felixstowe Golf Club.—In a match, A's ball lay 40 yards from the hole. Can A remove a loose impediment from the putting green ?

Answer.—Yes, see Rule 28 (1). The words "irrespective of the position of the player's ball" enable the player to lift a loose impediment from the putting-green when his ball lies on the putting-green, or through the green, or in a hazard.

223. Meyrick and Queen's Park Golf Club.—In a handicap stroke competition, A and B returned the lowest nett scores, 83 and 84. A was posted as the winner. On the same evening A remarked in the Club that he had lost his ball from the first tee, and lost a stroke by doing so. He did not return to the tee but dropped it near the place where the ball was supposed to be lost. B heard the conversation, but made no remark. B and C tied for a Club prize, played for on the same day and at the same time, open to all competitors except the winner of the cup. Next day B and C played off this tie, which was won by C. B then protested against A as winner of the cup. Should the Committee accept the protest, and should A be disqualified ?

Answer.—A should be disqualified for breach of Stroke Rule 12, B therefore wins the cup, and as he becomes ineligible for the Club prize, C becomes the winner of it.

224. Royal Norwich Golf Club.—In a stroke competition A lost his ball among trees and teed another ball at the spot where he believed the lost ball was. On the completion of the round A handed in a written statement of the facts with his card. Is A disqualified, or is the penalty two strokes under Rule 34, which states that, in cases where no penalty is stated, the penalty is the loss of the hole. No penalty is stated in Stroke Rule 12, and Stroke Rule 14 states that where the penalty by the Rules of Golf is the loss of the hole, in stroke competitions it shall be the loss of two strokes, except where otherwise provided for.

Answer.—A is disqualified under Stroke Rule 1 (1) as he has not holed the stipulated round.

225. Metropolitan Golf Club, Cape Town.—In a foursome stroke competition, A and B *v.* C and D, A drove his ball into a hazard. After a search of five minutes the ball was given up as lost (A Local Rule prohibits play from this hazard, and the player must drop behind, and lose one stroke.) B dropped a ball behind the hazard, under penalty of two strokes, instead of returning to the spot from which the ball which was lost was played (Stroke Rule 12). As an infringement of rule took place in dropping the ball behind the hazard, instead of conforming to Stroke Rule 12, should two more strokes be added to the score under Stroke Rule 15? In returning the card, the competitor informed a member of the committee of his doubt as to his procedure.

Answer.—Assuming that the Local Rule does not state that a ball lost in the hazard may be treated in the same way as one found in the hazard, B contravened Stroke Rule 12 and should be disqualified, as he has not played the stipulated course. The only rule under which B could drop a ball behind the hazard, under penalty of two strokes, is Stroke Rule 11, but to take advantage of this rule the ball has to be found. Stroke Rule 12 provides for the case of a ball which is not found.

It is usual to frame Local Rules for special hazards in the following way, viz. :—“If a ball lie or be lost in, etc.,” or to treat the hazard as “out of bounds.”

226. Blackpool Golf Club.—In a stroke competition in the above Club A and B played together. A drove from one of the teeing-grounds to a green at the far side of a high sand hill. The ball could not be found by either of the players or their caddies, so A went back to the teeing-ground and drove again. In the meantime B and the caddies continued the search and found the ball before A drove again,

but owing to the intervening hill could not signal to him. When A went back he lifted his second ball and played out with his first ball in the ordinary way. There is independent evidence that the first ball was found within five minutes of the search beginning, although A himself discontinued the search and returned to play another ball. The result of the competition was that A returned a card of 76 nett, tying with three other players for first place. (1) Was A right in playing out with the first ball? (2) If he was not right, was he liable to disqualification or a penalty, and if the latter what is the penalty?

Answer.—The last part of Stroke Rule 12 was framed with the object of preventing a competitor from adopting the procedure taken by A. Under Stroke Rule 12 it is the duty of the competitor to search for his ball for five minutes, at the expiry of which his ball becomes a lost ball (see Definition 20), and the competitor proceeds to play as directed in Stroke Rule 12. As A did not make the five minutes' search for his first ball, he is disqualified for treating it as a lost ball, before striking his second ball.

227. Ravenscliffe Golf Club.—(1) A is playing in a medal round. At the tee of the 17th hole he drives and cannot find his ball. He looks for it for five minutes, and then elects to consider it a lost ball. He plays a second ball, and subsequently finds the original ball before holing out with the second ball. Is he disqualified? (2) If he played two shots with the second ball before finding the original ball is he disqualified under Rule 8, Section 2?

Answer.—(1) No. A ball which is not found within five minutes is a lost ball (*vide* Def. 20), and it is immaterial whether it is subsequently found or not. (2) No, but he must hole out with the second ball. Stroke Rule 8 (2) refers to a ball other than the competitor's.

228. Yelverton Golf Club.—A and B are playing a match. From a certain teeing ground A drives his ball into thick gorse and B



drives a long ball. After searching for over five minutes for A's ball without finding it, A says "I must give it up, it is your hole. Let us go to the next tee." B thereupon goes after his ball but cannot find it anywhere. Is the hole halved under Rule 21, or must A abide by his declaration giving up the hole ?

Answer.—The player must abide by his declaration. He was entitled when his ball had become a lost ball, and before giving up the hole, to demand that his opponent should find his ball or only gain a half should he fail to do so as provided for in Definition 20.

229. Nga Motu Golf Club, New Zealand.—With regard to "Make and Form of Golf Clubs" is it permissible to use a small croquet mallet to putt with ?

Answer.—A croquet mallet is not a golf club and is inadmissible.

230. Pickeridge Golf Club.—(1) In a stroke competition a competitor used a putter made in the form of a croquet mallet. Is he disqualified ? (2) Two competitors were playing for a cup, and before they had finished their rounds a third joined them and played three or four holes. Are the two competitors disqualified ?

Answer.—(1) The Rules of Golf Committee is of opinion that the time has come for the Royal and Ancient Golf Club to decide at a General Meeting whether the various mallet-headed implements at present in use are to be permitted or not. The Rules of Golf Committee is, however, of opinion that it is not allowable to employ the vertical croquet stroke as a method of putting. The Committee considers that it is much to be deplored that players, instead of trying to master the use of golf clubs, should endeavour to overcome the difficulties of the game by using implements which have never been associated with it. (2) Assuming that the cup was competed for under the Rules for Stroke Play, the competitors are disqualified.

231. 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.

232. Ashton-on-Ribble Golf Club.—(1) In a stroke competition A drove his ball into a water ditch which bounds the course. Instead of dropping a ball at the spot where his ball entered the water, under penalty of one stroke, A, in ignorance of the Rules, considered his ball out of bounds and, therefore, teed another ball and played his second stroke from the teeing-ground. Under which Rule, if any, is A penalised ? (2) Can a recognised Club caddie act as marker in a stroke competition ?

Answer.—(1) The player should have dropped his ball on the side of the course as near as possible to the spot at which the ball crossed the margin of the ditch. Instead of continuing his game from this spot he played his next stroke from the teeing-ground and cannot be held to have played the stipulated round. The player is therefore disqualified. (2) If he is appointed by the Committee, a caddie may act as a marker. The Rules of Golf Committee is, however, strongly of opinion that caddies should not be selected to act as markers.

233. The Rife Lodge, No. 405 (Golf Section).—A, a competitor and winner of a Stroke Competition, is alleged not to have holed a short putt at a certain hole. A says that he does not remember, and therefore does not admit, having failed to hole out with his own ball at every hole. His partner B said nothing about it at the time, but on arriving at the last hole, and on handing A's card to the Secretary, who was taking in the cards, with, be it noted, A's score marked against every hole, and card added up, nett score shown and signed, B remarked to the Secretary that A had not holed out at either the 4th or 5th hole, he could not say which, but he would ask another competitor C, who alleged he saw the infringement when waiting to approach some distance out from the hole. B therefore consulted C, and after considering the matter C said it was the 4th hole. C's partner said he did not observe the alleged infringement. Under these particular circumstances and looking to the unsatisfactory way in which B put forward his objection, is A disqualified?

Answer.—B's duty was to call the score at every hole. This B evidently omitted to do. It is difficult to understand how B could mark a score for a hole at which he maintains A did not hole out his ball, or be doubtful as to the number of the hole at which the incident is supposed to have occurred. If A did not hole out at one of the holes, B should have drawn A's attention to the fact at the time. The question is one of evidence as to a matter of fact. The Committee in charge of the Competition should accept A's statement unless they consider that there are very strong grounds for preferring the statements of B and C.

234. Pannal Golf Club (Harrogate), Ltd.—In a foursome stroke competition, during a thunder-storm, a certain foursome took shelter for forty minutes. Two of these competitors returned the best card, and were adjudged the winners by the Committee, who upheld their claim that while they were willing to continue during the rain, their fellow-competitors who were marking

for them would not face the storm. Was the decision of the Committee correct ?

Answer.—Every competitor who acts as marker is morally obliged to continue to mark so long as his fellow-competitor cares to compete. In this case there is no evidence to show that the competitors who were adjudged the winners could have obtained a marker and continued the game sooner than they did, and the Committee in charge of the competition probably took this view. The fault in the case mentioned lies entirely with the markers.

235. Bolton Golf Club.—*Rule 1, Stroke Competitions.*—(1) May a member who is not competing, score for one who is ? (2) May a member who has not paid his subscription (and therefore cannot compete) score for another ? (3) In a monthly qualifying competition may a member who has qualified in a previous month score for another player ? (4) May a player who has taken out a card and returned it play round again and score for another player ? In each case the marker played with, as well as marked for the competitor.

Answer.—The Rules of Golf Committee assumes that in each of the cases mentioned the player was a single competitor. Stroke Rule 1 (2) states “ competitors shall play in couples ” ; and then describes the manner in which the Committee is to arrange for the play of a single competitor. There is no apparent reason why any of the scorers should be objected to, provided they were approved by the Committee.

236. Bamburgh Castle Golf Club.—Can a competitor in a stroke competition play round by herself with a marker who is a member of a registered club, but was not playing herself, but merely marking ? The marker was the competitor’s sister. Has the Committee power to object to a relation as marker ?

Answer.—The conditions under which a competitor can play alone with a marker are clearly stated in Stroke Rule 1 (2). The Rules of Golf Committee does not see any reason why

a relation should not act as a marker ; but as the appointment of a marker for a single competitor lies entirely with the Committee in charge of the competition, there is no question of an objection by the Committee. See Stroke Rule 1 (2).

237. Caledonian Golf Club.—In the autumn meeting a stroke competition was held, and it was agreed that this round should decide a tie between A and B in a monthly medal competition. When the round was finished each player's card was signed by himself and countersigned by his partner, but A, quite unknown to B, sent a letter to the Secretary stating that B had failed to hole out on the 9th green. Is A liable to a penalty of any description ?

Answer.—A is not liable to any penalty under the Rules of Golf.

238. Holme Hall Golf Club.—A and B are the finalists in a match tournament. They are all square and one to play. A loses his ball at the 18th hole. Instead of treating the match as over, B persuades A to drop a ball and play out the hole. A agrees to this and A then holes out in fewer strokes than B. The players were aware of the provisions of Rule 21, but B disliked winning by a technical stroke of fortune. The advice of the Rules Committee under the circumstances is craved.

Answer.—As the finalists have defeated the rest of the field, the question for the Committee to decide is whether the prize should be awarded to either. The players agreed to exclude the operation of Rule 21, and thereby infringed Rule 3 of Special Rules for Match Competitions. The Rules Committee recommends that the prize be not awarded to either player. If, however, it is more convenient for the Holme Hall Golf Club to declare a winner, the prize should go to B who had actually won the match and abandoned it.

239. Sorn Castle Golf Club.—A and B were semi-finalists in a match play competition. One week was allowed for this match

to be played. A and B agreed to play their match on another course—the loser to scratch to the winner. Was the arrangement permissible ?

Answer.—In all competitions of this kind it is understood that the matches must be played on the course on which the competition is held. As A and B did not play their round on the proper course within the time fixed they ceased to take part in the competition.

240. Culverden Golf Club.—A match tournament was held. Competitors were allowed a certain time in which to play each match. A and B played the correct number of holes, but they began their match at the 4th tee. Should they be disqualified for breach of Rule 2 (1), "A Match begins by each side playing a ball from the first teeing-ground" ?

Answer.—Rule 2 (1) first part is partly descriptive, and partly a guide to regulate play on Golf Courses. Had there been a fixed time or order of starting, A and B would have been disqualified. In the absence of any conditions, the action of A and B, though irregular, should not entail disqualification.

241. North Manchester Golf Club.—In a handicap match play competition the second rounds had to be played on or before 23rd October. Two competitors failed to fix a time to play their match, and agreed that the best net score made by them in a medal round played on 23rd October should decide their match. They played separately. Does this case violate Rule 3 of Special Rules for Match Play Competitions, and what penalty, if any, is incurred ?

Answer.—The players have not violated the Rule referred to, but have not conformed to the conditions under which the competition was held, viz:—"That matches were to be played." They therefore ceased to take part in the competition. It was open to either competitor to scratch.

242. 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.

243. Dorset Golf Club.—The fourth round of a match play tournament was held the same day as the monthly medal competition. Some of the competitors in the former took medal cards, but apparently they did not violate any of the Rules for Match or Medal Play, *e.g.*, barring stymies, etc. (1) (a) Does the mere fact of playing the two events simultaneously disqualify ? (b) If so, are these competitors disqualified for both competitions or only for one of them, and if the latter, which one ? (2) Would the player in the match play tournament who did not take out a medal card be disqualified for keeping the medal score of his partner who was competing for both events ?

Answer.—(1) (a and b) The Rules of Golf Committee is of opinion that it is hardly possible to play match and score play at the same time in a satisfactory manner or without infringing rules. As the players did not violate any rule they should not be disqualified, provided that playing in both competitions was sanctioned by the Committee. Otherwise the players should be disqualified for both competitions. (2) No.

244. Victoria Golf Club.—(1) The order of the holes, which, on account of its being a public course, is subject to frequent alteration, is posted on the notice board. Without any change being notified on the notice board, the 6th and 7th pins were transposed. A competitor played the first five holes according

to the notice board, and, discovering the seventh pin in the sixth hole, he discontinued recording his score, and protested against the competition being recognised. He returned no card. Should his protest be sustained, or should he have continued playing in the order according to the notice board and returned his score? (2) Is a competitor entitled to have his score recorded in a medal competition while playing in a hole competition?

Answer.—(1) The competitor should have continued to play the holes in the order posted on the notice board, and would only have had a reasonable cause for complaint had this order been altered. The fact that the flags had been exchanged seems to have been an accident. (2) The Rules of Golf Committee is of opinion that it is hardly possible to play match and score play at the same time in a satisfactory manner, or without infringing Rules. The competitor should be disqualified for both competitions.

245. Lydney Golf Club.—An American knock-out handicap tournament was played in three groups. The conditions state that “each competitor must play eighteen holes under handicap Match Rules with every other player in his group.” On two occasions three competitors played a three-ball match. On one occasion the competitors agreed not to play stymies. On the other stymies were played. Should the results of these matches count?

Answer.—Three-ball matches have special Rules, and cannot be deemed to be played under the conditions quoted, viz., Match Rules. As the competitors did not comply with the conditions of the tournament the results of these matches do not count.

246. 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 refuse 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.

247. Peterhead Golf Club.—If a ball lies on a mole hill, may part of the mole hill be removed so long as the ball does not move ?

Answer.—Yes, a mole hill is a "loose impediment," (see Definition 12) and can be removed or lifted in accordance with Rule 12 or Rule 28 (1), without penalty, so long as the ball is not moved. A mole hill is, however, "damage caused to the course by animals" for which it is advisable, where these obstructions are common, to frame a Local Rule.

248. Caledonian Golf Club, Glasgow.—The monthly medals are competed for in two classes, and the winners in each class compete together for a final prize, as well as a monthly prize. In January, A and B tied in Class II. Under a Rule of the Club, ties have to be decided on or before the day of the next monthly medal competition, and the result immediately notified to the Secretary by the winner, and members failing to play off, or advise as above, forfeit any claim to any prize or place which would otherwise belong to the winner. The Committee was aware that A and B had tied. A and B did not manage to play off their tie. B informed A that he could not meet him and therefore scratched. A, however, never notified the Secretary of the fact, and at a Meeting of the Committee in February, A and B were disqualified for the January competition in terms of the

Rule quoted. The custom of the Club with regard to the monthly medals is that if the winner has already won a monthly medal the competitor with the next best score is qualified to compete in the final competition. A had already won a monthly medal. Should the disqualification of A and B debar B from competing in the final competition ?

Answer.—Under the Rule of the Club the Committee were within their rights in disqualifying A for the January competition, as he had failed to give notice to the Secretary that B had scratched. By the custom of the Club B was entitled to qualify as a competitor in the final competition because he tied with A. Even if he had played off the tie and had been defeated his position would not have been affected so far as the final is concerned.

249. Northfield Golf Club.—On a medal day, a severe storm prevented the majority of members starting in the competition until 3 p.m., and as the Secretary and his partner A were the last to reach the first tee at which there were several couples waiting, the Secretary suggested to his partner that they should start from another tee as he was afraid that, otherwise, they would be unable to finish on account of the light failing. A subsequently returned the lowest nett score and was awarded the medal prize; afterwards a protest was lodged with the Secretary on account of A not having started from the first tee. The order and times of starting are not balloted for. Under the above circumstance is A disqualified ?

Answer—In the absence of a Local Rule allowing play to start from different teeing-grounds, A should be disqualified for not playing the stipulated round, *vide* Stroke Rule 1 (1).

250. Royal Wimbledon Golf Club.—Party A start away from the first tee, and play round to the 14th green. Party B start away after party A also from the first tee. While party A are on the third tee, party B cut across from the 1st green to the 5th tee, from which place they play round to the 16th green. When party B are almost on the latter green, party A cut across from

the 14th green to the 17th tee, at which they arrive just before party B, and proceed to drive off. Party B object to this procedure and wish to drive off first. Previous to this neither party has interfered with the other party's game. Which party is entitled to the precedence? Party A contend that as party B cut out holes during the early part of the round so getting in front of them, party A are entitled to cut in in front even though by so doing they interfere with party B's game. Party B contend that they are entitled to continue their game uninterrupted except from party A or other parties coming up from *behind* them in the usual course of the game, and that party A are not entitled to chip in immediately in front of them if by so doing they interfere with party B's game.

Answer.—There is no Rule which provides for the case. Where "cutting in" is permitted by the regulations which govern play on a course, it is an accepted custom not to exercise the right unless there is no chance of delaying other players. Both parties A and B were playing the holes out of their proper order. When party A cut in at the 17th hole, and delayed party B, they were not conforming to the usual and accepted custom of the game.

251. Harrogate Golf Club.—A three-ball match was in progress and not interfering with anyone on the course, when a single, which had missed out certain holes, cut in at the 10th hole and held back the three-ball match, refusing to let it go past them. Which match had the right of way?

Answer.—The three-ball match. A match which does not play the holes in their recognised order, has no standing.

252. Royal Portrush Golf Club.—At the seventeenth hole a wire netting fence is placed to prevent balls from going out of bounds. On the top of the netting there is a stretching wire, which was not properly fastened to the netting, leaving a space between the two. A player's ball stuck between the netting and the wire, and the ball was "equally divided by wire and netting." The Local Rule reads: "At the 17th hole a ball lying at the

far side of the wire netting beyond the green is out of bounds." The question is—Was the ball referred to "out of bounds" or in play?

Answer.—Under Rule 6 "A ball must be played wherever it lies except as otherwise provided for in the Rules and Local Rules." The Local Rule of the Royal Portrush Club seems to refer to a ball lying on the ground beyond the fence and not to a ball stuck in the fence. Even under the out of bounds definition (Definition 9), a ball is not deemed to be "out of bounds" unless the greater part of it is within the prohibited area. The Committee therefore thinks that no exception to Rule 6 is established, and that the ball should have been played from its somewhat ambiguous situation.

253. Kirkcaldy Golf Club.—In a match competition A drove from the seventh tee, and neither he nor B nor either of their caddies saw where the ball went, owing to the strong sun in their faces. The course is not very wide at this part and is bounded by a burn and hedge on one side and a railway on the other, both out of bounds. B thought he got a glimpse of the ball going towards the railway. As there were no players behind, A and B searched the course for nearly ten minutes and then agreed that A should play another ball from the tee with loss of distance and leave the matter to be decided by the Committee on the completion of the round. The course is perfectly clear and open and a ball lying on it would be easily seen. Was the ball a lost ball, or was A entitled to claim that it was out of bounds under Rule 23, paragraph 2, part 2?

Answer.—The Rules of Golf Committee is of opinion that A was, under the circumstances, justified in assuming that the ball was out of bounds, *vide* Rule 23 (2).

254. Fulneck Golf Club.—In a stroke competition A sliced a shot which he thought went out of bounds near the green. He dropped another, holed out with it, and went to find his first ball. Not finding it "out of bounds" he searched within bounds, and

found it there. A had no doubt that the first ball was out of bounds. Is A disqualified, and, if not, which ball should he count for the score of the hole ?

Answer.—A must be disqualified. He unfortunately made a mistake by presuming that the ball he originally played was “out of bounds.” Having holed out with the second ball it is too late for him to begin a search for the first ball, and be allowed to continue his play with it.

255. Huddersfield Golf Club.—A and B played together in a stroke competition. The course was crowded. At one hole B played two consecutive balls on to ground which is out of bounds. A’s caddie went to look for them but had not found them by the time A and B had holed out, whereupon A and B both went back, and B immediately found both balls. A and B had returned to the next tee before the following couple had holed out. The couple in front had holed out before A and B struck off from this tee. (1) Did either A or B infringe Stroke Rule 2 (1) ? (2) Should A and B have given way to the couple following them ?

Answer.—(1) No. (2) A and B evidently hoped to save time by leaving the caddie to look for the balls which were out of bounds, and were justified in returning as the caddie had failed to find the balls. The better course for A and B to have taken would have been to have looked for the balls when they reached the spot where they were likely to find them and to have allowed the next couple to pass.

256. Glasgow Teachers’ Golf Club.—In a foursome match, in which A and B are partners, A drove from a certain tee. As there was reasonable doubt as to the ball being within bounds, B drove a second ball (Rule 23 (2)) which he lifted before satisfying any of the players that the first ball was within bounds, as it afterwards turned out to be. The hole was played out with the first ball, and halved. The point is whether the lifting of the second ball before the other was found gave the hole to the opponents ?

Answer.—No, provided the first ball was found within five minutes after the search for it had begun. The second ball was a provisional ball. By picking it up B exhausted his rights under Rule 23 (1 and 2) and had to depend on finding his ball within bounds in order to have a ball in play.

257. Radyr Golf Club.—(1) A player, thinking a shot out of bounds, plays a second ball. The second ball goes out of bounds and he then plays a third ball. The second ball is found out of bounds. Having searched for the first ball, he fails to find it within five minutes and gives it up as lost out of bounds. He then continues play with the third ball, but subsequently finds his first ball in bounds. Instead of continuing to play with his third ball, he holes out with his first ball, which he has already given up as “lost out of bounds.” Is he entitled to do this? If not, what is the penalty? (2) Is a player who has already given up a ball as “lost out of bounds,” but which he subsequently finds in bounds, entitled to continue playing with this ball on the ground that the necessary time limit of five minutes has not been exceeded before the actual finding.

Answer.—(1) Having searched for five minutes, the player's first ball should have been presumed to be out of bounds and the player should have at once continued his game with the provisional ball. As the player did not do this he loses the hole in match play and is disqualified in stroke play for holing out with a wrong ball. (2) A competitor who has wrongly concluded that his ball is out of bounds, and has, therefore, played a second ball, must continue his game with his first ball on coming up to it, as the time limit of search has not been exceeded. See Rule 23 (2).

257a. Church Stretton Golf Club.—In match play a ball was driven from the tee and pitched about 10 to 15 yards from the boundary fence on the steep side of a hill running down to this fence. There are a very considerable number of low-growing

gorse bushes at or around the place where the ball fell. It was impossible to see whether the ball in fact did pitch in one of these gorse bushes, but unless it did so or in rolling was caught by a gorse bush, it must certainly have jumped or rolled out of bounds. Search was made for the ball both in and out of bounds, but it could not be found. Is this ball to be treated as a lost ball or a ball out of bounds? There is no Local Rule bearing on the point.

Answer.—Only those who saw the play can determine whether it is more probable that the ball was lost “out of bounds” or on the course. If a search of five minutes was made for the lost ball, and the player and his opponent were still in doubt as to whether the ball was lost on the course or lost “out of bounds,” the player was entitled to presume that the ball was “out of bounds” and to continue his play under the conditions stated in Rule 23. The difficulty suggested by this question frequently occurs on courses where hazards, such as gorse, adjoin an “out of bounds” area; under such circumstances a player gains a great advantage if he can presume that his ball is not lost on the course, but is lost “out of bounds.” This difficulty will always exist until a ball “out of bounds” is treated in the same way as a ball “lost” on the course. The Rules of Golf Committee begs to call the attention of the Church Stretton Golf Club to the fact that, in order to get rid of this difficulty, a Local Rule for Stroke Play may be made in accordance with Rule 23, Note (a), and for Match Play in accordance with Note (b). If the Church Stretton Golf Club does not wish to adopt the penalty of the loss of the hole for a ball “out of bounds,” it might get over the difficulty by altering its out of bounds boundary so as to include the gorse in the prohibited area.

Note.—When a player or his opponent are in doubt as to the position of a ball it is important that the “search” should be made *on the Course*.

258. Brighton and Hove Golf Club.—A and B drive from first tee in medal competition. B slices his ball, and assumes it to be out of bounds. The caddies say it is in bounds—so provisional ball was not played from the tee. According to Rule 23, clause 2, A and B proceed to supposed spot—the ball not being seen, B drops another ball and plays one stroke, and then immediately discovers his first ball in bounds, and with which he completes his round and makes the best net return, 71. Should the Committee disqualify B? Does Rule 8, clause 2, Stroke Competitions, apply? and can the provisional ball, wrongly played, be ruled out?

Answer.—B is disqualified. If he searched for his ball for five minutes without finding it, he was entitled to assume it out of bounds, and to play another ball from the tee, but from no other place. If he did not search for five minutes he had no right to attempt to continue his game with another ball. It is evident that in the case submitted, there was a doubt whether the first ball was out of bounds.

259. Merchants of Edinburgh Golf Club.—A player in a stroke competition playing from the 15th tee sliced his ball, which went over a wall (9 ft. high) and out of bounds. He then drove off another ball from the tee and immediately thereafter went to satisfy himself regarding the first ball which he found within the course. Thinking it had struck a tree and re-bounded, he played it out. After holing out, however, the player was informed by another member of the Club that when he (the other member) had been over the wall looking for his own ball he had thrown the first ball, which had been out of bounds, back on to the course. The player informed the Committee on his return to the Club House. Was he right in playing the ball? If not, was he disqualified? If not disqualified, was there any penalty attaching?

Answer.—The competitor is disqualified as he did not hole the stipulated round.

260. 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)).

261. 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 penalised; 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.

262. 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.

262 (a). Hallowes Golf Club.—*Rule 23 (1).*—A teed his ball on a sloping part of the teeing-ground and drove his ball out of bounds. He claimed the right to tee the ball for his next stroke on any part of the teeing-ground, and not necessarily “as nearly as possible at the spot from which the ball which is out of bounds was played.” (1) Does the rule give to a player the right to play his next stroke from anywhere within the bounds of the teeing-ground as defined by Def. 4? (2) What is the penalty, if any, in match and stroke play respectively, if the player does not play his next stroke as nearly as possible at the spot from which his ball was played out of bounds?

Answer.—(1) No. (2) Loss of hole in match play, disqualification in stroke play.

263. Rosslare Golf Club.—In a stroke competition A played a ball from the 10th tee which she thought was possibly out of bounds and then played a provisional ball. On coming to the place where the first ball lay it was found on the top of the fence (which was, in fact, out of bounds). A, thinking the ball was in bounds, played it and lifted the provisional ball. Before playing her next stroke she was informed that the top of the fence was out of bounds—this being a local rule printed on the back of the scoring card. A then went back to the tee and played a third ball. Was A entitled to play the third ball under the two stroke penalty rule (Rule XI. Stroke Competitions) or was A disqualified for playing the out-of-bounds ball or for picking up the provisional ball with the intention of proceeding with the out-of-bounds ball?

Answer.—The player was disqualified for playing the ball which lay out of bounds. If the competitor had not played from “out of bounds” the provisions of Stroke Rule 11 would have been applicable to the ball which had been played provisionally.

264. Burnham and Berrow Golf Club.—A and B are playing a match. A's ball is in rough grass. His caddie sees a white object, partly concealed by grass, which they assume to be the ball. A plays, but finds that the white object is a piece of paper. A's ball is found about 2 feet away, but not visible at the time he played. B claims that A, having played at what he supposed was his ball, must count a stroke under Definition 13. Is this correct ?

Answer.—As the paper was not "the ball," no penalty was incurred. Under the provisions of Rule 22 (1), this incident need not have occurred.

265. Hampstead Golf Club.—Is a pitching and putting competition a stroke competition within the meaning of Stroke Rule 2 ? A competitor sheltered from rain during the progress of the competition : should he be disqualified ?

Answer.—If a pitching and putting competition is conducted under the Rules of Golf, Stroke Rule 2 applies, and a competitor who shelters from rain should be disqualified.

266. Worthing Golf Club.—In a bogey competition a competitor played his second stroke at the 16th hole into a bunker. Disgusted at the shot he dropped another ball, and saying "This is how it ought to be done," drove it over the bunker and over the green. He holed out with his original ball. Did he incur any penalty ?

Answer.—Yes. The player is disqualified for that hole.

267. Berlin Golf Club.—In a stroke competition, a competitor missed an approach shot, dropped another ball and played it towards the green. He holed out with the original ball. The Committee disqualified him. (1) Was the decision correct, either under Stroke Rule 4 (2), or any other Rule ? (2) What, if any, is the limitation upon the playing of practice shots other than "before starting" in stroke competitions ?

Answer.—(1) By the custom of the game the competitor should be disqualified. (2) After teeing his ball for the first stroke in a stroke competition, a competitor may not play a practice stroke at any tee or during the play of any hole.

268. Royal Montreal Golf Club.—If a player when playing through the green, before taking his stance, takes a practice swing at more than a club's length from the ball and accidentally scrapes the ground, or breaks a blade of grass, does he lose the hole in match play, and does he lose two strokes in medal play under Rule 15.

Answer.—In Rule 15 the words “before striking” indicate that the player is within striking distance of the ball, and is about to make a stroke, though he may not necessarily have taken his stance. This Rule was not framed with any reference to practice swings, which are permissible provided Rules 10, 15, and 22 (1) are not infringed. The player incurred no penalty in the case mentioned by the Royal Montreal Golf Club.

269. North Middlesex Golf Club.—A player on the putting-green when finally addressing his ball presses the club on the ground immediately behind the ball by a combined forward and downward pressure, not necessarily improving the “lie” of the ball, but the pressure is either admitted or is evident by the bowed appearance of the shaft of the putter. (1) Is such player penalised under Rule 15 by the loss of the hole, and if so, (2) in a match play competition is a player disqualified under Rule 2, “Special Rules for Match Play Competitions,” if he waive his right to claim the hole against his competitor, who has committed the above breach of rules?

Answer.—The Committee is of opinion that the player loses the hole under Rule 15 if the fact of undue pressure is established, but would point out that a shaft which has much spring may bend very easily. Under Special Match Rule 2 a

competitor is not permitted to waive any penalty incurred by his opponent, but would have to be aware that his opponent was infringing the rule before he himself could be deemed to waive his right to claim the hole. As a rule "through the green" the result of undue pressure is seen on the ground. On a dry putting-green, where no mark is left, the case is difficult to prove.

270. Grantham Golf Club.—The two matches, A and B and C and D, who started from the first tee in that order, sheltered from a rainstorm on the third tee. On resuming play C and D go off before A and B without asking permission to go through them, but also without any objection being raised by the latter. Before C and D are out of range, and therefore before A and B can drive off, another match, E and F, reaches the tee and claims the right to go through A and B. Have they this right ?

Answer.—The Rules of Golf Committee is of opinion that players should keep their places on the green and not delay the play by sheltering from slight rain. When bad weather stops play at a certain point, a golf course becomes congested ; but it is very unusual for players who have started after a storm to pass others who have been delayed by it.

271. Portishead Golf Club.—If two players play one ball against the bogey score of the course are they treated as a "single player" in terms of Rule 1 (2) ?

Answer.—Yes.

272. Toryglen Golf Club.—1. What constitutes a professional golfer ?

2. Any person who makes a living from sale of clubs, etc., is he termed a professional, and if so, is he entitled to join an amateur club and take part in competitions ?

Answer.—1. The term "professional golfer" is usually applied to players who receive payment for teaching or playing the game.

2. The definition of an amateur golfer, as framed by the

Amateur Championship Delegates, debars a person who "makes clubs for sale," but does not debar a person who "makes a living from the sale of clubs," from entering for the Amateur Championship. It would, therefore, seem that the latter is entitled to join an amateur club and take part in its competitions.

273. Birstall Golf Club—A and B are playing a match under handicap, A having to give B 9 strokes. B produces a card showing where he takes his strokes. At the 16th hole A is one up, B states he has one more stroke to come which he claims to take at the 18th hole. A questions this, thinking the stroke should be taken at the 17th hole; B produces his card, however, which shows that the stroke should be taken at the 18th hole. B wins the 17th hole without a stroke, and halves the 18th with a stroke, halving the match. The next morning A refers to a bogey card and finds the stroke should have been taken at the 17th hole and not at the 18th, other strokes being taken correctly. On communicating with B, he ascertains that B was using an obsolete bogey card. The match was referred to the Committee. What must they do? A claims the match, B claims a half. The match was played in the late evening, and there was no opportunity of referring it to the Committee that evening.

Answer.—A's action at the 16th hole amounted to a protest, and consequently his rights were preserved. A won the match.

274. Brecon Golf Club.—A and B played a match. At the 7th hole A's ball lay in a ditch, under a tool box which spans the ditch. The box was too heavy to remove. A lifted his ball, and dropped it in the ditch about the same distance from the hole, clear of the box. There is no Local Rule for the tool box. The players were doubtful whether a penalty had been incurred. Without a penalty A won the hole, and with a penalty of one stroke the hole was halved. B lodged no protest before striking off from the 8th tee. On the following day B wrote to A

claiming that the match was halved, as he should have won the 7th hole. B won the 18th hole, and A states that, as the match was over at the 17th hole, he did not play the 18th hole carefully. (1) Does Rule 11 cover A's action in dropping without penalty? (2) Can B's protest, received next day, be entertained? (3) Was any penalty incurred by A? if so, what penalty?

Answer.—(1) Yes. (2) No. (3) No penalty was incurred. If he wished to do so, B should have made his protest before A played from the 8th teeing-ground. In any case, A's action was warranted by the spirit of Rule 11. In the case of uncertainty as to whether a penalty has been incurred by a player, the opponent must inform the player, before striking off from the next teeing-ground, that he desires the question to be settled by arbitration.

275. Rothesay Golf Club.—In a stroke competition of one round, a putting-green was mown a considerable time after the competition was started, and while it was still in progress, with the result that the later players putted on a newly cut green. Is this sufficient ground for declaring the competition null and void?

Answer.—Yes.

276. Military Gymkhana Club, Mauritius.—What constitutes a recognised Golf Club? Is any form of registration necessary?

Answer.—The Rules of Golf Committee is of opinion that a recognised Golf Club is one which has regularly appointed office-bearers. No registration is necessary.

277. Edinburgh Western Golf Club.—In the Club's summer competition the green-keeper, who is a member of the club, made a new professional record of 66. The amateur record of 64 is held by another member. Did the Secretary act wrongly in publishing this new professional record, knowing the amateur record to be 64?

Answer.—A green-keeper is not *ipso facto* a professional (see the definition of an amateur golfer as laid down by the Delegates to the Amateur Championship Golf Competition). The record score of a course is one made in a scoring competition with the holes and tees in their proper medal position. If the green-keeper referred to is a professional, the score which he made is a professional record.

278. Ripon City Golf Club.—Can a score made in a Bogey competition which is conducted under the Code of the Midland Golf Association be a record of the course ?

Answer.—No. The accepted definition of a record score is one made in an ordinary scoring competition with the holes and tees in their proper medal position.

279. 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 agree 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.

280 Pennard Golf Club.—Is it legal, in grounding a club, to draw it back and forward on the ground (across the line of play) just behind the ball?

Answer.—The latter part of Rule 15 makes it plain that the player may only ground his club lightly. The rubbing described is a breach of the Rule entailing the loss of the hole.

281. Leasowe Golf Club.—A player tees a ball within three inches of the tee-box and claims that he can remove the tee-box as it might interfere with his sighting the ball. Has he this right?

Answer.—A sand box placed at a teeing-ground is a loose impediment and may be removed. It is usual to mark the limits of the teeing-ground with discs, and to place the sand box in a position which does not interfere with a stroke played from the edge of the teeing-ground.

282. Moseley Golf Club.—In a mixed foursome stroke competition, it was the gentlemen's turn to play off at a certain hole. There were two tees. On the back one there was simply a sand box, and on the front one a sand box and the limit irons with the number of the hole marked on them. The gentlemen drove from the latter tee. Their score has been objected to on the grounds that they drove from the wrong tee. Were the gentlemen in question right in playing from the marked tee, or should they be disqualified?

Answer.—If the conditions stated that the men were to drive from the back teeing-grounds, the players are disqualified. A sand box, however, does not properly indicate a teeing-ground in terms of Definition 4.

283. Mid-Surrey Ladies' Golf Club.—A and B enter for a Medal Competition by writing their names on a starting time sheet. On the programme was stated "a Member of the Committee will be at the first tee to give out cards and start the competitors." A and B were the first to arrive, but no Member of the Committee was present then; but, according to previous custom, the Secretary's clerk was there to give out cards and take sweepstakes, until a Member of the Committee came. A's and B's cards were laid on the table. A took hers, and owing to the clerk being engaged in entering her sweep in his book, he did not notice that B had not taken her card. A and B then moved to leave the tent, whereupon the clerk asked B if she also was not entering for the sweep (which was optional). She replied that she was not going to play in the Competition, but merely going out to score for A. The clerk states that A made no remark to him whatever, though A says she did. Both then went out of the tent and A started to compete alone. The clerk thought such procedure strange and reported it to the Secretary upon his arrival. Upon enquiring into the matter, the Secretary further found that B was carrying A's clubs as well as acting as marker. Under these circumstances, the Secretary considered that Rule 1 (2) of the Special Rules for Stroke Competitions had been infringed inasmuch as A had not notified the clerk, who for the time being represented the Committee, that owing to the partner she had arranged with deciding not to play, she was in the position of a single competitor, and, as such, it became the duty of the Committee to provide her with a partner or select a marker. A, on finishing her round, was informed by the Lady Captain and the Secretary that, seemingly, she had broken a rule that would entail disqualification of her score, which, it turned out, would have been the winning one. The matter was

submitted to a Meeting of the Committee that afternoon, and after hearing the evidence of the clerk, which made it clear that if he had not happened to ask B, as she and A were leaving the tent, if she was not going in for the sweep, he would have known nothing about B's decision not to play in the Competition. A, who was present and heard the clerk's statement, was then asked for her explanation, and said that she considered the clerk, by allowing her to start, had tacitly given his consent. Asked why she had not informed him of the position she was in owing to B deciding not to compete, and asked his consent to allow her to play alone with B as marker, she replied that she had not done so because she did not consider that he represented the Committee (although she had seen him acting in a similar capacity on many previous occasions), but that had a Member of the Committee or the Secretary been present she would have asked permission, thus admitting that she was aware of the rule on the subject. As a result, the Committee disqualified A under Rule 1 (2). The Committee now wish to know if their decision of disqualification was correct.

Answer.—The Committee appears to have failed to carry out one of the conditions of its programme. When A found that some change had been made in the arrangements, she should have asked the clerk in charge the question:—"Do you represent the Committee?" In the circumstances stated, A had no right to start as a "single competitor" without asking the Committee or its representative to "provide her with a player or select a marker for her and allow her to compete alone." She should therefore be disqualified.

284. York Golf Club.—Under the conditions of a stroke competition no competitor was permitted to start after 2.30 p.m. A arrived at about 10 a.m. and, finding no fellow-competitor, engaged the professional to go round with him and mark his card. Before he had started B arrived, and was invited by A to play with him, which B agreed to. A informed B that he

had engaged the professional for the round. The three played round together, A and B marking each other's cards. They deny receiving any advice from the professional and did not play a match of any kind with him, he merely playing round. The professional was paid by A alone. The Committee disqualified B under Stroke Rule 12, which was a mistake made by referring to a code for bogey competitions, and B appealed against the decision not on the ground that Stroke Rule 12 did not apply, but that he had not engaged, or (technically speaking) played with the professional, who had been engaged by A. Is either A or B disqualified ?

Answer.—A and B are both disqualified. Stroke Rule 1 (2) is quite distinct that competitors shall play in couples. A and B were playing three balls, whatever arrangement they may have made with the third player.

285. Handsworth Ladies' Golf Club.—If three competitors play together in a stroke competition (being unable to find a marker), should they be disqualified ?

Answer.—Certainly. The Rules of Golf Committee would point out that it is the duty of the Committee in charge of the competition to provide for a single competitor (see Stroke Rule 1 (2)).

286. Royal Jersey Golf Club.—In a stroke competition there was a single competitor. As no marker was available, one of the Committee in charge of the competition allowed three competitors to play together with each of the three competitors' consent. One of these three returned the lowest score, but is objected to by another competitor for breach of Stroke Rule 1 (2). Are the three competitors disqualified ?

Answer.—Stroke Rule 1 (2) does not permit three competitors to play together. The rule clearly describes the manner in which the Committee must provide for a single com-

petitor. Even if it be assumed that the member of Committee referred to represented the Committee, the competition was not conducted in accordance with the Special Rules for Stroke Competitions. As the competitors had official sanction to play together, it appears hardly fair to enforce the penalty of disqualification.

287. Sleaford Golf Club.—A and B were playing a game together in a competition against bogey for a prize under match play. From the 2nd tee A drove off two balls, the first out of bounds, the second he was not sure of, and so walked on to see; B went up to the ball he had driven off. A called out to B "I have given up the hole." B accordingly prepared to make his second stroke. C and D, seeing A had given up, shouted "fore" from the second tee and drove off without waiting for B to make his second stroke, and continued to play without waiting for him, as they said he was a single player and had no standing. (1) Had C and D a right thus to pass A and B? (2) Were A and B under a necessity to let all other matches that were following on quickly also pass them because A had given up the hole?

Answer.—B was not a single player. (1) No. (2) No.

288. Cambuslang Golf Club.—In a stroke competition, held on 2nd October, three couples of competitors drove off together from the last tee. It was about 5-30 p.m., and darkness was approaching. They were not the last competitors on the course. Are they disqualified?

Answer.—Stroke Rule 1 (2) does not permit more than two competitors to play together. The competitors referred to are disqualified. Had they completed the round in regular order, and the Committee considered there was insufficient light, the latter would have had power under Stroke Rule 2 (2) to declare the day's play null and void.

289. 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.

290. Courier and Electric Golf Club.—In a hole match a ball lies in a position that compels the player to stand on a slope. Unable to place his feet firmly on the ground when taking his stance (Rule 10) he digs with his heels holes in the turf to obtain a firm footing. The opponent claims the hole under the same Rule on the ground that an irregularity of surface, which affected the player's stroke, was pressed down. Who is correct—the player or the opponent ?

Answer.—The player is correct. It is frequently impossible to place the feet firmly on the ground in any other way.

291. Ballarat Golf Club.—At a certain tee, while a competitor was making his downward swing with the intention of striking the ball, the head parted from the shaft and struck the ground behind the ball. Was this a stroke ?

Answer.—Yes. The intention to strike the ball is admitted (see Definition 13).

292. Ashton-on-Mersey Golf Club.—In a mixed foursome stroke competition there were prizes for the best gross score and the best nett score. A and B returned the best gross score, and tied with C and D for the best nett score. Who should be winner of the best gross score prizes and of the best nett score prizes, as the conditions state that "No competitor may win more than one prize" ?

Answer.—A and B won the prizes for the best gross score and therefore under the conditions stated were ineligible for the handicap prize, which should be awarded to C and D.

293. Rochdale Golf Club.—In a match tournament, A and C took out cards for a stroke competition and agreed to waive stymies and play both competitions at the same time. They were disqualified by the Committee for the match tournament, but their cards were accepted for the stroke competition. It was then discovered that A had agreed with his opponent to waive stymies in his previous round. C contends that A was disqualified for that round, and that therefore he should have had a walk over for the round in which he and A were disqualified. Is C's contention correct ?

Answer.—C incurred the penalty of disqualification for debarring stymies in his match with A. A should have been disqualified for the same reason after his previous round, had the facts been known to the Committee ; but, as they were not known, A and C were playing a round in the competition.

294. Woolton Golf Club.—A and B play together in a medal competition for a Challenge Cup. There is also an optional sweepstake. A and B agree to divide the sweep if either win. Are their competition cards thereby affected ?

Answer.—A and B were within their rights in making their own arrangements regarding the sweepstake, if either of them was the winner. The optional sweepstake is really a separate competition, and any irregularity regarding the division of the sweepstake would not have affected their cards for the medal round.

295. Rochford Hundred Ladies' Golf Club.—Two Golf Clubs—A and B—arranged a team match. Singles in the morning and foursomes in the afternoon. The morning matches were played, but in the afternoon B's Captain announced that one of the B team was unable to play and that another player (who had not taken part in the morning match) would take her place. The A team played the foursomes under protest. (1) Is there

any penalty? (2) Should only the couple, of which the newcomer made one, be disqualified? (3) Or should the whole team be disqualified?

Answer.—In the absence of any conditions to the contrary the Captain of the B team had no other course than to substitute a player for the one who was unable to play, and the team match should therefore stand as played.

296. Burhill Golf Club.—In a foursome A and C and B and D are partners. A's ball is teed up but A misses his drive. B putts A's ball off the tee with his club and instructs his caddie to tee up where A's ball was. A and C claim the hole under Rule 18. —“If a player's ball when at rest be moved by an opponent or his caddie, or his clubs, the opponent's side shall lose the hole, except as provided for in Rules 9 (2), 16, etc.” B claims that under Rule 16 which reads:—“When the balls lie within a club length of each other through the green or in a hazard, the ball lying nearer to the hole may, at the option of either the player or the opponent, be lifted until the other ball is played, and shall then be replaced as near as possible to the place where it lay.”—that A's ball being within a club's length of where he desired to play he was entitled to move it and would have been at a disadvantage if he could not have done so as it was in his way. (1) Was B right in removing the ball—or if wrong, under which rule does his side lose the hole? (2) Is a player entitled to remove from the teeing ground anything which in his opinion interferes with his stance, etc.?

Answer.—B lost the hole for his side under Rule 18. In Rule 16 the words “when the balls lie” etc. indicate that both balls are in play. (2) He may remove any loose impediment including a sand box.

297. 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 penalised two strokes (see Stroke Rule 14).

298. 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.

299. Ipswich Golf Club.—A player drives his opponent's ball from the tee (exceptions A and B in Rule 20 having no application). Can the opponent claim the hole under this Rule, and does it apply to the first shot from the tee ?

Answer.—No, the ball which was played, though not the player's property, becomes the player's ball in play for the hole.

300. 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.

301. 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.

302. Notts. Golf Club, Ltd.—(1) A, B, and C play a three ball match, and play off from the first teeing-ground in the order A, 1 ; B, 2 ; and C, 3. B wins the first hole from A and halves it with C (A and C halve the hole). B claims to play off first from the second teeing-ground, alleging that he is entitled to claim the honour from both opponents ; from A by reason of winning the first hole from him ; and from C because he had (as against C) the honour on the first teeing-ground and halved the first hole with C. (See Rule 4 of the Rules for Three-ball, etc., Matches.) A, on the other hand, contends that B, not having won the first hole from C as well as from himself (A), is not entitled to claim the honour from both opponents on the second teeing-ground. Which view of the position is right ? *i.e.*, what is the proper order of playing off from the second teeing-ground. (2) Would it make any difference if A lost the first hole to C as well as B, B and C halving same ?

Answer.—(1) B's contention is correct. The order is B, 1 ; A, 2 ; C, 3. (2) Yes. In this case the order would be B, 1 ; C, 2 ; A, 3.

303. Enfield Golf Club, Ltd.—Two players play in a bogey competition and score for each other ; another player plays round with them but does not intend putting a score in. Can this be allowed ?

Answer.—No. Playing three balls in a bogey competition disqualifies the competitors because they have not conformed to the condition stated in Stroke Rule 1 (2), that the competitors shall play in couples.

304. 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.

305. Seaford Golf Club.—May a player either brush or touch the putting-green with his hand, away from the line of his putt, to determine if the green is quick or slow ?

Answer.—Yes.

306. Portmarnoch Golf Club.—May a player remove a live worm on the line of his putt by brushing it aside with his club ?

Answer.—Except in the cases mentioned (Rule 28, para. 2) brushing any object aside on the line of a putt is not permissible. The worm is a loose impediment, and may be lifted.

307. Kingsgate Golf Club.—A competitor in a stroke competition lifted (as he said) some wormcasts from the putting-green on the putting line, thereby touching the putting line with his hand. He stated that Rule 28 gave him power to do so. His opponent lodged an objection, saying the putting line must not be touched except with the club. Who was right ?

Answer.—The player was right. Definition 12 states that wormcasts are loose impediments. Under Rule 28 (1) loose impediments may be lifted from the putting-green, and under Rule 28 (2) the player or competitor has the further

right of removing certain loose impediments, including wormcasts, with a club. Touching the line of putt in lifting or scraping aside a loose impediment is provided for by Rule 28 (3).

308. Royal St. David's Golf Club.—In a foursome competition A and B are playing C and D. A and C go forward to mark the drives. They do not see B's ball, but they do see D's ball. A walks across and finding one (a ball outside the match) plays it without further enquiry. C then goes to where he knows his partner's ball fell and plays what he believes to be his, but is then informed that it was his opponents', and finds his own within three yards. Both parties have broken Rule 20, but is C and D's mistake covered "by wrong information given by the opponents" and do they win the hole? The "wrong information" suggested was the playing of a ball not in the match by A, which conveyed to C the impression that the ball he found—just about where his partner had driven to—was the right one. Again, the mistake of A was not discovered and intimated until after the opponent C had played "his next stroke." This would have given the hole to C and D, but this "next stroke was with a wrong ball."

Answer.—C and D lose the hole because C played the opponents' ball (Rule 20 (1)). The action of A, as described, does not amount to "wrong information" (Rule 20 (1) (b)). As A's mistake was discovered and intimated before C played "his next stroke," A is exempt from penalty. The stroke played by C with A's ball cannot be held to be the next stroke of the player.

309. Northwood Golf Club.—A and B are playing the final in a 36-hole match play competition. In playing the 37th hole they both arrive on the green. B holes out, and thereupon one of the caddies volunteers the information that A has two strokes for the hole. A asks B if he has two for the hole and B replies

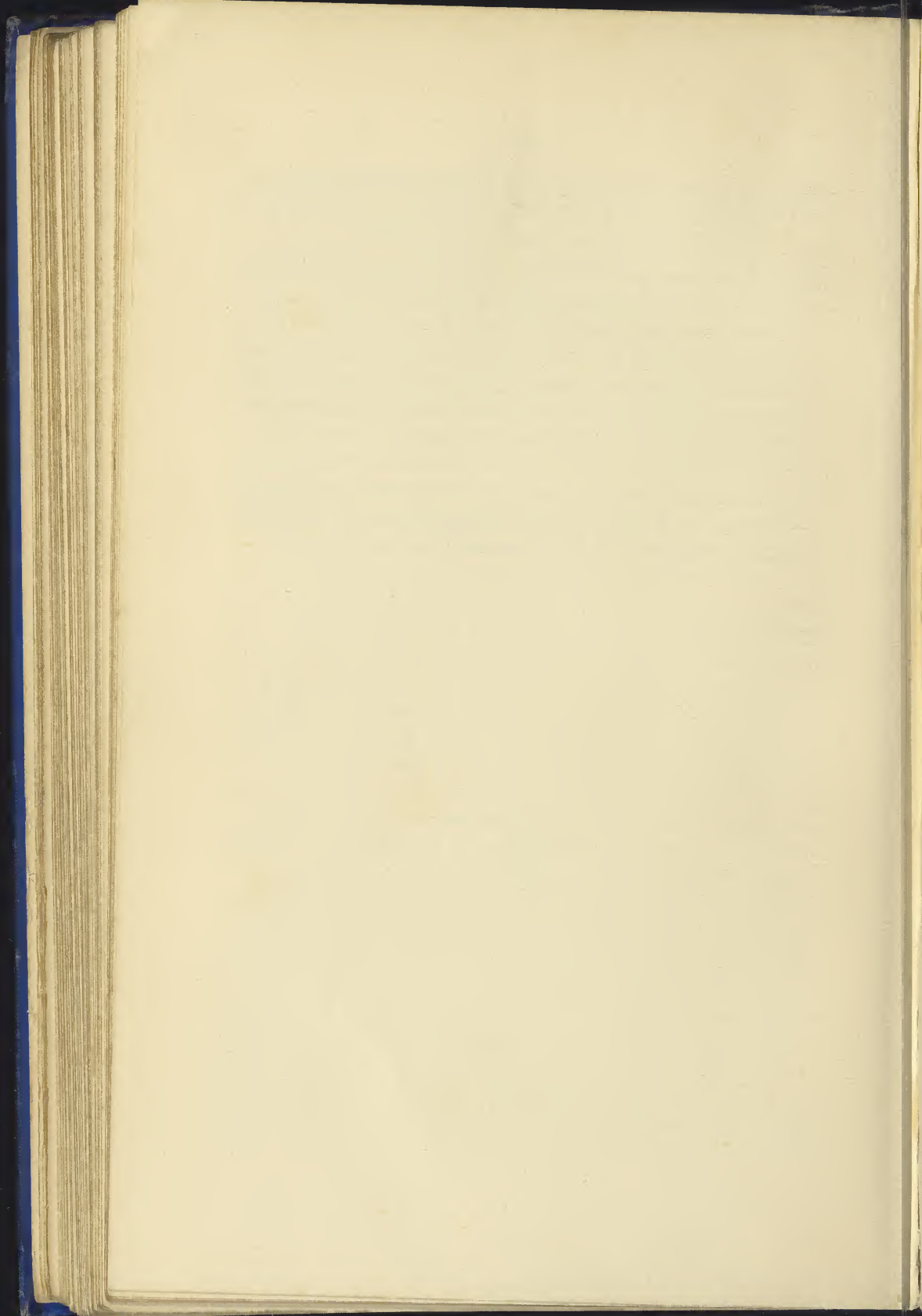
bona fide in the affirmative. A then holes out in 2 and both players leave the green under the impression that A has won the match, but on arriving at the Club House it is discovered on counting the strokes that A did not have two for the hole but only one, and therefore so far as strokes are concerned the hole was halved. Has A won the hole under Rule 4, Sub-section 2 (which seems to be the governing rule) or under any other rule, or does the first part of Rule 36 apply? The latter part does not apply, as by the rules of the competitions all questions have to be referred to the Captain. The arguments appear to be shortly as follows:—A contends he has won the hole and match under Rule 4, Sub-section 2; that it is quite clear that B gave him wrong information, and that he is entitled to “ascertain” the number of strokes by asking if he had “two for it.” B contends that it is evident from the wording of Rule 4 that the framers intended the player to “ascertain” the number of strokes by asking his opponent in the ordinary and straightforward way how many strokes he had played, and that the only reason for using the words “ascertain from” instead of the word “ask” is because “ascertain” implies an obligation on the part of the opponent to give an answer which the word “ask” does not: that had A asked him how many strokes he had played he would have easily been able to state the number, but that he was misled by the form of A’s question which threw upon him the necessity of knowing how many strokes A had played which he was not bound to know: that A, having misled him, though unintentionally, A cannot take advantage of the latter part of sub-section 2 of Rule 4, which can only be read with the first part. B further contends that if A is entitled to ascertain the number of strokes in the way he did he must equally be entitled to ascertain them in any other way he may think fit, a position which might easily lead to grave abuses. Would the answer to the question put in this case be the same if: (1) A and B had discovered the mistake before leaving the green, or (2) A and B were in dispute as to what conversation actually occurred on the

green ; and how, if at all, is the question affected by Rule 36 in the case in point by the fact that A does not claim the hole under Rule 4 until the players have left the green.

Answer.—The conversation which took place is vital to the case, and the decision must depend upon it. A, in asking for information which he was entitled to receive (Rule 4 (2)), chose to use the common method expressly laid down in Definition 21 as to “reckoning of strokes,” and B, in his answer adopted this method, and in doing so gave A wrong information (Rule 4 (2)) and therefore loses the hole.

If B had any doubt as to the number of strokes A had played, he should have stated the fact. Had the question been raised before leaving the putting-green B could have claimed that the matter be referred in terms of Rule 36.





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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.

Rules for Bogey Competitions—B.R.

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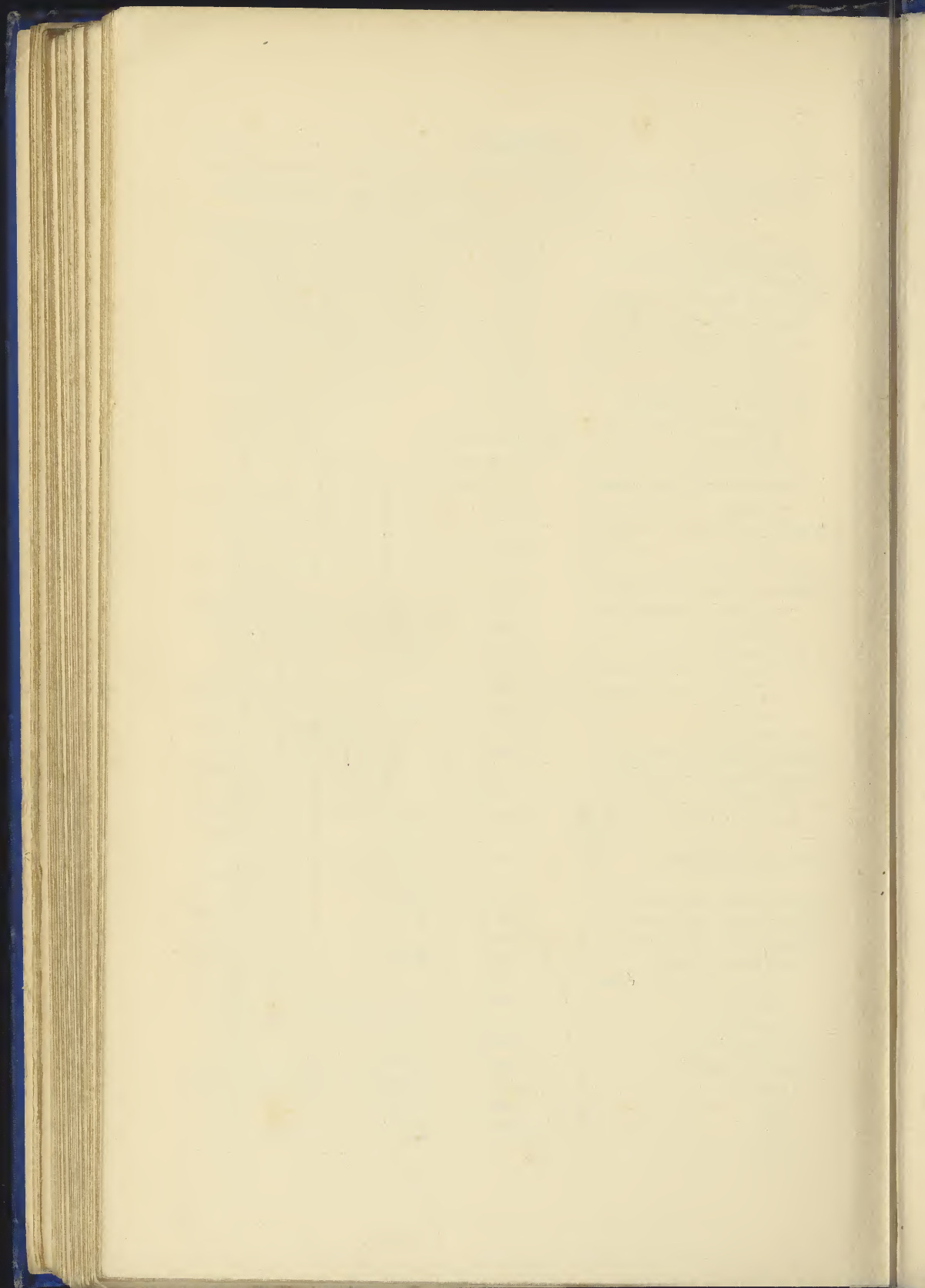
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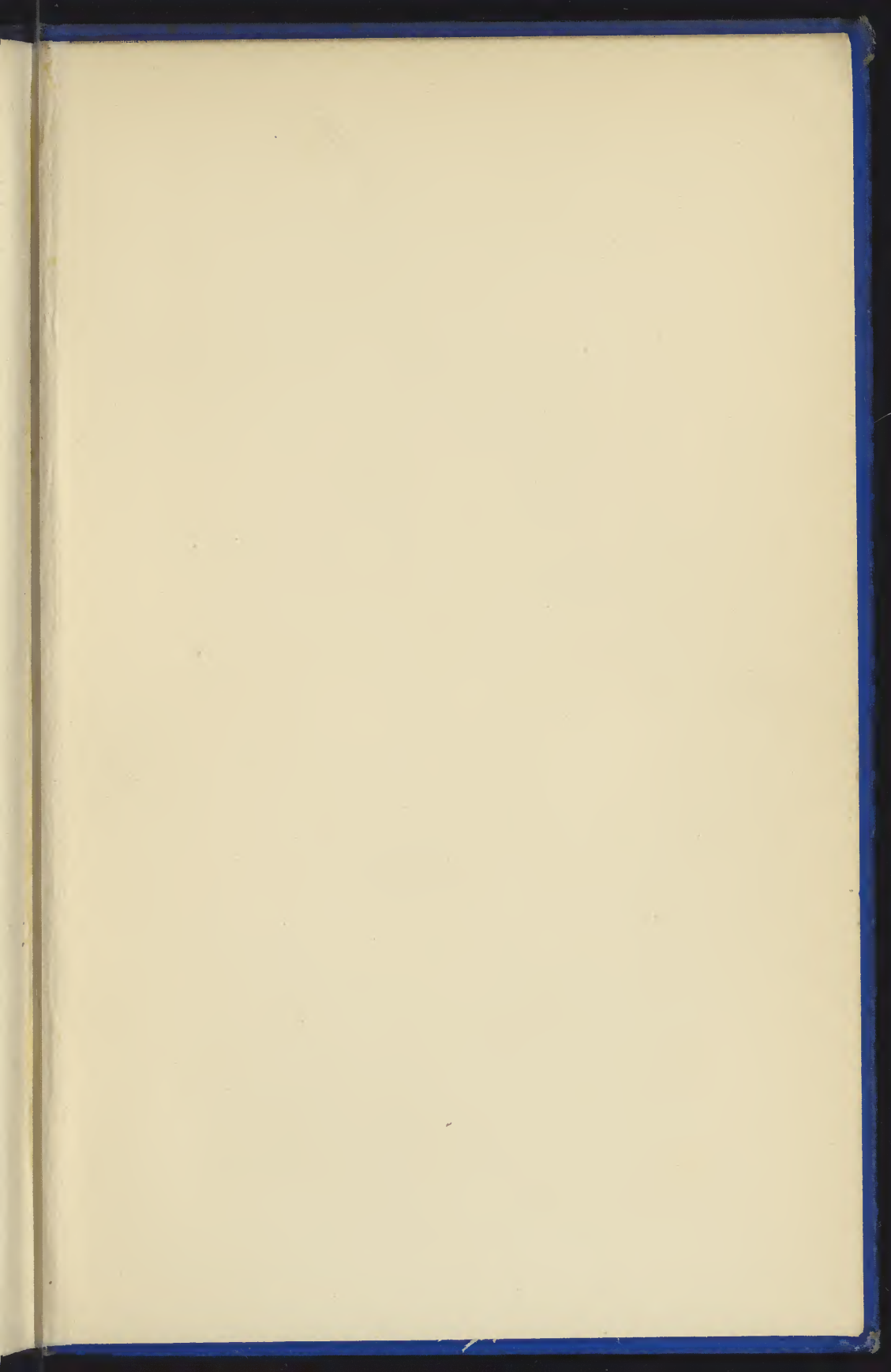
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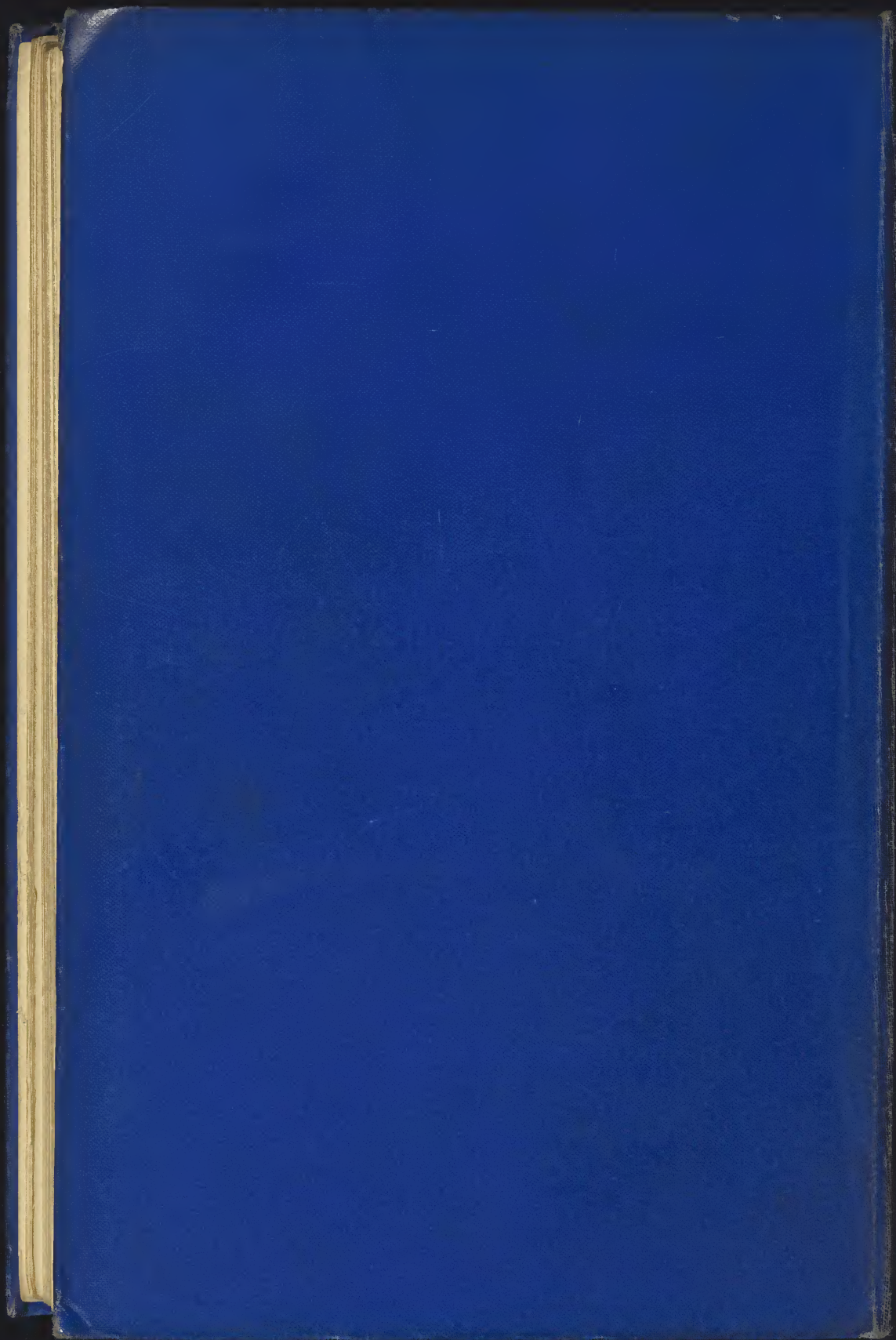
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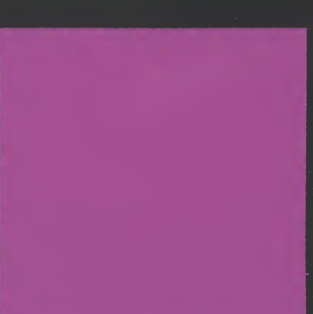
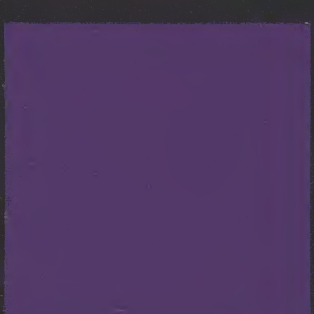
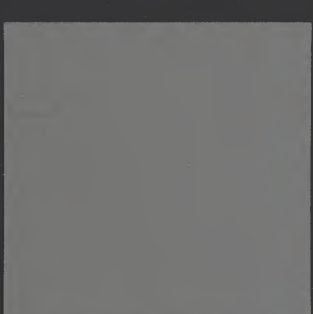
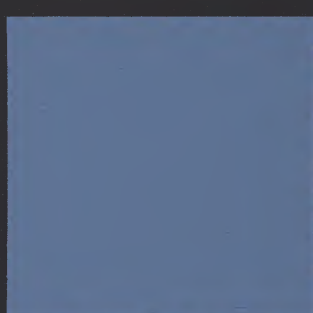
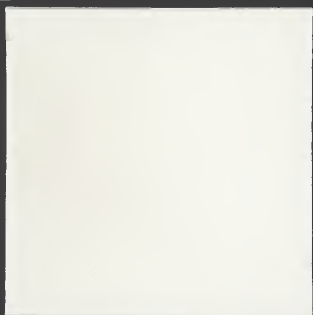
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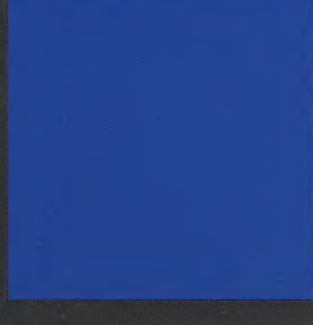
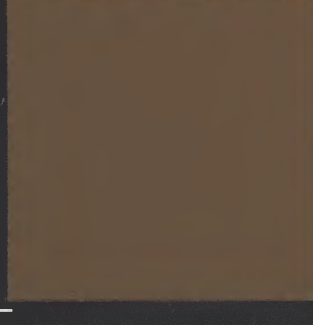
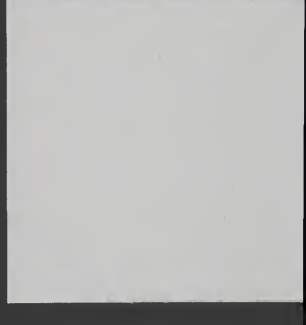
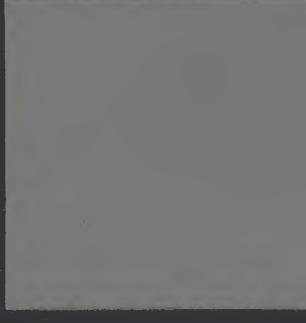
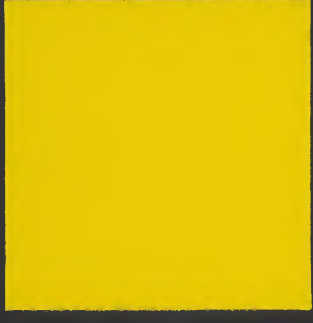
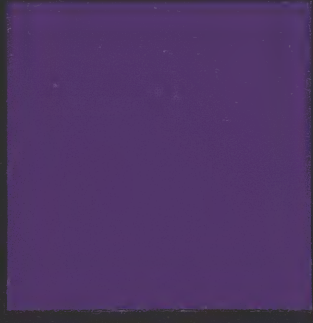
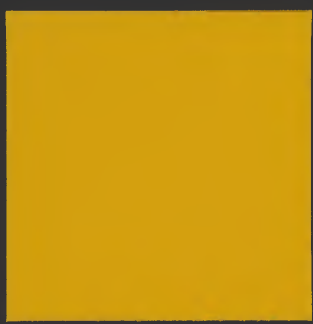


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