

INVITATION TOURNAMENT

Quebec Golf Association Decides to Hold Such an Event September 23rd and 24th Over the Interesting Beaconsfield Course. Leading U.S. and Canadian Amateurs to be Invited.

AN Invitation Golf Tournament will take place over the course of the Beaconsfield Club, Montreal, on September 22 and 23 and will be the first contest of such a nature held under the auspices of the Province of Quebec Golf Association. The Tournament will be an International affair. In addition to the leading amateurs of the Canadian clubs it is intended to invite leading amateurs of the United States to cross the Border and meet their fellow players of the Dominion.

The question of an Invitation Tournament has been under discussion for some time and the matter was finally settled July 25th at a meeting of the Executive of the Association. It is considered that a considerable impetus may be given to the game in the Province of Quebec by gathering together the leading players of this country and bringing some of the great exponents of the game in the United States to display their skill on a Montreal course.

Players who will be invited to enter will be limited to 11 handicap men, the purpose being not to obtain a very large list, but to bring a select field of players together. It is planned to make the Tournament a seventy-two hole match, thirty-six holes being played each day. It is proposed to offer three prizes for the three leading scores. In addition there will be prizes for the best score in each thirty-six and also rewards for the best eighteen holes of each day. In addition to the various prizes offered by the Association, the Beaconsfield Club will donate a Cup to become the property of the winner of the Invitation Tournament.

The Beaconsfield course is admirably situated for such a tournament, with many fine golf holes and ample accommodation at the club house. Those who participated in the Amateur Championship Tournament held there in 1920 retain very pleasant recollections of a good course and a jolly time generally.

The Secretary of the Association, Mr. R. J. R. Stokes, will be glad to receive communications relative to the Tournament and may be addressed at P.O. Box 2722, Montreal.

To draw up the necessary details and to arrange for invitations to amateurs in the United States, a special committee was appointed composed of the following members: C. B. Grier, G. H. Turpin, J. G. Thompson and R. J. R. Stokes.

The "Canadian Golfer" heartily endorses this action of the Quebec Golf Association and trusts that all the leading amateurs of the country will make it a point to participate. Such Tournaments are numerous in the States and there is no question that they have been largely instrumental in improving amateur golf in that country and bringing it up to the enviable standard which it unquestionably occupies to-day.

THE REFEREE'S DECISION

What is an Obstruction? Must it be Something Actual and Physical and Not Imaginary or Fanciful?

(Mr. R. S. Weir, K.C., D.C.L., Montreal)

I WOULD like to add a word or two to the much discussed incident at the 34th hole in our Amateur Championship finals at Ancaster.

The ipse dixit of a Referee is final, as you have pointed out, but it would have been more satisfactory if Mr. Cassels had given reasons for his decision, if not at the moment, then as soon as possible afterwards. For one important

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matter of fact has not been cleared up, viz., What was the size of the piece of paper in question?

This seems to have been generally considered as irrelevant; but I think it of essential importance in a decision of this kind to know whether the loose impediment was of such size or consistency as to be an obstruction.

It must not be too hastily assumed that any movable object is necessarily a loose impediment.

Loose impediments are specially defined as "any obstructions not fixed or growing" and a good deal can be said for the argument that an obstruction must be something actual and physical and not imaginary or fanciful.

Construing Rule 12 strictly and literally there is grave doubt as to whether foreign matter of unsubstantial character not in the way of the swing can be called an obstruction or a loose impediment.

Rule 12 has not the same strictness as Rule 25 which provides that *nothing* can be moved or touched in a hazard if the ball be there. Rule 12 legislates as to "loose impediments" as defined by Number 12 of the definitions.

In short, it seems to me that Mr. Fraser could only have been rightly penalized on the ground that the bit of paper that he moved was actually a loose impediment, i. e., an obstruction within a club length of his ball, but in a hazard.

The *size* of the bit of paper must have been of importance in deciding whether it was a loose impediment or not, i. e., a real obstruction, for it would be folly so to classify, e. g., a postage stamp. Mr. Fraser informs me that the paper in question was 2½ ft. by 3 ft. It was this, probably, that influenced the Referee. If so, his decision can hardly be questioned.

There are some golf-lawyers, however, who contend that if the piece of paper had even been a postage stamp or a railway ticket the decision should have been the same. I cannot agree. *De minimus lex non curat*. Golf-law like other law does not concern itself with trifles. I would, therefore, support the decision of the Referee on the sole ground that the piece of paper was of such size as to form a possible obstruction and was therefore a "loose impediment." If it had been a postage stamp or a lucifer match, for example, that influenced the Referee I would have said he was in error.

An argument showing that "loose impediment" must be strictly construed to mean an actual obstruction may be drawn from paragraph (2) of Rule 12

which provides that, "A loose impediment lying more than a club length from the ball may not be moved under penalty of the loss of the hole."

Let us suppose a watch, a purse, a handkerchief a few yards away. Shall a player be penalized for picking them up? Decidedly not; for the reason that they are not 'obstructions' and therefore not 'loose impediments.'

A BEAUTIFUL COURSE

Guests of the Bigwin Inn, Lake of Bays, are Thoroughly Enjoying a Round of the Royal and Ancient Over the New Sporting 9-hole Links.

PROMINENT guests from all parts of the United States and Canada, who are guests of the Bigwin Inn, the famous hostelry on Bigwin Island, Lake of Bays, are thoroughly enjoying this season the 9-hole course which was only laid out last year, but which is rapidly rounding into first-class shape.



His Honour the Lieut.-Governor of Ontario, Lieut.-Colonel Harry Cockshutt Putting on the Bigwin Inn Golf Course.

The management, with characteristic enterprise, are determined that the Bigwin Golf Course shall be in keeping with the rest of the Inn which is fast gaining a continental reputation. With this end in view they are sparing no expense to bring golf greens and fairgreens right up to concert pitch. The course is unique in every way, virtually being cut out of a forest. All the features of a modern course have been incorporated. The links are so planned as to give ravishing vistas of water and glade from every tee whilst the fairways viewed between towering spruce, balsam, birch and maple, complete the picture. The Inn will remain open until September 30th and golfers will find next month simply an ideal one in which to visit Bigwin Island and enjoy the game over the beautiful sporting 9-hole course there.