

ON THE LINKS For the New Member



Bunkered! Topical Press, Photo.

THE new member, who is, perhaps, also only a novice with recently-acquired enthusiasm for the royal and ancient game, must needs feel her way carefully during the first few weeks of her membership of the golf club which has been the goal of her ambition.

Play is the serious matter at a golf club, and social amenities are generally confined to cliques. Most people arrange beforehand to play a round, and the habit of casually turning up on the off-chance of a game has little success. The friends through whose instrumentality she joined will be ready to play an occasional round with the last-elected member; but if they are good players, while she is still a beginner, she cannot expect to be sure of this every time she looks in at the club in hopes of an opponent.

So long as she does not inconvenience other members on the course she will be wise in going round several times by herself and with a friend until she is familiar with the hazards and has improved her play. Then she may approach the secretary and enlist that helpful person's aid for introductions to other tyros.

Deliberation and delay, ending, perhaps, in a "foozled" drive at the tee while others wait their turn; trying putts over again when the next couple is within range; and leisurely going, stopping everybody from playing through, are habits calculated to annoy other members.

But "plus" golfers can make themselves thoroughly unpopular in their club. Disparaging remarks about a bad partner after a "foursome"; unkind criticism of ungraceful driving; gossip; and copious explanations ascribing every lost match to being not "in form" or feeling out of sorts at the moment, soon weary everybody else. A display of bad temper on the course is a most heinous solecism.

It is not necessary to exclaim to one's partner, "Oh, I'm so sorry," after every miss or bad putt. The best of golfers is, on occasion, off her game, and from personal experience every player is understandingly aware that one has one's bad days.

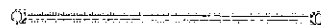
Timely Hints

Don't distract your opponent's attention by talking or moving about while she is concentrating on a difficult putt, or is about to drive off.

Don't stand anywhere but behind your opponent or partner when she is about to drive a ball. It is possible a sliced cut may send it in an unexpected direction.

Don't wear shoes with high heels when golfing. They both spoil your balance when swinging a club, and make little impresses on the smooth turf of the greens.

Don't give the "caddie" a bigger tip than he is entitled to by custom. Most clubs have a standard rate, and it is not quite fair to other players if one member persists in disregarding this.



The night watchman of a large hotel saw an apparition in white moving along the hall at two a.m. He hastened his steps, and tapped on the shoulder what proved to be a man.

"Here, what are you doing out here?" asked the watchman.

The man opened his eyes and seemed to come out of a trance.

"I beg your pardon," he said, "I am a somnambulist."

"Well," said the watchman, "you can't walk around these halls in the middle of the night in your nightshirt, no matter what your religion is."

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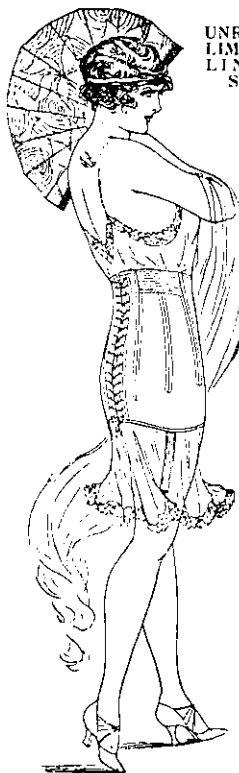
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