

LADIES' GOLF.

Official Notices.

The annual meeting of the English Golf Council was held in London on February 21, 1911. The following rules which affect all clubs in reference to the conduct of the game were passed:—

1. In future any player, not having qualified, in terms of the union, for a handicap for an open meeting, by reason of not having returned a sufficient number of scores during the year preceding the meeting, should be allowed to play at such open meeting on half her handicaps, provided she has returned two scores during the year preceding the meeting, and provided the handicap manager is satisfied that the half is not too large.
2. Instead of having a fixed day for extra scores "a player may make one score a week for handicap, and may choose her own day for doing it, having previously intimated her intention of doing so.
3. A record score is one made in a scoring competition with the holes and tees in their proper medal position.

General.

Miss Nolan, Hon. Secretary of the Gisborne Ladies' Golf Club, reports that Miss Adams, an ex-Hon. Secretary, will continue to carry out the Ladies' Golf Union work in connection with the club. It would be a good thing if clubs generally would put the L.G.U. book into the hands of a capable member who would keep it permanently. It is, perhaps, too much to expect that one member of a club should do the work of Hon. Secretary year after year, but the L.G.U. part of it is very simple when once it is thoroughly understood, and one member might easily thus undertake this special work, leaving to the secretary all other duties in connection with the management of the books, matches, etc. This L.G.U. official should be ex-officio member of the committee and would, of course, work in conjunction with it.

The Otago Ladies' local championship is now being played. Unfortunately the draw brought together almost all the short handicap players in one half, so robbing the final of some of its interest.

The par of the Manawatu Ladies' Golf Club has been altered from 84 to 83, in consequence of an alteration to the course by which a hole of 237 yards is played instead of one of 326.

The Poverty Bay Ladies' Golf Club will play this year over a fourteen hole course, repeating four holes to make the eighteen. The par has been temporarily fixed at 80.

Auckland.

The first round for Mrs. Hope Lewis's Rose Bowl was to have been played on Monday, 24th, but the fact that it was St. George's Day, had been overlooked, and so the links had to be given up to the men, and the match is to be played on Thursday, 27th.

month to month as he improved, but at the same time he would not be so penalised for a win that the subsequent competitions were of no further interest to him.

I see that the Golf Council are moving in the matter of standardising handicaps. It is to be hoped that this project will be pushed along vigorously. The want of something of the sort is brought home to us when we see an Otago player who receives two, easily beating a North Island man whose club assess him at plus 4, and doing this on the plus man's own links. Evidently the Council proposes taking the best men of the Dominion, probably Duncan, Lusk, Wood and Burns as scratch, and working up from that point. It is to be hoped that there will be no suggestion of establishing a plus grade.

The Plus grade has only gained a footing through the sanity of those players who preferred to appear as 6 men when they were really in receipt of 10 from the bona fide scratch player who was played on the plus 4 mark.

Any attempt to standardise handicaps must of necessity entail the standardisation of courses and this will be a step in the right direction. In America courses are standardised strictly on distances. The Ladies' Golf Union standardise, using distance as the main factor, but taking

The Correct Length of Clubs.

THE ADVANTAGES OF A SHORT SHAFT.

To state that a driver should be so many inches from the sole to the end of the grip, and an iron so long, may not be correct reasoning, for much depends upon the stature and physical attributes of the user. Moreover, I have known players standing well over six feet who play with shorter clubs than a diminutive person of five feet or thereabouts; indeed, it seems to be the usual thing for a short person to play with clubs whose lengths seem more adapted to one of greater length and reach. Why this should be I have no idea. Obviously, there can be no standard length, but one can say with perfect truth that a player should use a club whose length places it under his control, and not of a length whereby the position is reversed.

It is a common thing for a player, when gripping his club, to have a couple of inches of the grip projecting above his hands. I am of opinion that when this is the case the club cannot feel well-balanced to the player. If it does, then the construction of the club is faulty. Given a club longer than we are accustomed to wield, we have that feeling when at the top of the swing that we shall never get it back, and we have a mental vision of a missed shot.

The club is not under our control, and we unconsciously overswing. This cannot well be avoided, for the increased length has increased the length of the arc. This can be proved, if proof is necessary, by the simple expedient of tying a piece of string to the head of the club, and by the action of the swing drawing it out of the ball. The longer club will naturally draw more string. But all this proves nothing. If we take a dozen players it would probably be found that they all possess different notions as to the proper length of clubs, each stating the length that suits them best. A few years ago I constructed a driver the length of which, from sole to the end of shaft, was exactly 4 feet 7 inches. This to the order of a player who, somewhat of a theorist, was of opinion that the greater the radius of the swing, the greater the length of drive. To be in keeping with the shaft, the head was of an increased weight. But the player had left one important factor out of his calculations—that of speed. It is generally agreed that accuracy and speed are the two factors resulting in length of drive; that is to say, if a player can rely upon being accurate, then the speed with which the club is travelling is all-important. I have said "it is generally agreed," and he it also understood that timing is equally important. With Vardon, timing has been brought to perfection, and he undoubtedly relies as much upon this as on mere force. If, therefore, one can always "time" a stroke, then theoretically the quicker the swing, the greater the force of impact, and consequently the longer ball. Theories applied to golf are invariably upset in actual practice, and, not being a theorist myself, I have no wish to plunge further into the mire, for Nemesis in the guise of Mr. P. A. Vaile awaits me. To return to the 4 feet 7 inches driver, it was found impossible to swing it at any speed at all, calculated to get a decent length. Many tried it, including my old friend Sandy Herd, who, if my memory serves me rightly, suddenly sat down on the tee at the finish of the swing with a pointed observation regarding the theorist, and for long the club remained in my shop—a curiosity to strangers and the cause of much merriment to members. It might well be that a club of this length would, if used for a few rounds, cure the fault of overswinging, for to bring it over the shoulder would upset the equilibrium of even a giant amongst men. I am not sure but what a driver measuring 42 inches from sole to end of shaft will be found the most useful length for a person of average height. Quite a number of leading players find this to be so. Playing with Mr. E. A. Lassen recently, I commented upon the length of wooden clubs that he uses, and expressed the opinion that shorter ones would suit him far better. He tried them with good results, finding, as I have remarked, that he has greater control, and without the fear of overswinging.

To overswing is to destroy the timing of a stroke, and, as timing is most im-

portant, a club calculated to prevent this drawback must necessarily be an advantage. I have said in another place that the brassie should be of equal length as the driver. How the custom arose of making the brassie a little shorter, I have no knowledge. When our ball is teed, we are closer to it, and playing through the green, farther from it, and yet the brassie is often the shorter club! There seems no sound reason for this; in fact, the more one reasons it out, the more we are inclined to the view that the length should be reversed. A great number of players nowadays play with a brassie alone, both from the tee and through the green. The only difference between the clubs is the loft and the disposition of the weight, which, in the case of the driver, is behind the club, and in the brassie more at the base. This has the effect of getting the ball up quicker. Whether the brass sole was added for this reason or for the protection of the base is "wrapped in mystery." But I am more inclined to the belief that as the brassie was meant for rougher work, the sole was added to prevent premature decay. It would be interesting to hear the opinion of older clubmakers regarding this, and also the reason of the brassie being the shorter club, a fact that does not seem based on sound reasoning. The lengths of the various iron clubs do not call for special comment, except that they should be in accordance with the wooden ones. With the exception of direction, the length of the hole does not enter into our calculations when in the act of driving. It is when we are gazing at the hole from any distance up to 170 yards that we proceed to study the distant flag, and the traps that surround it. With the lengths of our iron clubs the same principle must be laid down; they must be of a length that we can control, for direction is essential, and without control direction is impossible. You who possess wooden clubs of a greater length than 42 inches give the shorter ones a trial, and it may be that you will find, as I have said, that the feeling of confidence is more pronounced. Though Jones or Robinson may get away good drives with clubs of 44 inches, that does not prove anything in your case. They might never have used shorter ones, and their swing is a fixture; or the reach of their arms might be exceedingly short, in which case they must perforce use longer clubs, but the spectacle of a small man using a club of 44 inches is one of those things, once seen, not easily forgotten. Nor is the sight of a 6-foot player bending low over his ball one whit less amusing. Get a driver, grip it at the end, and assume a normal stance. You will quickly discover what feels best, and that is the length that suits you best. To sum up, there is no golden rule regarding length of clubs, but I confess to a penchant for any club—wooden—of 42 inches.

Miscellaneous.

A Millionaire's Course.—It is rumoured that a new club is to be started in the London district, the design of which will be to limit the membership to 250, and keep the subscription high. A first-class city course, on which congestion is thus rendered impossible will be a magnificent thing—for the favoured 250 who are members.

Another Putter Barred.—The rules of the golf committee of the Royal and Ancient Club have declared the use of the Vaile putter to be invalid under the rule regarding form and make of clubs. It is rumoured that the inventor is likely to contest the decision. Rumour, however, does not say how.

A Motor Bet.—On one of the London courses, the other day, a match was played between two millionaire amateurs for a stake of two Rolls-Royce motor cars. The loser is reported to have remarked at the finish that he had never lost £2600 in a pleasure fashion.

A Bridge Question.—The caddy to the Colonel, who is badly bunkered: "What club 'll you have here sir?"

The Colonel: "I don't think I'll have a club at all; I'll have a spade."

FACT AND HISTORY.

Jimmy giggled when the teacher read the story of the Roman who swam across the Tiber three times before breakfast.

"You don't doubt that, do you James?" "No, sir," answered Jimmy, "but I wondered why he didn't make it four and get back to the side his clothes were on."

LAWN TENNIS.

ROTORUA TENNIS TOURNAMENT.

A large number of players took part in the Easter tennis tournament at Rotorua. Mr. Algie, the secretary of the Rotorua Club, had a busy time and deserves credit for the way in which he conducted the tournament. Mr. Orlson, of Auckland, also gave any assistance he could. Following is a list of the winners, with the runners-up, in each of the competitions:—

Men's Championship Singles.—Geo. Elbett (Hastings). Runner-up: L. W. Hawkins (Wellington).

Ladies' Championship Singles.—Mrs. Cooper (Devonport). Runner-up: Miss Barstow (Remuera).

Men's Handicap Singles.—J. W. Melville (Rotorua). Runner-up: R. Fee (West End, Auckland).

Ladies' Handicap Singles.—Mrs. Cooper (Devonport). Runner-up: Miss Wilkinson (Hamilton).

Men's Handicap Doubles.—E. Tonks and K. Duttie (Auckland). Runners-up: Ebbett and Hawkins.

Ladies' Handicap Doubles.—Mrs. Cooper and Miss Harvey (Devonport). Runners-up: Mrs. Kent and Miss Frater (Parnell).

Combined Handicap Doubles.—Miss Frater and P. M. Hanna (Parnell). Runners-up: Miss Reid and Duttie.

ANAEMIC AND RHEUMATIC.

Dunedin Woman Tried Doctor's Medicines Without Success—Cured by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

Mrs C. M. Gollar, 16, Hyde-street, Dunedin, describes how Dr. Williams' Pink Pills restored her to good health when she was both Anaemic and Rheumatic. Mrs Gollar says:—

"I gradually became quite Anaemic and Rheumatic. My face became waxy white. My gums, the inner surface of lips and eyelids were all very pale. The finger nails lost their natural rose pinkness. I completely lost my appetite. My tongue was coated with a dirty yellow substance. I suffered very much from palpitation of the heart; it was so bad I could not sleep for the beating of it. My hands and feet were always cold. I suffered much from shortness of breath, especially if I walked about or did any work I had a peculiar noise in my ears like the buzzing of a bee. I used to have constant and violent headaches all over my head. My ankles and instep used to swell so that my people thought I was getting dropsy. My nerves were very much out of order, and I had shooting Rheumatic pains all over my body, and night sweats, which the doctor attributed to the first symptoms of consumption. He attended me for about three months, but his treatment did me no good. I felt worse if anything. One evening I was speaking to my brother-in-law, when he advised me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, as he had read in a newspaper of some cures performed by them of similar complaints. I bought two boxes, carefully read the directions accompanying them, and started their use, and in about three weeks time I found such benefit from them that I continued them till I had taken six boxes, when I felt perfectly cured of all illness. Before taking Dr. Williams' Pink Pills if I cut my hands there would be no appearance of blood, and after the use of the pills I could feel the blood coursing through my veins. My husband and friends were all surprised at my cure."

The secret of the wonderful success of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills in fulfilling every claim made for them is in the fact that they are never advertised to cure any complaint they have not already cured in a great many cases. We can always furnish absolute proof to substantiate every claim. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are recommended only for complaints that are due to weak, watery blood or run down nerves. They are 3/ per box, six boxes 12/6, from all chemists and storekeepers, and the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co. of Australasia, Ltd., Wellington.