

THE AMERICAN GOLFER will gladly answer any inquiries from subscribers on questions relating to the Rules.

Will the maker of unsigned cheque No. 306 on Old Colony Trust Company, Boston, be so good as to send us his name.

A. No. Rule 22.

The opponent's ball should be lifted. Rule 16. See also answer to T. E. S., N. Y.

W. M. O., N. Y.—"A, B, C and D are playing a four-ball match. A and B are partners. A lies near the hole. B is furthest away from the hole. C and D do not demand that A hole out, but allow B to putt and in putting he strikes A's ball and caroms it into the hole. Can A be obliged to take his ball out of the hole and replace it in its former position, or is he entitled to the benefit of the carom under the circumstances?"

A. A's ball must be replaced. Rule 8, three and four-ball matches.

J. W. H., N. J.—Neither long grass nor woods are hazards; the club may be soled and loose impediments within a club length of the ball removed, without penalty.

C. E. J., MINN.—"I am a 'duffer' looking for information. Not being able to see any true sportsmanship in stymies, they constitute my golfing 'thorn in the flesh.'"

Why should they be played if both players agree not to?

Why should there be a different ruling when the competition is 'medal play'?"

R. A., N. Y.—"Supposing a player in approaching the putting green some distance off the putting green should strike the flag pole in the hole and the ball should remain within five or six inches of the hole, is he entitled to the hole on this stroke or not?"

Also, supposing your partner's (*sic*) ball should be so near yours that you could not play yours without playing his also. What could be done in this case?"

A. Stymies form an integral part of the Code and therefore should be played. They are defensible on the ground that they are capable of being negotiated, by the exercise of the highest degree of skill. In match play, in a competition, it is absolutely essential that *all* contestants should be compelled to play stymies, otherwise great injustice may be worked. The *new Rules* make their playing compulsory, under penalty of disqualification.

Stymies are not played in medal competition for the simple reason that each competitor is playing against the field, and all should be on the same footing.

S. McC. H., PA.—There is absolutely no question as to the soundness and justice of the committee's ruling in the case cited. If a player's ball lie on or within a club length of a drain cover, the ball may be lifted and dropped as near as possible to the place where it lay, but not nearer the hole, without penalty. Rule 10.

A. M. M., N. Y.—Inasmuch as a Local Rule provides that the "strip of long grass and road" is a hazard, a ball lying in or touching same must be treated as in a hazard proper, and the club may not be soled, under penalty of loss of the hole.

T. E. S., N. Y.—"A. and B. are playing together in a competition against Bogey (therefore they are neither opponents nor partners) *sic*. On their second shots both are in the bunker, about nine inches apart, lying on the grass of the steep slope of the bunker proper. A is away, and in playing his ball, carries both balls over the bunker!

Q. Should B replace or play as he lies, and what is the penalty for failing to do the proper thing?

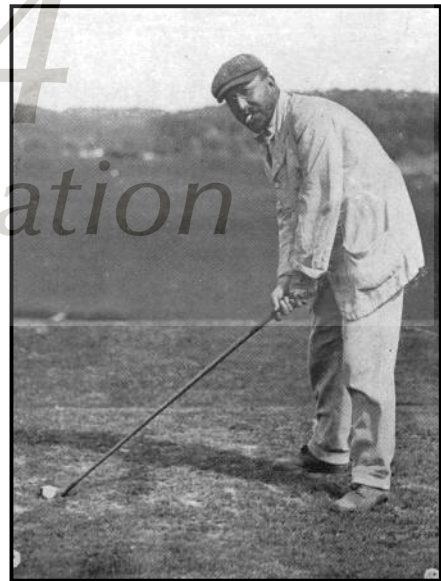
A. As a matter of fact, B did play as he lay, and halve the hole with Bogey."

A. B lost the hole. He should have replaced his ball. Rules 8 and 16, for Stroke Competitions, with U. S. G. A. ruling.

May we be pardoned for saying that in Match Play the players are opponents and in Stroke and Bogey competitions, competitors. They are "partners" only when on the same side in a foursome, a three-ball match and a four-ball match.

W. A. P., L. I.—"How near a hole, or center of a green (where the hole is technically supposed to be) should a pot hole, or pit, be placed?"

A. There is no hard and fast rule governing the location of holes on a putting-green. In Great Britain it is quite customary to have the hole within a few yards of a bunker on several greens—*vide* article in this issue on St. Andrews.



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