



By OUR BRITISH CORRESPONDENT

LONDON, Nov. 10, 1908. —Something of a sensation has just been created by the recommendation of the delegates of the twenty-four clubs governing the Amateur Championship that what we call the championship rota, by which this event is played on each of five specified courses in turn, be abolished, and that it shall be left to the authorities to select a course—any course—each year for the championship of two years ahead. This, if carried into effect, would mean the disestablishment of the Amateur Championship courses, though each of them would still retain rank as being of the six that are reserved for the Open Championship.

This recommendation will have to come before a further meeting of the delegates (when they will have been instructed by their clubs) next May. The best opinion is to the effect that it is too radical and will not pass, and that the present state of things will be maintained. For a long time past there has been much controversy in this matter, Deal, which was recently raised to Open Championship honors, and Westward Ho! having been fighting against each other for recognition by the Amateur Championship authorities, while Ireland has been vigorously demanding a place in the list and there is a party coming up to ask for an inland championship course. Many people here think that the ex-

pression of these strong differences of opinion tends to increasing the prospect of the establishment of a British Golfing Union, which the old school dread.

It has been decided that for the future no player with a handicap of worse than scratch may enter for the Amateur Championship, and this will probably limit the number of entrants by thirty or forty. The number of players who year by year enter shamelessly for this tournament with handicaps of 4 and 5 has become almost a scandal. The weak point about the new arrangement is that clubs' ideas as to what a scratch man is vary so much.

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The new Rules have not gained universal satisfaction and there is already a strong section of the golfing community calling for their emendation. These people are chiefly declaring that the penalty for a lost ball is too severe and for a ball out of bounds too light, and that the penalties in both cases should bear a closer relation to each other. It has leaked out that the meeting of the premier club at which the Rules were finally passed got into some confusion over the out-of-bounds clause, and it is even asserted that it was passed in its present form by mistake, and that the meeting would have got into an absolutely

hopeless mess but for the guidance of Mr. A. J. Balfour, the ex-Prime Minister.

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Efforts are being made constantly to invent a system of scoring in team matches that shall be an improvement upon the one generally in use in this country, namely, that of giving one point for the win and—sometimes—a quarter for the bye. A new system has just been tried in an important match for the first time, this being in the engagement between Oxford University and the strong Woking club. Ten points were awarded for each individual win and one extra for each hole by which the match was won. Thus a win by four and three counted 14 points. Halved matches were ignored. The system has some merit.

The vogue of new links some way out into the country in the London district, constructed and established on the most expensive system, with

many of the features of the American country club, is increasing, and money is being spent like water on some of these enterprises. Two new ones, one at Worplesdon, near Woking, and the other at Stoke Poges, are nearing completion. In each case an expenditure of over £20,000 is involved, and it is said that the Worplesdon course is going to be one of the finest anywhere. Its architects have gone in for a daring innovation in including five short holes in the round, all to be reached with iron clubs. They think five are needed now that courses are so long; but we have no more than three on any other first-class course in this country.

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A curious coincidence occurred on the Tooting Bec course near London the other day in the course of a stroke competition. One of the competitors killed a bird with his ball and holed out with the same shot.

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