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FLORIDA GOLF

By FOOZLE.

During the past month golfers in great numbers have flocked to all of the links in Florida. Every course is looking at its best, as the prolonged rainy season throughout the latter part of December and early in January gave the grass on all of the fairgreens a start such as it never had before.

At Palm Beach the first of the golfers arrived at Christmas, and from the mere handful that tried their first golf

on this day has come the small army of invaders that never tire of this sport.

Among the most notable players who started golf at Palm Beach with the new year are the Hyde family from the South Shore Field Club, Bay Shore, Long Island. As they had to purchase an extra trunk to take away their spoils last year, and then buy a new trophy case to exhibit them in



The golf club-house at Palm Beach.

their home, they are much to be feared. James R. Hyde, a very long driver who may have acquired the habit of long hitting by rooming with Fred. Herreshoff when both were at Sheffield, is the present State champion of this Jungle State. His sister, Miss Lillian B. Hyde, the runner-up to Miss Margaret Curtis in the Women's National Championship this past year, is the women's champion of Florida, and between the two it is feared that one or both of the challenge trophies that only need two wins for permanent possession may get out of the State this season. Another member of the family, Mrs. V. B. Hubbell, formerly Miss Lou Hyde, who was the runner up to her sister last season, is playing the best golf of her life, and in the matches already contested has demonstrated that she has possibilities along championship lines that can make her sister look to her laurels if she wishes to retain them.

With the opening of the Alcazar and Ponce de Leon hotels at St. Augustine the golf season started, and many tourists and regulars have chased the pill over this historic links. G. H. Lyall, one of the best amateur golfers in Massachusetts in his schoolboy days, who has since turned professional, stopped over to see this course, and had several interesting matches before starting on to Palm Beach, where he will be this winter.

A new links is coming into existence at Rockledge, where ground has been cleared and grassed over for a short course. It is not far from the Indian River Hotel, and is ideally situated for the convenience of those who want to change the monotony of fishing and boating by some other pleasant diversion.

Quite a large number of golfers have stopped off at Ormond to see the

new links which is now ready for play. Grass greens and a good fairway are the first two recommendations that meet the eye, but the beauty lies in the fact that the good impression does not wear off as you play over it; for the fairway is good and the greens much beyond the fondest expectations of those interested in the welfare of the course. Mr. H. M. Forrest, well-known for his sterling golf at Lakewood, Palm Beach, and many of the notable tourneys of the North, was one of the first visitors to see the new Ormond layout, and he was very much impressed by what had been done in a short time, to develop a new course of unusual merit. Joe Mitchell, the Florida Country Club professional who makes his headquarters at Cleveland, with his brother and another of the Jacksonville players recently had a round with R. J. McDonald, the Seabreeze professional. The Jacksonville contingent were particularly well pleased with their round, and Mitchell on finishing came out with this remark in speaking of the course to George Merritt, "George, this is a Scotch course in America with tropical furnishings." This indeed is the case for all the holes are laid out over billows, waves and hillocks of sand covered by a thick growth of Bermuda grass, that gives one fine lies throughout the round. Sand dunes and a breath from the ocean give the course a Scotch aspect, but tropical vegetation on all sides, dispels the illusion that you are abroad, when you turn from the sea and look inland.

Like Ormond, the Palm Beach links have undergone many changes, and all the approaches to the greens have been greatly improved. Heretofore it was impossible to judge where your ball was going if a mashie shot was pitched up to the green, but this year

the good shots will be rewarded, for the turf is much firmer and the dividing line between fairway and putting green all but done away with.

The long hole of the course has been shortened 60 yards, so that a very long player can reach the green in two full shots, whereas last year it was neither a two nor three shot hole. It was possible to miss one shot and then get on in three for a bogey 5, but a topped second now will land one in a bunker, and put a premium on two fine long shots.

Arthur Fenn, who intended to give up teaching for a part at least of this season, has slipped on this New Year's resolution, and is making golfers out of all that want to learn the game. He is being assisted at Palm Beach by Fred. Ryall, of Waumbek; G. H. Lyall, Bedford Springs, and Arthur Goss, formerly the pro at Portland, Me.

During February the most important tourneys will be the South Florida Championship for men and the Women's Championship of the State. It is not expected that Joseph P. Knapp, the present title holder of the first named event, will be on hand, but Miss Hyde will certainly defend her laurels, as her entire family are located in the cottage colony at Palm Beach for the winter.

On the West Coast Belleair has opened their golfing season with a large number of enthusiasts. C. T. Parks, of New York, heads the list with a new idea of being able to select the proper club quickly.

Each of his clubs bears a different color paint on the shaft, and as he carries a large number there was not

variety enough in the rainbow to supply him for a round. The various tints and shades are for the clubs seldom used, and the niblick retains its original color, as this is carried only for emergencies, and should never have to be used if the color scheme works, and brings off the shots *as per agreement*.

Mr. Parks took up the game of golf at Bretton Woods some five years ago, and since then has lived on the links. His game has improved remarkably, and while he sees ahead championship laurels, practice is his forte at present. Another interesting golfer at Belleair the past month was the youngest magazine editor in the country, if not in the world, Master William Griffin, of Wheaton, is fourteen years old, and is at present in the South soliciting subscribers and advertisers for his *Young American Golfer*, a publication which he claims already has 2,500 yearly subscribers.

Alex Smith is back at Belleair again and has brought his daughter with him. Alex will teach the same as usual, giving his time up to as many players as possible by dividing his time into fifteen lessons a day.

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He blamed the caddie, he blamed the course,

And he blamed each bloomin' lie;
He blamed the club which he swung with force

And the ball which wouldn't fly.

But the queer part was, as he made each break

And turned on something to blame,
That he overlooked by a sad mistake
The guy who invented the game.

