

DECISIONS BY THE RULES OF GOLF COMMITTEE

Broughty Ferry Golf Club.—A, B, and C were playing a three-ball match. In playing the second shots to a hole A played B's ball and B played A's ball. On reaching the green A and B informed C of the mistake, and C claimed the hole from both. A and B played out the hole on equal terms. Was C right?

Answer—C won the hole from A and B. As to A and B, B cancelled A's mistake (see Rule 20 [a]).

St. Annes Old Links Golf Club.—(1) A and B are playing a match game, both are on the green, it is A's putt, which he holes. B putts for the half, but misses, and *after passing the hole* hits A. Is this (1) a win for A under Rule 1; (2) a win for B under Rule 18; (3) a half under Rule 33? If the latter, what is to prevent a player left with a difficult putt deliberately trying to secure a half by hitting his opponent instead of finding the hole? (2) In a stroke competition "A" sliced a shot which he thought went out of bounds near the green. He dropped another ball in accordance with Rule 23 (2) and actually holed out with the shot he then played. He subsequently discovered that his first ball was *not* out of bounds. What is the correct thing to do? (3) A and B are playing a match game, both are on the green. A putts and leaves himself dead on the far side of the hole. B putts, hits A's ball, and follows on 18 inches past the spot where A's ball originally rested. A claims the right under Rule 32 (2) to replace, but in doing so replaces on a spot which leaves B a stymie. B claims that if the ball was re-

placed in its correct place he would have a clear way to the hole. Who is to decide? (4) In a stroke competition, "A" sliced a shot which he thought went out of bounds near the green. He dropped another ball (in accordance with Rule 23 [2]), but made three successive shots with the dropped ball before reaching the place where the first ball was likely to be and then discovered that the first ball was *not* out of bounds. Is "A" disqualified? If so, under what rule? or which ball should be played from the time when the first ball is discovered to be in play?

Answer:—(1) A half under Rule 33. The Rules of Golf are framed on the supposition that golfers play honestly. If A had conformed to the first clause of the Etiquette of Golf it is very unlikely that the incident could have occurred. (2) The ball which he holed was a provisional ball, and the player should have disregarded it and played out the hole with the first ball. (3) If neither side is prepared to give way it is not possible to come to any decision. (4) The player was entitled to continue to play with the provisional ball until he reached the spot where the first ball was likely to be. On finding the first ball, it should continue in play (see Rule 23 [2]). The words: "In Order to save delay. . .he may at once play another ball" do not limit the number of strokes which may be played with that ball in accordance with the Rule.

Prospect Garrison Sports Club, Bermuda.—A and B have reached

the 17th hole in a match ; A is one up. The 17th hole is a short one, about 180 yards. The green, situated in a deep quarry with perpendicular walls on three sides, is invisible from the tee, owing to an intervening hill. Caddies go up to the top of the hill to mark the tee shots, but cannot see the green. A played his tee shot, and the ball was seen by his caddie to go into the quarry. B takes three strokes to get into the quarry. On reaching the green, A's ball cannot be found. A's caddie then tells him that after the ball went into the quarry he saw a boy come out, and called to him asking whether he had seen the ball. The latter replied "No," and went to the Club-house. After searching for five minutes A gave up the hole as "lost ball"—B won the 18th hole and match. On reaching the Club-house the boy who had been seen coming from the 17th green was caught, and on being searched A's ball was found in his possession. Can A claim under Rule 17 [3] to have his ball replaced on the green after having given up the hole and finished the match?.

Answer—A lost his ball and therefore lost the 17th hole. If A had been able to obtain the evidence of the boy within five minutes of the time when he commenced to look for the ball, he could have availed himself of Rule 17 (3).

Royal West Norfolk Golf Club.—In a match a ball played towards a

certain hole pitched on the fairway of another hole, lying parallel to the hole played at. Before the ball had stopped, it struck a horse-mowing machine which was at work coming towards the player on the adjoining fairway, the knives of the machine cut a large piece off the cover of the ball, and the roller of the machine went over the remainder of the ball, forcing it into the ground. The ball, because of the piece sliced off, became unplayable. What should the player do?

Answer—The player was, in equity, entitled to assume that the ball came to rest before being rolled into the ground. Rule 17 (3) applies. The player could therefore have dropped another ball.

Horsforth Golf Club, Ltd.—In a match neither of the players had caddies. A played his tee shot straight down the fairway and put his driver inside his bag, which was lying against the sand box. His opponent B then played his tee shot, and the ball struck a portion of stone wall and rebounding struck the bag of clubs lying by the box, and belonging to A. B then claimed the hole from A under Rule 18, but A maintains that B was not entitled to this as the clubs were not in what might be termed the "line of play," and having no caddie he was entitled to lean them against the sand box. Which player is right?

Answer—B was right. A lost the hole under Rule 18.

