

CRAPS TO CRICKET

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# NEWS

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## SOME OLD COUNTRY GOLF COURSES

Written for the British Whig by Dr. L. J. Austin, Professor, Queen's University, City.

Last week we played a round on the Bristol and Clifton golf course, a few miles over the famous suspension bridge. Now let us have a tour round the others in the neighbourhood before starting down the sea coast. There is nothing very startling about any of these and a full description would only waste time and space.

1. Henbury, about three miles from Clifton, is also rather hard to get at except in a car. It originally presented nine holes on a flat parkland, with nice turf but no special features. Before the war a further nine holes were constructed in the valley below, with a few nice water shots, but it was always rather soft and grass too lush. For a long time this course was the favorite with the lady players, as many of the others were closed to them.

2. Long Ashton is situated not very far from the Bristol and Clifton, and presents many fine holes on soft down turf. The course is interrupted by a curious walled village of about forty cottages called Providence. Tradition says that this was originally one of two or three "reserves" peopled by the crews of several galleons of the Spanish Armada, that made their way up the Bristol Channel under the mistaken idea that they had rounded the Land's End after their painful passage round Scotland.

3. Mangotsfield is a favorite club with the city business men, as it is easily reached by the local train service. Although there are some very curious shots to be made up and down a deep valley, it is, on the whole, a disappointing course and frequently wet in the hollows.

4. Saltford is situated about half way between Bath and Bristol on some high and rough ground above a beautiful stretch of the Avon. For a long time it was a very popular resort, as it was the only club that permitted golf on Sunday. Most of the others are now open and this attraction is removed, but progress in this direction has been slow in the whole of the West Country, as compared with London. I suppose that none of

the members will ever see this article, and so, I may safely say that Saltford is made for a peculiar game but hardly for golf.

5. Bath has a really fine course at Sham Castle on the top of the high down land, but I cannot take you there as I have never played on it. Before proceeding to the coast it is well worth while to spend a day touring the country to see the remains of the primitive races and of the Romans. The hot springs at Bath were very elaborately utilized by the Romans, the large swimming and private hot baths being in excellent preservation.

Running from Bath to Bristol and then on all the way to Exeter, one hundred and twenty miles away, was a continuous line of fortifications, originally British in construction and later used by the Romans. Each camp with its circular rings was arranged on all the way of high hills to permit of signals all along the line. Two camps are situated at Bristol itself on the cliffs of the Avon Gorge, placed to cover the only ford practicable in the river at that date. The finest military position is found at Cadbury Camp about six miles out with a huge triple circle of earth works and deep ditches. Although it is such a fine specimen it is but little known as it is rather inaccessible and in very wild country, but is well worth a visit.

If time permits a large Druid circle some eight or nine miles out should be visited. This is a fine example of those mysterious structures and ranks as second best to Stonehenge.

After inspecting the huge stones and line of the Druid remains a rough road on the Mendip Hills takes us to the Cheddar Gorge—a sort of miniature canyon running down to the flats of the channel. The most famous stalactite caves in the old country are found at the base of these cliffs and should not be missed.

After spending a pleasant day wandering about the country we shall proceed to resume the golf by starting next day at the Weston-super-mare.

## THEM DAYS IS GONE FOREVER



must be considerable pivoting. To prove this one has simply to restrict the body absolutely and hit the ball by use of the hands only. The hands cannot get into a hitting position and the temptation is to sway the body. Now the twist of the body and the distance the club goes back are not necessarily dependent on each other. A good example of this is Miss Leitch who takes the club little, if any, past the horizontal and still has a free and pronounced body twist as anyone in the game. This among other things is not the least of the reasons for her great length from tee.

The indifferent player may and frequently does take the club much further past the horizontal but has quite a restricted body pivot. As said before the weaker player, even though his body movement may be as much, will require to take the club further back than his stronger brother. So long as one always has control of the club, regardless of the distance it goes back, no one is justified in saying that there is an over swing. In the well executed swing if a line is drawn through the ball to the hole, and extended, the club head will pass inside this line on the back swing and also after hitting the ball. Of course with slice and pull this will not be the case. If the swing is thought of as an arc it will help to make it rhythmical. The whole swing should be conceived as one movement. It should not be built up in parts. One should persistently think of getting maximum results with minimum efforts. Above all preserve an even balance for without this successful golf is impossible.

Anything which makes balancing easier is to be recommended. Every one will not attain this end in the same way. But if the above general principles are followed, it will be less difficult than if they are broken.

In taking the club back, beginners are often advised to throw their arms well out from the body—the idea is to get freedom into the swing. This is apt to cause the body to sway if indulged in too much. It must be re-

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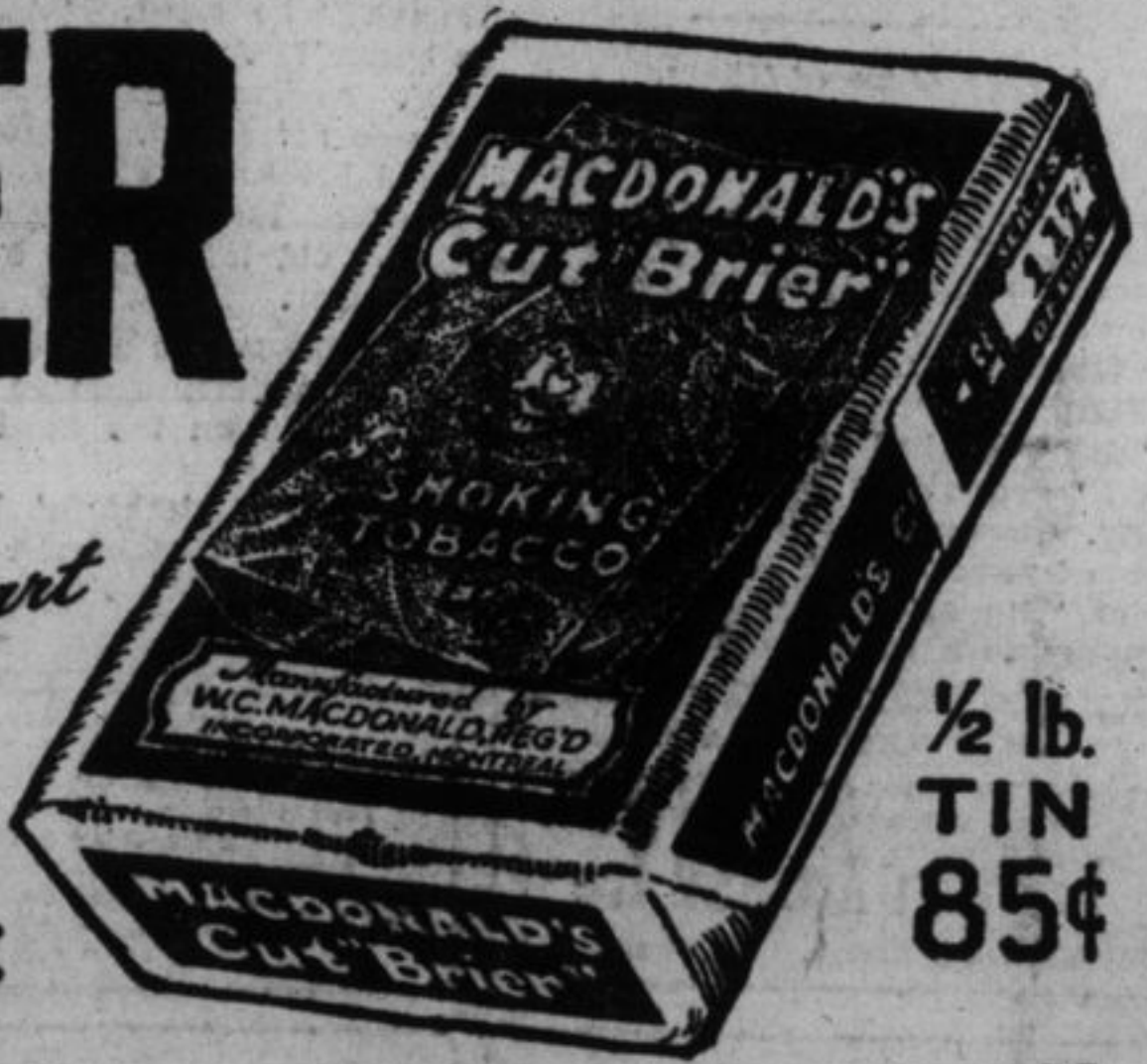
Some players take the club further back than others. The horizontal is supposed to be the ideal position but it must be noted that very few golfers stop their back swing at this point. It is impossible and indeed inadvisable to be dogmatic in this point for every one must find out for himself what his own best hitting position is.

A person with small hands and weak forearms will require a longer swing to develop the hit, than another stronger person, and one should be guided absolutely by his own physical characteristic as to how far he takes the club back. As ladies are generally physically weaker than men they will require a longer swing as a rule.

There are two parts to the swing, or at least two ways of viewing it, for the swing is always to be considered as a unit—the arc the club makes and the twist of the body. It is admitted now by the best authorities that there should be no sway of the body and the most consistent performers are those who observe this idea. The body simply pivots and should require no more space to execute the swing than that needed at the address.

I know of one instructor who in order to make it clear that there is no sway in the up-swing makes his pupils swing without a club, with the right side close to a wall. If the side touches the wall the swing is not properly made. If this example were carried out further, so that an imaginary wall were placed at the left side, it should be possible to hit the ball without touching the wall with the left side. Of course after the ball is hit the hands travelling at so fast a clip will naturally pull the weight after them on to the left foot.

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