

## Part II

# COURSE PREPARATION SAVES RULES TROUBLES

By **RICHARD S. TUFTS**

Former President and Former Chairman of Rules of Golf Committee,  
United States Golf Association

### OBSTRUCTIONS

**T**HE subject of obstructions requires the co-operation of both the architect and the superintendent. Basically, an obstruction is something that does not belong on the course but usually has been placed there for some practical purpose (Definition 20). Since obstructions should not enter into the play of the course, they must be located as far from the playing area as is practical. This would apply especially to such obstructions as rain shelters, equipment sheds, storage basins and the like. The location of bridges, drains, cart paths when classified obstructions etc., close to the line of play is also undesirable; and where such a situation cannot be avoided it is well, as much as possible, to cover the masonry work with gently sloping earth fills. The same policy should be adopted with any artificial work not classified as an obstruction, such as cart paths, the surfacing of stream banks and retaining walls for bridges. Good planning by the architect is of first importance.

### MINIMIZING LOST BALLS

Under the heading of lost balls, there is again need to require the co-operation of the architect. There is a substantial difference in the penalties and the operation of the Rules for a lost ball (Rule 29-1), a ball in a water hazard (Rule 33-2), and a ball out of bounds when the Local Rule is in use (Page 57 in U.S.G.A. Rules book). Whether a ball is lost in long grass or has entered a water hazard can mean a difference of one stroke to the golfer.

To avoid possible confusion in the application of these dissimilar Rules, it is well in both design and maintenance to eliminate conditions which might lead

to a ball's being lost in the vicinity of water hazards and of out of bounds where the Local Rule is used.

Though it has no direct bearing on any Rule situation, it is also well not to have any condition where balls might be lost near the normal line of play. Not only is a lost ball a painful experience to a golfer, financially and penalty-wise, but also the time required to hunt for a ball is certain to delay play. Course "jungles" should be avoided by the architect and, if that be impractical, they should be cleared out by the superintendent.

There are a few Rules which the superintendent needs to bear in mind during his daily maintenance of the course.

### GROUND UNDER REPAIR

If repair work could create any unfair situation for players, it should be promptly and properly marked as ground under repair (Definition 13). Piles of putting green clippings, which are ground under repair by definition, do not require to be marked, but they should be located well away from the normal playing area.

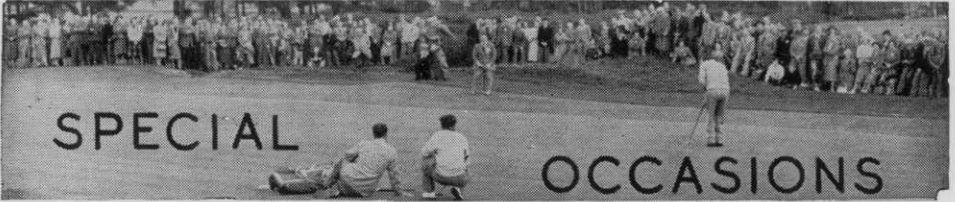
### TEE MARKERS

In setting out tee markers, the size of the tee (Definition 32) should be borne in mind and the markers never placed so far back that the player is deprived of the two club-lengths good teeing surface to which, by the Rules, he is entitled.

### INTERFERING WITH BALL

Workmen should be cautioned about any interference with a ball in motion

*(Continued on page 14)*



<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	12th	Midland Autumn Tournament — Moor Hall G.C.
	14th	Southern Autumn Tournament — Langley Park G.C.
	19th	East Midland Autumn Tournament — Wollaton Park G.C.
	19th	Sheffield Trip to N.A.G. Exhibition.
	21st	Northern Match with Sheffield — Otley G.C.
<b>OCTOBER</b>	22nd	Midland Annual Dinner — Merry Vale Hotel, Langley Green.
	28th	North-East Annual Competition — Northumberland G.C.
	4th	Welsh Autumn Meeting — Pennard G.C.
	4th	North-West Autumn Tournament — Haydock Park G.C.
	11th	Southern Winter Lecture, Stirling Castle, Moorgate.
	17th	North-West Winter Lecture, Garrick Hotel, Manchester.
	25th	North-West Annual Trip to Slazenger's.
26th	Northern Autumn Tournament — Alwoodley G.C.	

*(Continued from page 11)*

(Rule 26) or at rest (Rule 27). If equipment is left on the course, such as rakes for bunkers, it should always be placed where least likely to be struck by a ball.

upsetting to the golfer than to play hole after hole on which all the cups have been cut, for example, in the left rear part of the green.

*(Part III will appear in October.)*

#### NEW CONDITIONS AFFECTING PLAY

The proper authorities at the clubhouse should always be notified of any condition on the course which might affect play, such as an excessive accumulation of casual water (Definition 8), ground under repair created by work on the course (Definition 13), conditions due to rain or over-watering which might cause balls to embed (Local Rule, page 58), etc.

#### LOCATING CUPS

Although the Rules are not concerned with the location of the hole on the putting green, it is good practice to leave at least five yards of reasonably level area between the hole and the edge of the green and to set no cups close to steep slopes or changes in slope. It is also good practice to move the cups daily but to avoid a lot of similar locations for the same day. Nothing is more

## ST ANDREWS WILL CLOSE ITS COURSES

In October, for the first time, all four golf courses at St Andrews are to be closed for play to the public for almost a week.

The closure begins on Tuesday, 3rd October, when play over the old course begins in the £56,000 Alcan Tournament. It ends on Sunday, 8th October, but will be extended to include Monday, 9th October, if a play-off is necessary.

Until now, St Andrews Town Council have been bound by law to keep other courses open for play during major events. A new order gives the council power to close the whole of the links. The order also removes the limit which the town council may charge spectators.