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GOLFING . .

HINTS. . . .

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A. VARDON AND E. W. J. WILSON.

With 42 Illustrations.

## PREFACE.

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THOSE who have had the good fortune to come under the influence of the teaching of Alfred Vardon (brother of Harry Vardon) of the Worlebury Golf Club, Weston-super-Mare, will agree with me that there are few finer exponents of the game.

Hence the thought that many have greatly benefited from the valuable hints given by Alfred Vardon from time to time, must be my excuse for publishing, in conjunction with him this little volume, under the title of "Golfing Hints," which summarises, to a certain extent, his teaching. At the same time I may mention that this work has no pretence of being an exhaustive treatise on the subject, but contains sufficient information to enable the beginner, for whom the book was primarily written, to obtain a fair idea of this increasingly popular game.

In conclusion, I trust the book may be of use to those, who, under Vardon's guidance, have made some progress in the game, and that they will, when reading it, remember the encouragement they have received from the words, "That's better Sir! Now you've got it!"

E. W. J. WILSON.

Worlebury Golf Club,  
Weston-super-Mare,  
Nov. 14th, 1912.



Alfred Dardon.

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Professional to the Worlebury Golf Club

## PRELIMINARY.

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### A. THE GRIP.

#### I. WOODEN CLUBS.

*Double V.* (finger grip—let both hands work together).

1. "*Pinch tightly*" with thumb and first finger of the Left Hand.

*Obs.* 'V' between the thumb and the finger of the Left Hand must face the lead side of the head.

2. "*Pinch less tightly*" with thumb and first finger of the Right Hand.

*Obs.* (a) "*V's of both hands*" should be opposite each other. cp. Photograph.

*Obs.* (b). In the case where the thumb and fingers are too long to meet, overlapping of the thumbs and fingers will answer the same purpose.

3. "*Wrists down.*"

#### II. IRON CLUBS.

*Double V* (finger grip—let both hands work together). "*Grip tightly with both hands,*" with thumb of the Left Hand down the Shaft.

### B. THE STANCES.

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1. *Open, i.e.* the Right Foot a little in advance of the Left Foot.

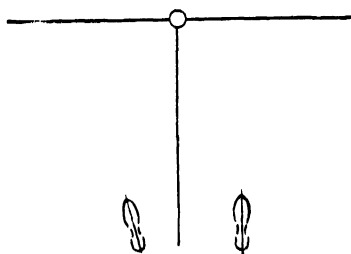




DRIVER OR BRASSY. CORRECT GRIP.



DRIVER OR BRASSY. INCORRECT GRIP.



2. *Square, i.e.* the Right Foot and the Left Foot in line with one another and parallel to the line of direction.

### *To obtain the Stances.*

Place the head of the Club on the ground immediately behind the ball, with its face at right angles to the direction required, also seeing that the heel of the Club rests on the ground, with the toe of the Club slightly raised. Then open the feet, the Left Foot going to the left and the Right Foot going somewhat more to the right and forward (Open Stance) or in line with Left Foot (Square Stance).

## HOW TO USE THE VARIOUS CLUBS.

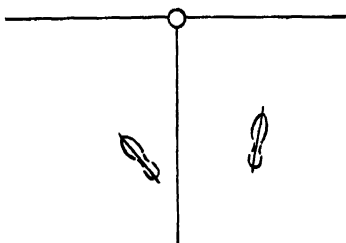
### I. THE DRIVER OR BRASSY.

#### 1. *When used—*

(a) "*From the Tee*" (Driver for long shot) and (b) "*Through the green*" (Brassy, provided good lie and long shot required).

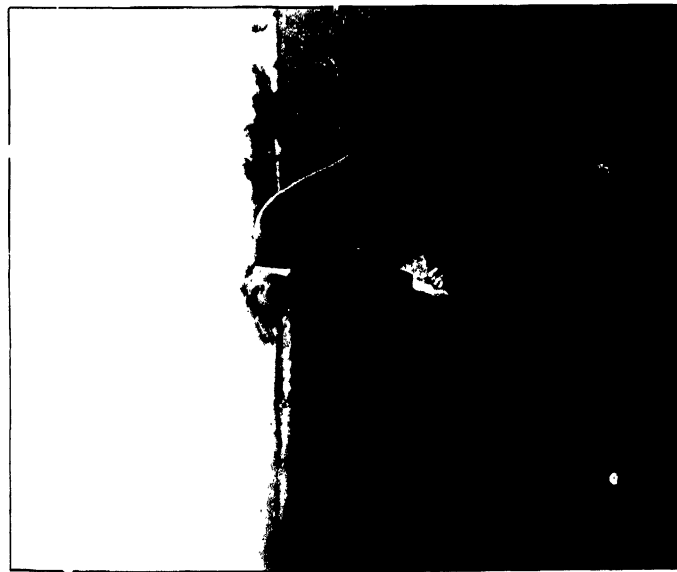
#### 2. *Grip.* See Preliminary Remarks.

#### 3. *Stance.* See Preliminary Remarks

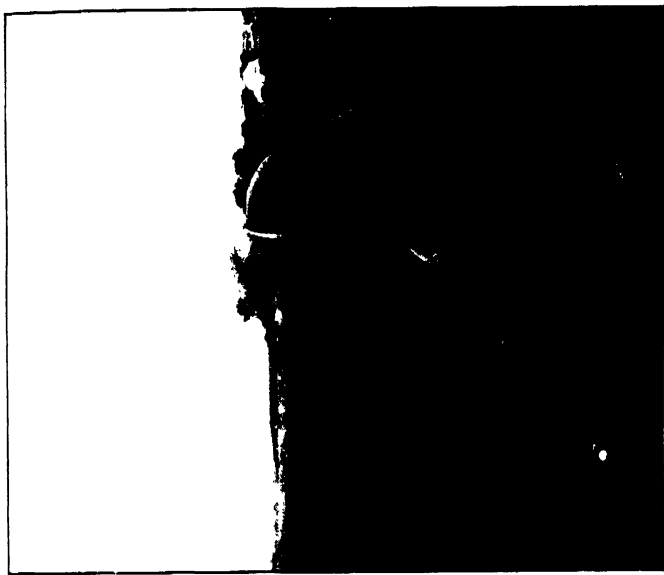


Obs. (a) "*Stand firmly on both feet.*" (b) "*Weight of the body*" to be evenly balanced on both feet, and "*the body*" should be kept nearly upright.

(c) "*Right Shoulder*" dropped very little.



DRIVER AND BRASSY. OPEN STANCE.



DRIVER AND BRASSY. SQUARE STANCE.



(d) "*Stance for Drive against the Wind*"—the weight should be slightly on the Left Foot.

#### 4. Address—

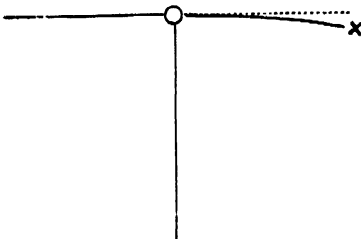
(a) "*Firm and Short*," seeing that "*both hands*" work together, and "*wrists*" are well down.

(b) "*Steady Club Head*" behind the ball before taking the Up-Swing.

#### 5. UP-SWING—

(a) "*Slow back*."

(b) "*Club Head*" first follows along the ground until x is reached—i.e., for about eighteen inches. Then circular sweep continued, the Club rising from the ground by means of the Left Hand and Wrist only. "*Left Arm*" should be taken back to its full extent. Then "*wrist movement*" to get the Club into its Final position, "*the body*" pivoting at the hips, "*the eyes*" fixed on the ball and "*the head*" still. "*Point of Left Shoulder*" slightly behind the ball. "*The hands at the top of the Swing*" should be above the height of the shoulder.



(c) "*No hesitation at the top of the Up-Swing*," but commence the Down Swing at once.

#### 6. DOWN SWING.

(a) "*Sweep the ball from the Tee*" by flicking at it on Down Swing, as quickly as possible, using the Left Wrist to do so.

(b) "*The first movement of the Club Head in the Down Swing*" should be made with the Left Hand, the Club Head



THE DRIVE. OPEN STANCE.

being thrown out towards the front, sweeping the ball from the tee with determination.

(c) "*The Club Head should follow the line of flight*" for a short distance, by allowing the Right Arm to go out to its full extent, at the same time throwing in the Right Shoulder.

(d) "*Allow the Club*" to swing the body round.

(e) *At the Finish—*

(i). "*You should be on the toe of the Right Foot.*"

(ii). "*The body*" should be facing towards the left of the direction aimed at.

(iii). "*Keep your feet.*"

## BRASSY PLAY.

1. "*If Stance be below the ball,*" grip the handle of the Club low down and lower your hands towards the knees.

2. "*If Stance be above the ball*" grip the handle of the Club higher, and let the Club Head follow the slope of the ground.

## II. THE CREEK.

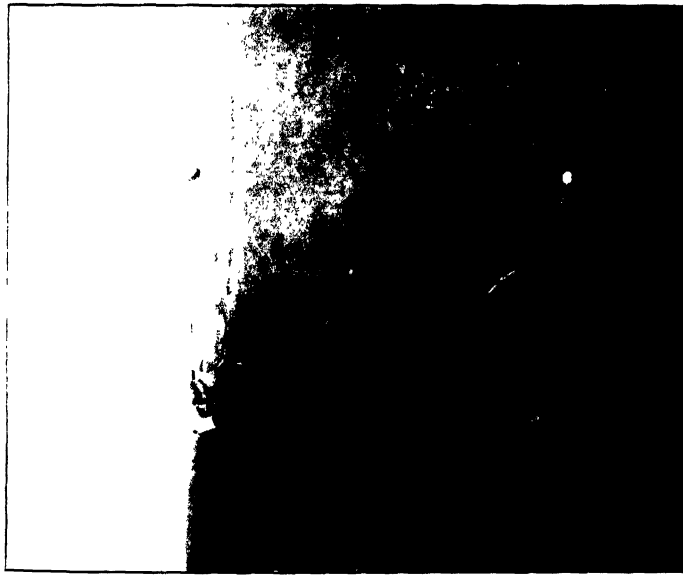
1. *When used—*

(a) *When a considerable distance is to be obtained* (not so far as with Driver or Brassy).

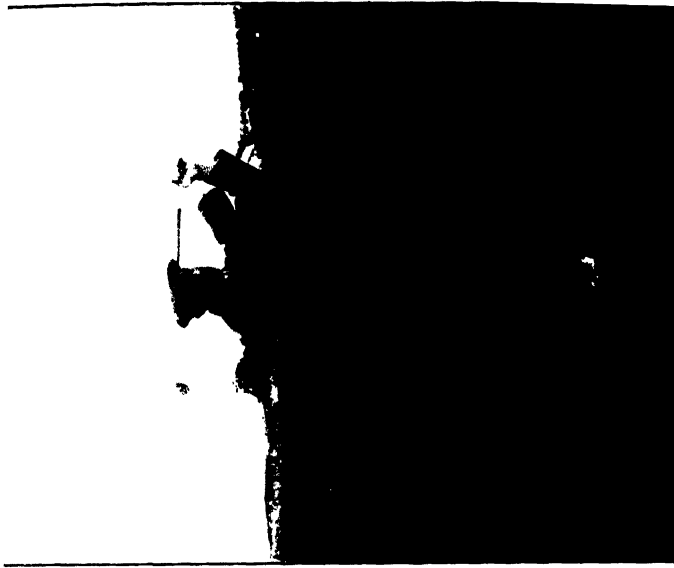
(b) *Where the lie will not permit of the use of the Driver or Brassy.*

2. *Grip.* See Preliminary Remarks.

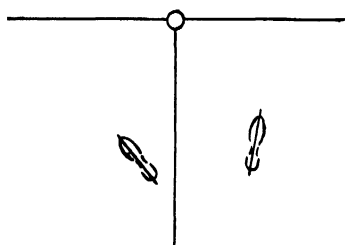
3. *Stance.* See Preliminary Remarks.



DRIVER AND BRASSY. TOP OF THE SWING.



DRIVER AND BRASSY. FINISH OF THE SWING.



Obs. (a) "*Stand firmly on both feet.*"

(b) "*Weight of the body*" to be evenly balanced on both feet, and "*the body*" should be kept nearly upright.

(c) "*Right Shoulder*" dropped very little.

(d) "*Do not stand too near the ball.*"

(e) "*Face of the Club*" very slightly turned out.

#### 4. ADDRESS—

(a) "*Firm and Short*" seeing that "*both hands*" work together, and "*the wrists*" are well down.

(b) "*Steady Club Head*" behind the ball before taking the Up-Swing.

#### 5. UP-SWING.

(a) "*Slow back.*"

(b) "*Pivot very little on the hips,*" taking the Club slowly back with the Left Hand until the Left Arm has been stretched out to its full extent. Then "*wrist movement*" to get the final position of the Up-Swing (horizontal position). "*Left Knee*" bends, as you pivot, towards the "*Right Leg.*"

(c) "*Keep the arms*" fairly close to the body.

(d) "*The head*" and "*every other part of the body*" must be absolutely motionless.



FULL SHOT WITH THE CLEEK. STANCE.

(c) "No hesitation at the top of the Up-Swing," but commence the Down-Swing at once.

## 6. *Down Swing.*

(a) "Hit ball crisply."

(b) "Both hands" should be equally tight in the Down-Swing.

(c) "Follow through well," letting the arms go out to the full extent before the final position in finish, at the same time throwing in the Right Shoulder.

(d) "Allow the Club" to swing the body round.

(e) *At the Finish*—

(i) "You should be on the toe of the Right Foot."

(ii) "The body" should be facing towards the left of the direction aimed at.

(iii) "The hands" should be high up.

(iv) "The Forward Final Position" of the *Cleek* should practically correspond with "The Backward Final Position" of the Club

(v) "Keep your feet."

## 1. *Half Shot with the Cleek.*

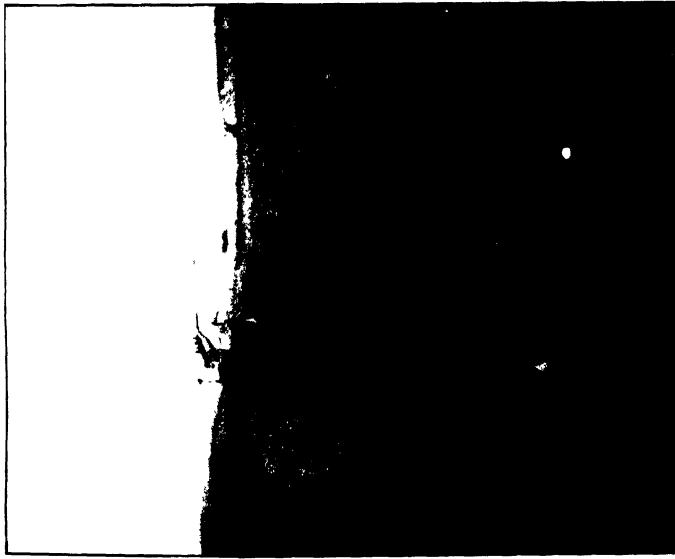
(a) "Grip the handle low down."

(b) "The Backward and Forward Swing" less full than in Full Cleek Shot.

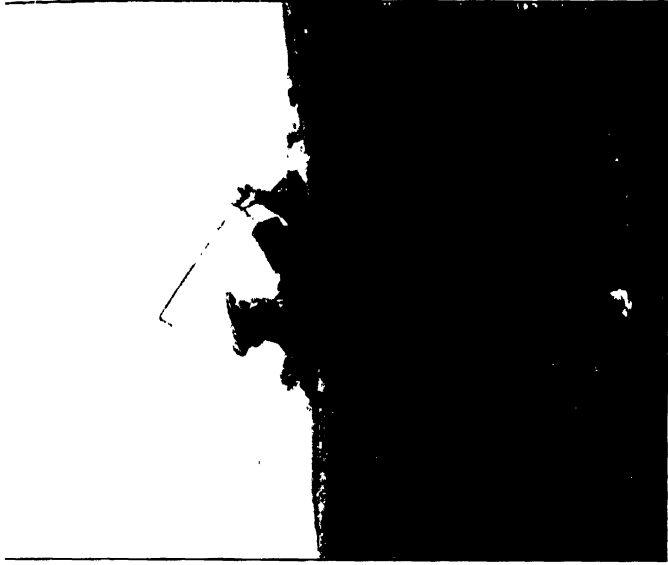
## 2. *Push Shot with the Cleek.*

(a) *Object.*—To get a long, low shot against the wind.

(b) *Grip.* See Preliminary Remarks.

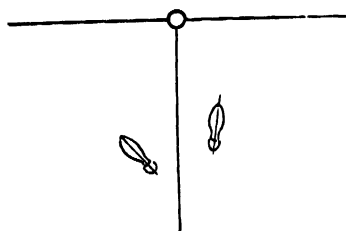


FULL SHOT WITH THE CLEEK. TOP OF THE SWING.



FULL SHOT WITH THE CLEEK. FINISH OF THE SWING.





(c) *Stance*—(i) “ *Ball nearer to the Right Foot* ” (weight of the body more on the Left Foot).

(ii) “ *Incline a little towards the hole* ” when taking your *Stance*.

(d) *Address*. cp. The *Cleek*.

(e) *Up-Swing*.  $\frac{3}{4}$  *Swing*. cp. *Iron*.

(f) *Down-Swing*. The descending blow should be on the upper three-quarters of the ball, the face of the Club travelling forward on grazing the turf. As the face of the Club reaches the ball, the Right Wrist should be slightly turned over.

(g) *At the Finish*—

(i) “ *You should be on the toe of the Right Foot.* ”

(ii) “ *The body* ” should be facing towards the left of the direction aimed at.

(iii) “ *The hands* ” should be high up, slightly higher than the head.

(iv) “ *The Forward Final Position* ” of the *Cleek* should correspond with “ *The Backward Final Position* ” of the Club.

(v) “ *Keep your feet.* ”

### III. THE IRON.

1. *When used*. When the distance is too far for the *Mashie*.

2. *Grip*. See Preliminary Remarks.



FULL SHOT WITH THE IRON. STANCE.

### 3. Stance—



Obs. (a) "*Stand firmly on both feet.*"



(b) "*Weight of the body*" should be evenly balanced on both feet and body should be nearly upright.

(c) "*Right Shoulder*" should be dropped more than for the Cleave.

(d) "*Stand well up*" to the ball.

(e) "*Face of the Club*" slightly turned out.

### 4. Address. cp. The Cleave.

### 5. Up-Swing. cp. The Cleave ( $\frac{3}{4}$ swing).

### 6. Down-Swing.

(a) "*Hit ball crisply.*"

(b) "*Both hands*" should be equally tight in Down-Swing.

(c) "*Follow through well,*" letting the arms go out to the full extent before the final position in finish, at the same time throwing in the Right Shoulder.

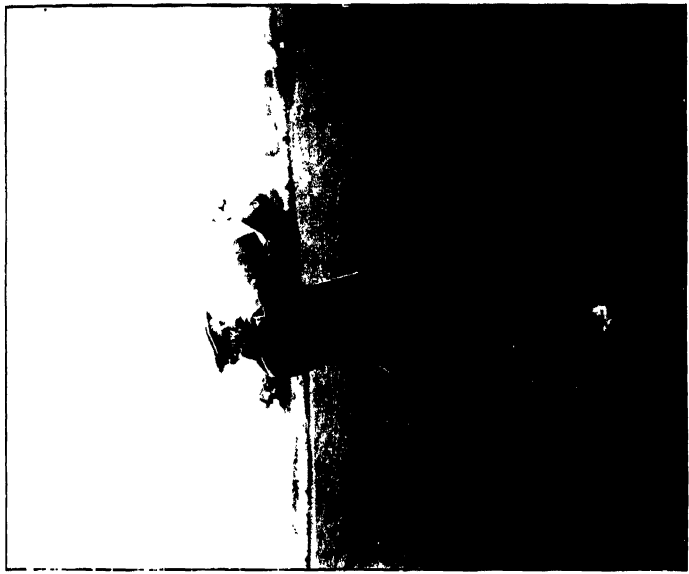
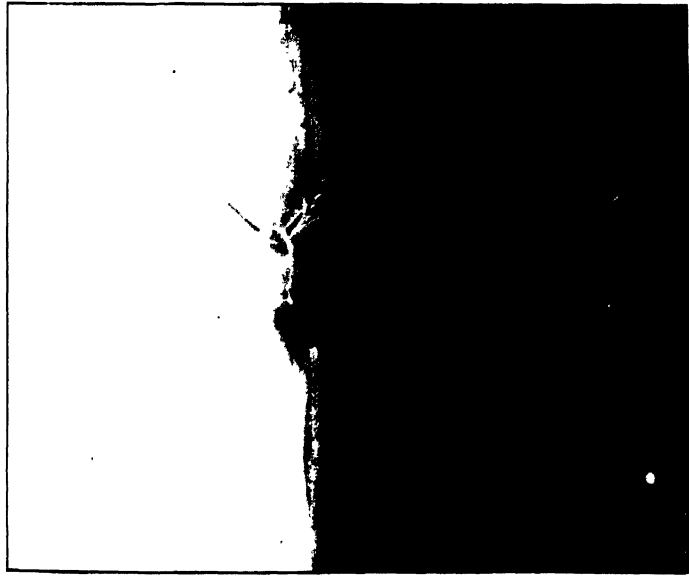
(d) "*Allow the Club*" to swing the body round.

(e) *At the finish—*

(i) "*You should be on the toe of the Right Foot.*"

(ii) "*The Body*" should be facing towards the left of direction aimed at.

iii) "*Hands*" should be high up.



FULL SHOT WITH THE IRON. FINISH OF THE SWING.

(iv) "*The Forward Final Position*" of the Iron should correspond with "*The Backward Final Position*" of Club.

(v) "*Keep your feet.*"

*Half-Iron Shot.*—A very useful shot against the wind.

1. "*Hold the hands*" near the bottom of the grip.
2. "*Play off the Right Foot.*"
3. "*Hit crisply.*"
4. "*Final Up and Down Swings to correspond.*"
5. "*Keep your feet.*"

#### IV. THE MASHIE.

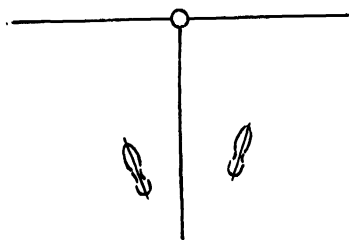
1. *When used.*

(a) When approaching the putting green up to a distance of 80-100 yards.

(b) To get over raised obstacles (hedges, trees, bunkers, &c.).

2. *Grip.* See Preliminary Remarks

3. *Stance*—



Obs. (a) "*Stand firmly on both feet.*"

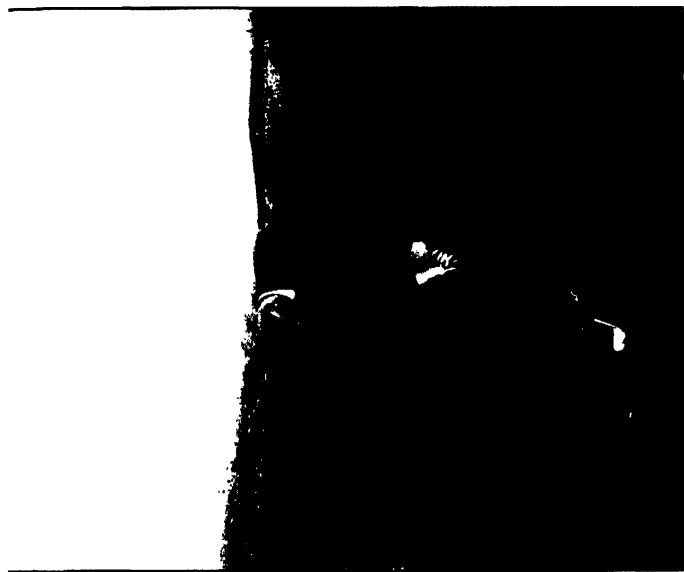
(b) Keep "*Weight of the body*" on both heels, evenly balanced.

(c) "*Right Shoulder*" well dropped.

(d) "*Stand well up to the ball.*"



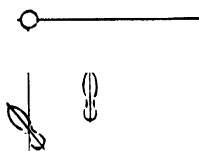
FULL SHOT WITH THE MASHE. STANCE.



A CUT APPROACH WITH THE MASHE. STANCE.

(e) "*The Face of the Club*" should be laid back more than the face of the Iron.

(f) "*The Heel of the Club*" should be on the ground playing an ordinary Mashie Shot.



(g) "*For Pitching with a little cut,*" stand more over the ball so as to get the sole of the Club more on the ground.

4. *Address.* cp. The Iron.

5. *Up-Swing.* cp. The Iron (less full than for Iron Shot).

6. *Down-Swing.* cp. The Iron (less full than for Iron Shot).

*Obs. (a) Finish with the Club perpendicular.*

*(b) "Right Hand" level with the chin.* cp. Photograph.

7. "*Keep your feet.*"

1. *Half Shot with the Mashie.*

*(a) "From the Shoulder to the Elbow"* no part in the stroke.

*(b) "Played from the Elbow only of the Right Arm,"* the upper part of that arm being kept closely to the side.

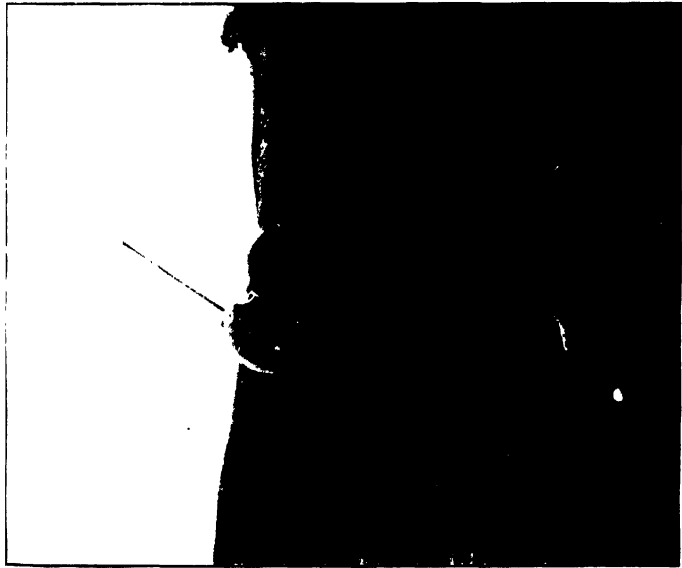
*(c) "Weight on the Right Leg."*

2. *Mashie—*

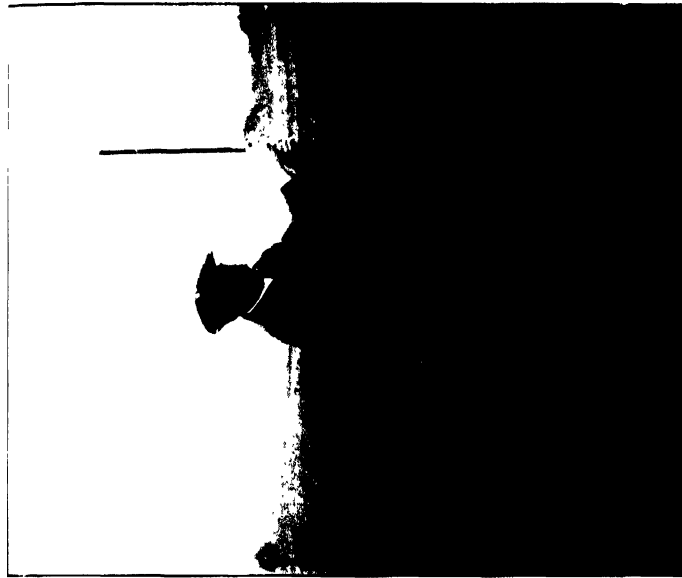
*(a) Behind "A Bunker."*

*(b) In "A Bunker,"* if lying well back.

*(c) If "Bad Lie" (Long Grass, &c.).*



FULL SHOT WITH THE MASHEE. TOP OF THE SWING.



FULL SHOT WITH THE MASHEE. FINISH OF THE SWING



(d) *To loft a very high tree*

- (i) Place "*The Toe of the Club*" on the ground and "*The Heel*" off. "*Club Head*" should be well laid back.
- (ii) "*Stand well up to the ball* and behind it," and take the Club very straight back to the perpendicular.
- (iii) "*Keep your eye behind, rather than on the ball.*"
- (iv) "*Finish*" with the Club perpendicular.
- (v) "*Do not jerk ball out.*"
- (vi) "*Hit crisply.*"

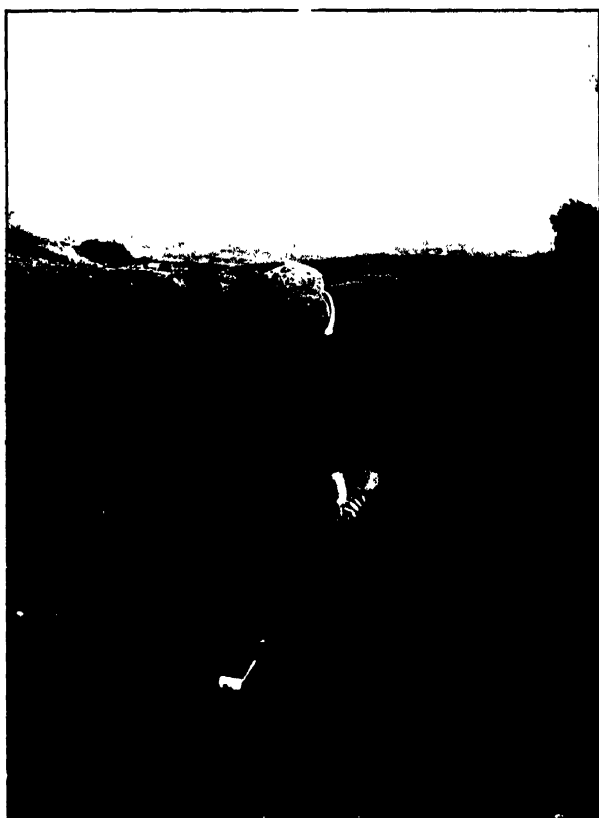
3. *Short Run-up with Mashie.*

- (a) *Stance.* cp. Running-up Shot.
- (b) "*Let the hands do the work*" and keep "*the arms*" firm.

4. *Short Pitch with Mashie.*

- (a) *Stance*—
- (b) "*Club Head*" well laid back.
- (c) "*Right Shoulder*" well bent.
- (d) "*Finish*" with the Club Head in front, just above the Knee-cap.





RUNNING UP APPROACH WITH MASHIE OR IRON. STANCE.

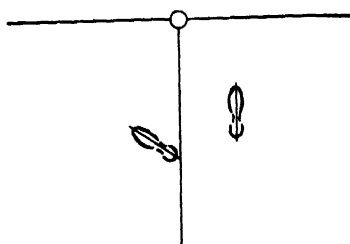
## 5. *Short Pitch, with run.*

(a) *Stance*---

(b) "*Hands slightly in front of the Club Head.*"

(i) "*Weight on the Right Leg*" for "*lofted ball.*"

(ii) "*Weight on the Left Leg*" for "*low ball.*"



(c) "*Right Shoulder*" and "*Head*" very much bent.

## 6. *Running-up Shot.*

(a) *When used.* When 50 yards or less from the green, provided the ground be fairly true and there are no obstacles in the way.

(b) *Grip.* See Preliminary Remarks.

(c) *Stance.*

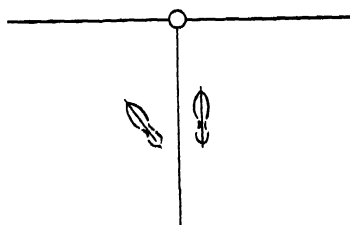
*Obs.* (a) "*Stand very straight up.*"

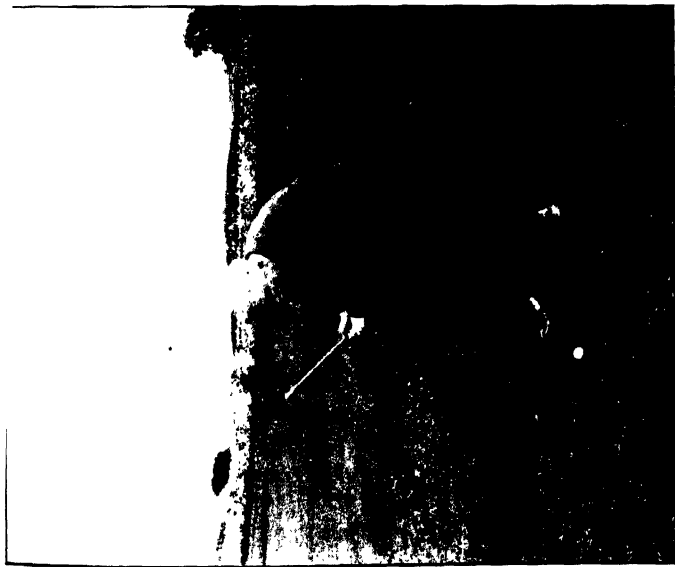
(b) "*Hands*" fairly well forward.

(c) "*Ball*" in line with the Right Heel.

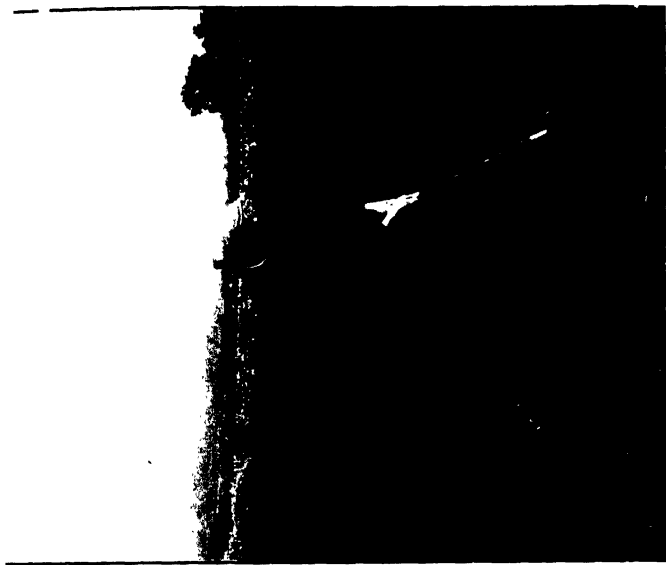
(d) "*The Body*" very firm and steady and inclined towards the hole.

(d) *Address.* cp. The Mashie.





RUNNING UP APPROACH WITH MASHIE OR IRON. TOP OF SWING.



RUNNING UP APPROACH WITH MASHIE OR IRON. FINISH OF SWING

(e) *Up-Swing.*

(i) “ *Slow back* ” and “ *very short.* ”

(ii) “ *Club taken straight back,* ” the Left Knee bending in towards the Right Leg. “ *The Heel* ” scarcely coming off the ground.

(f) *Down-Swing.*

(i) “ *Come well through with the Left Hand,* ” so that the arms will be low down at the finish of the Swing.

(ii) “ *Head of the Club* ” should sweep along close to the ground.

(iii) “ *After impact* ” the Right Hand should turn slightly.

(iv) “ *Left Arm* ” does the work.

(v) “ *Keep your feet.* ”

## V. THE NIBBLICK.

### 1. *When used.*

(a) To get out of Bunkers, Long Grass, Sand, &c.

(b) To get out of any bad lie.

(c) To approach the green when the wind is behind you or when the green is fiery.

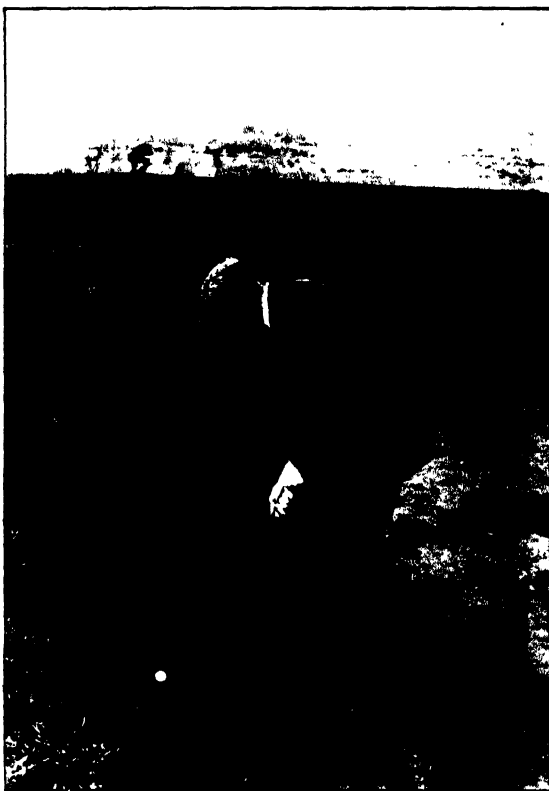
### 2. *Grip.* See Preliminary Remarks.

### 3. *Stance—*

*Obs.* (a) “ *Very little body movement* ” brought into play.

(b) “ *Arms and Wrists* ” do the work.





THE NIBLICK IN A BUNKER. STANCE.

- (c) "*Right Shoulder*" well dropped.

(d) "*Weight of the Body*" well on the **Right Leg**.

4. *Address.* cp. The Mashie.

Be sure you do not ground your Club in the Bunker.

5. *Up-Swing.* cp. The Mashie.

*Obs. Take Club back very slowly.*

6. *Down-Swing.*

(a) "*Stroke must be a very firm one*"

(b) "*Come down on the turf or sand immediately behind the ball,*" driving the Club Head through the turf or sand with the Right Hand and Wrist.

(c) "*Finish*" with the arms well out.

7. "*Keep your feet.*"

## VI. THE PUTTER.

1. *When used.*

To hit the ball along the surface of the putting green into the hole.

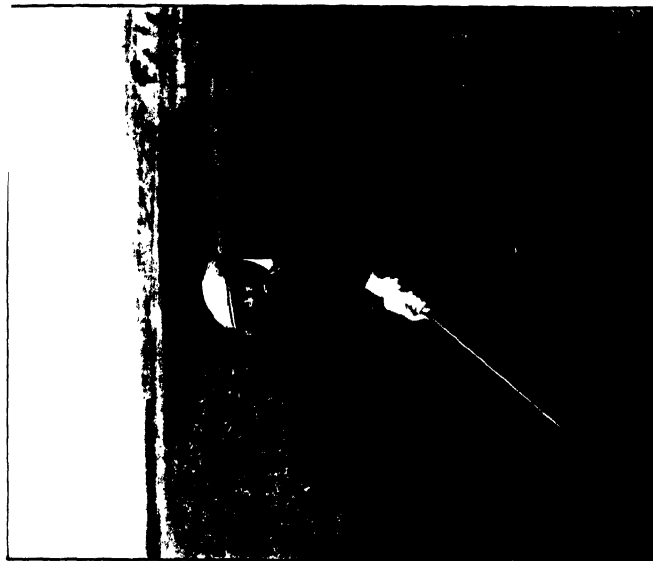
2. *Grip—*

(a) "*Left Hand*" tightly, to steady the Club.

(b) "*Right Hand*" loosely, using the wrist of that hand to carry the Club backwards and forwards (the distance backwards and forwards depending on the length of the putt), along the line you wish to putt the ball (pendulum movement).



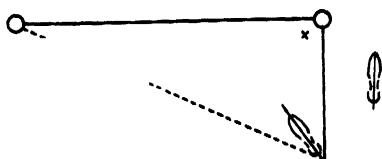
THE NIBLICK IN A BUNKER. TOP OF THE SWING.



THE NIBLICK IN A BUNKER. FINISH OF THE SWING.



### 3. *Stance*, as Diagram.



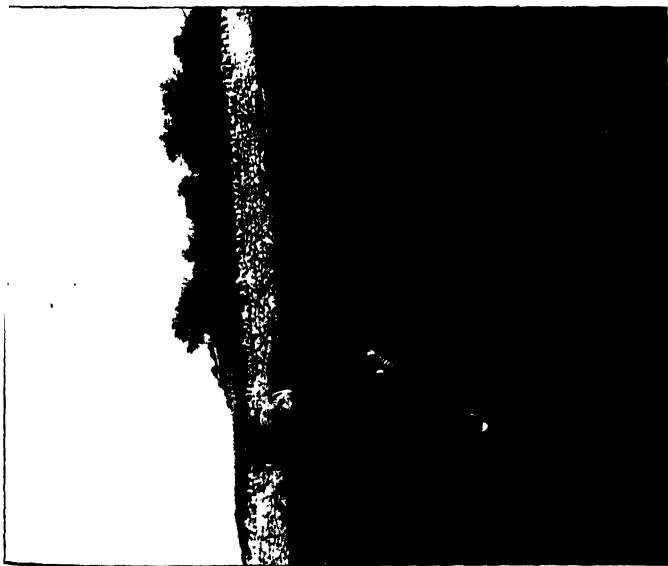
- (a) "*The toe of the Left Foot*" pointing to the Right of the hole.
- (b) "*The heel of the Left Foot*" opposite the ball, so that a right angle is formed at x.
- (c) "*The Right Foot very near ball*" and at right angles to the hole.
- (d) "*The Right Elbow*" touching the thigh of the Right Leg.
- (e) "*Let the Weight of the body*" incline towards the hole.

4. "Keep the sole of the club as near as possible on the ground after striking the ball." cp. Putting. The Finish.

*Final Hint on "Eve on the Ball"—*

In *all shots*, in addressing the ball, be most careful to keep the eye, not on the top of the ball, but well below the centre of the right side.

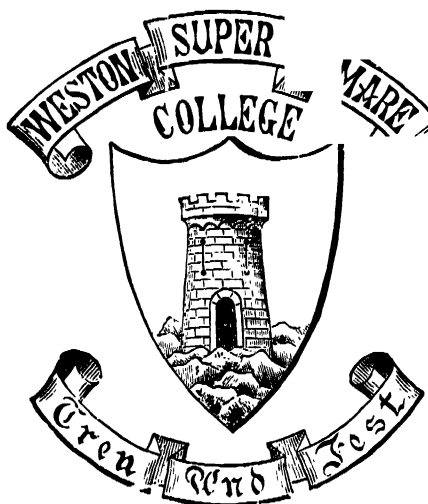




PUTTING STANCE



PUTTING THE FINISH



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