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## CLEEK PLAY

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WITH ANNOTATIONS BY

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The cleek should be fairly straight in the face, heavy of head and with a stiff shaft. My cleek is two inches shorter of shaft than my driver and has an unusually short face.

[Q.—What does it weigh?

A.—It is heavier than either the driver or brasseys and weighs about 16 ounces.]

Numerous players use a whippy shaft in their cleeks through a mistaken idea that the spring of the shaft gives additional distance. I am convinced that much of the difficulty players have in cleek play is primarily caused by whippy shafts. As accuracy in direction is more important than mere distance at most stages of the game, it is ridiculous to use whippy shafts in cleeks or any other clubs. The more whippy the shaft, the less chance you have of getting away a perfectly straight ball, because the give of the shaft at different parts of the swing is apt to permit the head to come to the ball at a different angle from the one you seek in your address. If you will take a particularly

whippy club and closely note its peculiarities in a practice swing you will clearly see the point I wish to make. At the top of the swing there is a bending of the whippy shaft apt to spoil the evenness of the swing. Then again, at the point about half way down to the ball there is another give to the shaft that is apt to change the angle of the club head as it meets the ball. When the ball is hit, particularly as turf must be taken after contact on all cleek shots, there is another give of the shaft that is very likely to result in faulty direction.

If your hands are in advance of the club when it comes in contact with the ball, it stands to reason that the more whip you get from the shaft the more intensified will be the inclination to slice. Who ever saw a player that putted with a whippy shaft? To my mind it is just as foolish to use a whippy shaft in a cleek or any other club as it would be in a putter.

In making a cleek stroke, stand closer to the ball than with the driver playing it more to the right with the



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should be depended on to hold the line with great accuracy.

The weight should be resting fairly even on both feet and the stance very firm. Turn the wrists over at the start of the backward swing as with the driver, but do not allow the left foot to rise on the toe off the ground

A.—The left heel rises, but only slightly, and the pressure on the ground is through the inner edge of the ball of the foot, rather than on the toe, as in the tee shot.]

Turn the body from the waist up keeping the head perfectly still and hold the eye on the back center of the



ANOTHER VIEW OF ADDRESS SHOWING GRIP

as in the tee shot. Try to keep the left foot well rooted to the ground, which will overcome the tendency of lifting the body in the stroke, which frequently leads to a bad shot.

[Q.—Does your left heel not rise at all from the ground? If so, to what extent?

ball. Do not try to pick up the ball as on the drive, but hit at it accurately and take some turf, and then follow through firmly and positively.

Most players use a cleek as if they were trying to hit a ball off a putting green without injuring the turf. This, I think, accounts for their poor direc-

tion and weak strokes regarding distance. Hit the ball, take some turf and follow through, keeping the eye on the back center of the ball. If you play the shot in this way you will find that the cleek is a very useful and dependable weapon to have in your bag. Most

the ball is struck. The right hand relaxes its grip slightly at the top of the swing, but tightens again in the downward swing, as speed is applied and the ball hit. A common fault with cleek play, is dropping the right shoulder, which causes the club head to



AT THE TOP OF THE SWING WITH CLEEK

players never get acquainted with the cleek, and whenever they decide to try a shot with it, do so with fear and trembling and in most instances their over-anxiety leads to misfortune.

Grip the cleek firmly with both hands to prevent it turning when it comes in contact with the ground after

strike the ground before reaching the ball, which kills the possibilities of the shot. To correct this error, stand an inch or two further away from the ball and endeavor to keep the right shoulder in its true plane throughout the swing.

In cleek play in the different con-

ditions of wind and for hanging and side hill lies, the explanations previously given for the driver and brassy under identical conditions apply, with the very slight difference in the swing back and hitting of the ball, as indicated. Personally, I prefer a driving iron in place of a regular cleek. The face, instead of being long and narrow like the standard cleek, is deep and short and is perhaps laid back a shade less.

[Q.—How deep and how short, in inches?

A.—The face is about one-quarter of an inch deeper than the ordinary cleek, and the head is about one-quarter of an inch shorter.]

A much lower ball can be driven

with this driving iron, and when there is a high wind a low ball is of great assistance. I seem to possess better control over the flight of the ball with my driving iron than with a regular cleek, and so prefer to use it.

In my own game, the driving iron or cleek plays a very important part, and I play it with full confidence regarding direction, which frequently enables me to lay a ball close up to the pin on a very long approach to a green. I get a ball almost as long as with a brassy, but more uniformly straight on the line, with a fine roll. This shot is not a difficult one, but owing to the fact that few players nowadays play it; it has won many a hole for me.

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