

days. Further than that, our knowledge does not go. Wherever the first home of this game may have been, it is certain that any existence it now has in Holland is only as a consequence of recent re-introduction, that Scotland kept the traditions and practice of the game alive, and that she gave it to all the Anglo-Saxon peoples which is as much as to say that it is played all over the world.

It is not known with any certainty when the game was introduced into Scotland, but as far back as 1457 it had become so popular as to seriously interfere with the more important pursuit of Archery. The game was legislated against by the Scottish Parliament, and in 1491 a final and evidently angry threat was issued with pains and penalties annexed. It ran thus:—"Futsball and golfe forbidden. Herein, it is stated and ordained that in no place of the realme there be usit futsball, golfe, or other sik unprofitabill sportes." This, be it noted, is an edict of James IV, and it is not a little surprising to find the King himself setting an ill example to his people, by practising this unprofitable sport. In the year 1592—100 years later—the game had again become so popular that the Town Council of Edinburgh issued the following proclamation—"No inhabitants of this borough be seen at any pastimes within or without the town upon the Sabbath day, such as Golf, etc." In the following year, the edict was re-announced, with this modification, that prohibition was "In time of sermons."

Aside from the question as to where the game originated, there is no doubt that it was fostered in Scotland, and through the fact that it was played as far back as the fifteenth century—and how long before that is unknown—it is looked upon as essentially a Scottish pastime. Golf was played in Scotland for many generations before it became at all a favourite in England. It was well past the middle of the nineteenth century before the game made any headway in England, although curiously enough, Blackheath in England, has older records than are preserved by any Scottish Club. The Royal Blackheath Club was founded in 1608 by James I, and the dates when other Clubs were instituted are:

Edinburgh Burgess Golfing Society.....	1735
Honorable Company of Edinburgh Golfers	1746
Royal & Ancient Golf Club, St. Andrews	1754
Bruntsfield Links, Edinburgh	1764
Royal Musselburgh Golf Club	1771

Observe that subsequent to the forming of the Royal Blackheath Club, the only other Clubs organised in the eighteenth century are all Scottish,—5 in number. The Royal & Ancient Golf Club, St. Andrews, is the leading Club in Britain, and all the regulations covering the game are passed by that Club. Another interesting fact is that before the game was at all popular in England, it was played in India and in Pau, France. It is said that the game was introduced in Calcutta in 1829 by some Scottish business men, who were located there, and again, that its introduction to Pau was due to that place being frequented by tourists from Scotland.

In 1864, golf as a popular pastime invaded England first at Westward Ho in Devonshire, and later at Hoylake. It was imported into Montreal in 1873, and in 1890 found a footing in New York. The American has made the most of his opportunity to learn the game, and at the present time, there are golfers in the States who are the equal to the best Britain can produce. Golf has become, perhaps, a greater factor in the life of the upper and middle classes in the United States than it ever has been in England or Scotland. Golf to the Briton meant only one among several of the sports and pastimes that take men into the country and the fresh air. The Americans have taken up golf in the spirit of a sumptuous and opulent people, spending money on magnificent club houses beyond the finest dreams of the Englishman or the Scot.

The game may be briefly defined as consisting in hitting the ball over a great extent of country, preferably of that sandy nature which is found by the seaside, and finally, "putting" it—as the golfing phrase has it—into a little hole about $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter cut in the turf. This hole is commonly marked by a flag. Eighteen holes are the recognised number for a full course, and they vary in distance from one hundred yards or so up to between 500 and 600 yards. The game has this charm, that after the ball is hit from the starting point, (tee) of each hole, it has to be played where it lies, until it is finally put into the hole. You can readily understand that the ball may be in such a position that it is necessary to lift it into the air quickly, and this necessitates the use of different clubs for different shots. Each player plays his own ball and the object is to hit the ball from the starting point into each successive hole in the fewest strokes. The player, who at the end of the round of 18 holes, has won the majority of the holes, is the winner. However, the decision may be reached before the end of the round, by one side gaining more holes than there remain to play. For instance, if one player be three holes to the good, and only two holes remain to be played, it is evident that he must be the winner, for even if his opponent win every remaining hole, he would still be one to the bad at the finish.

The game was first played on links, but as it spread and the demand for links extended, inland greens or courses became a necessity. The term links and courses are often looked upon as synonymous, but there is a distinction. Links is the name given to the land of a sandy nature adjacent to the seaside, while the name course applies where the game is played over fields and meadow land away from the seaside.

The game requires long practice, and, generally speaking, must be learned in youth to allow one to excel at it. Of course the average man can learn in a year or so to play tolerably well, so as to get pleasure, and for all who have once entered upon it, it possesses no ordinary fascination. It has this advantage over many other games, in that it is suited for both old and young. The strong and energetic find scope for their energy in driving long balls—and it is certainly a great sensation to hit a ball and observe its flight in the air for about 200 yards or so. But the more important points of the game—an exact eye, a steady and measured stroke for the short distances, and skill in avoiding hazards—are called forth in all cases. Along with the muscular exercise required by the actual play, there is a measure of walking which particularly suits those whose pursuits are sedentary—walking too, on a breezy common, and under circumstances which make it far more beneficial than an ordinary "constitutional."

This is the game which the writer follows, and one could at some considerable length expatiate upon its merits. But perhaps enough has been noted of its history and the regulations governing the playing of it. In closing, one cannot do better than quote a toast on the game of golf which toast was given by a Scotsman named David Forgan, and which will give some idea of the virtues attaching to the game.

"It is a science—the study of a lifetime in which you may exhaust yourself but never your subject. It is a contest, a duel, or a melee calling for courage, skill, strategy and self control. It is a test of temper, a trial of honour, a revealer of character. It affords a chance to play the man and act the gentleman. It means going into God's out-of-doors, getting close to nature, fresh air exercise, a sweeping away of the mental cobwebs, genuine recreation of the tired tissues.

"It is a cure for care, an antidote to worry. It includes companionship with friends, social intercourse, opportunities for courtesy, kindness and generosity to an opponent. It promotes not only physical health, but moral force."