



THE AMERICAN GOLFER will gladly answer any inquiries from subscribers on questions relating to the Rules.

THE PROPER WEIGHT OF CLUBS

BY SEYMOUR DUNN

MR. WALTER J. TRAVIS.

MY DEAR MR. TRAVIS:—I have always been a very great admirer of you, because I consider you the most scientific amateur golfer that ever lived; in fact, I would go further and say that your achievements in golf put you on a pedestal above all other amateurs, and for two reasons: you attained your skill in spite of two very great handicaps. First, you began late in life, and second, you were not endowed by nature with an over abundance of natural physical ability for the game, in other words I would not say that you were a born golfer but rather that you made yourself one by your ability to analyse scientifically the art of golf and by compiling the facts and data thus gained by analysis you built up theories which, while I could not say I agree with all of them entirely, the majority were sound enough to enable you by practice to put them into effect to the extent that you accomplished what few golfers have done and what none with your handicaps have ever done.

Then by your scientific study of the game you unearthed and generously gave to the golfing world more "real" scientific facts and data which are of great value to golfers everywhere

than any other amateur, and you have proven the value of your theories by your numerous successes in championships.

Now my object in writing you is not to say nice things about you, but I wish to point out a matter of interest both to you and golfers generally.

I read with much interest your article on the weight of clubs and balls in the last issue of THE AMERICAN GOLFER, but I do not think you made the point quite clear for some, and before I say what I have to say on this matter let me give one or two reasons why I presume to do so.

My grandfather, old Willie Dunn, of Musselburgh, Scotland, was the most advanced club-maker of his day; my father, the late Tom Dunn, of North Berwick, Scotland, upheld the reputation of the Dunn's as leading club-maker, and during the past ten years I have myself spent some thousands of dollars on experimenting alone in an endeavour to place club making on a sound scientific basis, and therefore and because of my admiration for you I feel I would like to say in connection with your article that one of the results of all our concentration and study is that the total weight of a golf club is comparatively negligible where driving power in a club is concerned. It is the weight contained in the club-head only which

has to do with driving power and not the *total weight*. In proof of this I will say that it is possible to have a club weigh say 14 ounces and yet the head alone separated from that 14 ounce club might weigh perhaps only $6\frac{1}{4}$ ounces, and such a club would feel like a toy in one's hands. On the other hand it is possible for a club of the same length as the 14 ounce one just mentioned to weigh altogether only 12 ounces, while the head alone separated from that 12 ounce club might weigh fully 7 ounces; such a club though it may be 2 ounces in total weight lighter than the 14 ounce club first mentioned, will feel extremely heavy and will have enormous driving power while the first mentioned club will have little or next to none.

I strongly advocate heavy-headed clubs, because they give power and tend to steady one's swing, and therefore also one's play, but there is a limit to adding weight to the club head, and that limit is determined by the strength of the player. Increase the weight of your club-head too much and you will find you cannot swing it with as great a speed as you can a lighter headed club, and on the other hand if in order to get speed you make your club-head too light, you have no driving power, for it is weight in the club-head that gives momentum to the blow. Driving power is "*Speed plus momentum.*"

This great question of the correct weight for each individual's club-head is a very important and a very fine point indeed, and very few have any correct knowledge concerning it.

From what I have said you must not think that the total weight of a club is of no importance; on the contrary it is a very important matter in the proper fitting of a player. A stout heavy player should play with clubs

heavy in point of total weight, while a player of light weight should play with clubs of light total weight. Such clubs will be better suited to and will feel better to their respective players, but the question of *driving power in a club lies in the weight of the club-head alone.*

Other points in a club such as the spring of the shaft for example, do not have so much to do with the driving power of the club as they have to do with the player. The spring of the shaft if properly suited to a player will bring out the power of that player.

Thus to produce a club that will "feel" right to any particular player, its total weight should correspond to the weight of the player who is to use it, and for greatest distance the club-head's weight must equal the power of the player using it, and also the rigidity or suppleness of the club shaft must correspond to the strength of the player's wrists, but this latter point is going into other details and I intended to confine my remarks to the matter of club weight only, for to do justice to all the details pertaining to the matter of clubs would require a good sized volume in itself.

In closing, I would say players should by all means pay attention to the total weight of their clubs, but they should give first and most attention to the matter of the weight of the club head, and this can only be determined by taking it off, and weighing it on accurate scales. I emphasize "accurate" because most clubmakers' scales are not; druggists are.

A very valuable point in favour of spliced wood clubs is that the heads can be quite readily taken off without injury to either the shaft or the head,

and changes made and facts determined while experimenting.

I very much prefer spliced clubs anyway, because of other very important reasons.

Yours very truly,

SEYMOUR DUNN.

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St., New York City.

DEAR SIR: In the February issue

of THE AMERICAN GOLFER, I note with "fright" your detailed article on "auction golf." This game would no doubt be most interesting to those playing it, but what would happen to the temper of the "man behind" while the betting takes place at each tee?

Yours very truly,

HENRY CAPE.

