GREAT GOLFERS

Their Methods at a Glance

BY GEORGE W. BELDAM

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY

HAROLD H. HILTON
J. H. TAYLOR  JAMES BRAID  ALEX. HERD
HARRY VARDON

ILLUSTRATED

BY 268 ACTION-PHOTOGRAPHS

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ward swing. Those of the address were naturally given a longer exposure, still they might be termed instantaneous, as they were taken at $\frac{1}{200}$th part of a second.

The player was asked to "waggle," and, directly he placed the club against the ball, was snapped. This was done in order to ensure natural results, and to show as much action in the address as possible.

The general principle of the grip has always been to hold the club well in the fingers of both hands, and the reason for this is not very far to seek.

Where the wrists are used and allowed to work as they should do, it is essential that there should be more finger than palm grip. If the club is held in the palms, the wrists must necessarily be stiffened, and cannot work easily. Some of the best exponents violate this principle, but they are what they are, in spite of it, and supply those exceptions which prove the rule. Distinct finger grip is evident in the majority.

Taking for example the professionals, Vardon, Taylor, and Braid, it will be seen that they all grip principally with their two first fingers; in other words, the club lies in the crook of the forefingers.

They do not take this finger principle too literally—allowing no palm whatever to come into the grip. For it will be noticed that, if the club is gripped in the two first fingers of each hand, it falls naturally into the remainder of the grip. Then it will be seen that the shaft lies across that part of the hands where the fingers join them, and this must give a certain amount of palm grip.

Plate Nos. III (Vardon and Braid) show the grip of the left hand on the shaft, the right hand having
HARRY VARDON

By HIMSELF

Open Champion, 1896, 1898, 1899, 1903.
Champion of America, 1900.

Born: 1870, Jersey, Channel Islands.
Weight, 11 stone. Height, 5 feet 9\(\frac{1}{4}\) inches.

Dear Sir,

I herewith enclose the photographs showing my various strokes, and I have endeavoured to put as plainly as I can some hints on the way I play them, and which I hope may be the means of helping some Golfers to improve their game.

Yours faithfully,

Harry Vardon.

G. W. BELDAM, ESQ.
GRIP

My grip is not interlocked, but the little finger of the right hand overlaps the first finger of the left. The club is held in the crook of the first finger of the right hand, and lies rather across the palm than in the fingers—the right thumb is over the shaft, rather to the left of the centre. The two middle fingers just close over the club. The little finger overlaps the first finger of the left hand.

I grip firmly with the first finger and thumb, and there is decided pressure with the little finger on the knuckle of the first finger of the left hand. The same principle of grip applies to the left hand—viz., the grip is mostly with the first finger and thumb and the little finger—the left thumb, however, lies down the shaft to the right of the centre, and is decidedly pressed against the side of it with the under part of the right hand. The right palm, which applies this pressure, is gradually eased in the upward swing, until at the top of the swing it no longer presses the left thumb—at the same time the grip of the first finger and thumb and the little finger of the right hand is still as firm as those of the left. On the downward swing the palm of right hand and the left thumb gradually come together, and pressure is again applied at that point where it was eased in the upward swing.

Plate No. III. shows the right hand slightly opened to allow the grip of the left hand and position of the left thumb to be seen.
Plate No. I
Harry Vardon

Grip
Top of Swing
Plate No. II
Harry Vardon

Grip
Plate No. III
Harry Vardon

Grip
Right-hand opened to show position of left thumb
J. H. TAYLOR

BY HIMSELF

Open Champion, 1894, 1895, 1900.

Born: Northam, North Devon, 1871.
Weight: 111\(\frac{1}{2}\) stone. Height: 5 feet 8\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches.

G. W. BELDAM, ESQ.

Dec. 10th, 1903.

Dear Sir,

As I promised, I am sending you my notes on each stroke shown by your Photographs, which I have tried to put as clearly as I can, and which I hope will prove helpful to all classes of Golfers.

Yours Faithfully,

J. H. TAYLOR
DEDICATED

BY KIND PERMISSION

TO

THE RIGHT HON. A. J. BALFOUR

PRIME MINISTER

WHO HAS DONE SO MUCH FOR

THE ROYAL AND ANCIENT GAME