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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J. H. TAYLOR

BY HIMSELF

Open Champion, 1894, 1895, 1900.

Born: Northam, North Devon, 1871.
Weight: 11\frac{1}{2} stone. Height: 5 feet 8\frac{1}{2} inches.

G. W. Beldam, Esq.  

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.
Plate No. 1
J. H. Taylor

GRIP
TOP OF SWING
been opened for this to be seen more clearly. Plate Nos. II (Vardon, Taylor, and Braid) show the overlapping grip, and in the case of Braid and Vardon, that part of the right hand which applies pressure on the left thumb. In Taylor’s case there is little or no pressure of the right hand on the left thumb. Why is it that we find three of the best exponents amongst the professionals adopting this overlapping grip? Can there be any magical power in it? I think there can be little doubt that the hands, being brought closer together, they, as well as the wrists, are far more likely to work in unison. The above-mentioned three professionals undoubtedly use a great deal of wrist work in all their strokes, but against these must be placed Mr. Robert Maxwell.

He uses this overlapping grip (see his series), but, I venture to think, not so much with the object of allowing the wrists, but rather the hands to work together; for my impression of his play, which seems to be borne out by his photographs, is, that wrist work is conspicuous by its absence.

It is worthy of note that were Mr. Hilton to slide his hands at the top of the swing rather closer together, the little finger of the right hand would fall naturally into the position it would assume in the overlapping grip. See his series, Plate No. I.

Mr. Hilton’s grip appears to be a most delicate one at the top of the swing, for only three fingers of the left hand, and two of the right, seem to be holding the club. This may possibly be owing to an accident which happened to him early in his golfing career. Many believe that the grip should be slightly relaxed at the
GRIP

I grip the club in the bend of the fore-finger of the left hand, the thumb pressing on the top of the shaft. The two middle fingers just exert a controlling influence; with the little finger I grip a little tighter. The grip of the right hand is similar in every respect, except that the thumb lies over the shaft, and the little fore-finger rides lightly on the first finger of the left hand.

The principal pressure throughout the grip is with the first finger and thumb of each hand; but as the right thumb only lies over the shaft, the gripping power necessarily comes from the left fore-finger and thumb and the right fore-finger.

At the top of the swing the grip of the right fore-finger is somewhat slackened, to allow the right wrist to drop underneath the shaft. On the downward movement, the pressure with the fore-finger is gradually renewed, until at impact it is the same as when the ball was addressed. The left-hand pressure is retained throughout the whole swing
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DEDICATED

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TO

THE RIGHT HON. A. J. BALFOUR

PRIME MINISTER

WHO HAS DONE SO MUCH FOR

THE ROYAL AND ANCIENT GAME