

AGAINST GOLF FOURSOMES

LITTLE INTEREST NOWADAYS IN THIS STYLE OF PLAY.

Imaginative Team Play an Argument in Its Favor — Four-Ball Match an Entirely Different Proposition — Principles of the Sport Opposed to the Lesley Cup Style of Play.

Within a few days the Metropolitan Golf Association will have to decide upon a number of questions of interest to devotees of the game in this part of the country. One thing in particular has to do with time, place, and conditions for governing the first team match between the Metropolitan Golf Association and the New Jersey State Golf Association. In an unofficial way it has been intimated that the event might be run off at Baltusrol the day before the start of the Metropolitan championship, to be held on that course the latter part of May.

The reason that time was spoken favorably of was because practically all the amateurs interested would be on hand then for practice. But the main question golfers are asking is whether the afternoon matches will be foursomes or four-ball. Oswald Kirkby, captain of the New Jersey team, and several of the leading Metropolitan amateurs have already declared themselves as favoring the four-ball.

There never has been much doubt but that the majority of the golfers in this section stood with regard to the two styles. Several years ago, when the conditions governing play in the Lesley Cup matches were changed to foursomes, more to please the Boston contingent than anything else, most of the Metropolitan players expressed the hope that some day they would be able to go back to the four-ball. Possibly, after the Metropolitan Golf Association-New Jersey match, the agitation to give up the old-fashioned foursomes will be started afresh. In discussing the subject Leighton Calhoun presents a number of arguments decidedly favorable to the four-ball. He says:

LESLEY CUP MATCHES.

The Lesley cup matches have been responsible for a very good-natured discussion of the relative merits of foursomes and four-ball matches. I do not want to be understood as urging a return to four-ball matches. The Metropolitan Golf Association consented to foursomes out of deference to the wishes of the other two associations, and is content to play them under any conditions they may name. But I raise my hand in protest against any eulogy of the foursome as a game.

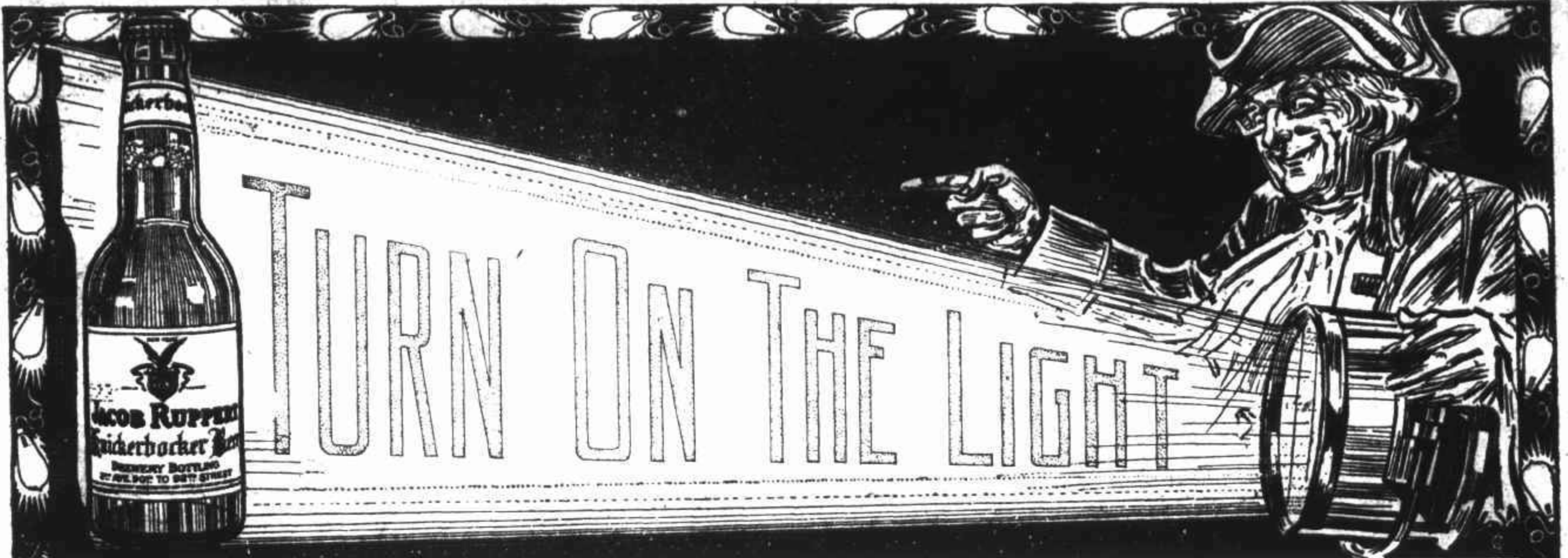
"It is argued that the Lesley competition is a team competition, and that there is more room for team-play in a foursome than in a four-ball match. There has been no end of talk along this line, but it never leads anywhere, because no one stops long enough to define what he means by team-play. The fact is that there is no such thing as team-play in golf at all, using the term as it applies in other sports, such as football, baseball, lacrosse, or hockey, meaning the simultaneous and harmonious participation of two or more individuals in a single play. In each stroke must be executed from beginning to end by one man alone, and not by two or more contestants assisting each other in the play. The foursome stands only for what may be called the combined steadiness of two players playing theoretically as one, but actually playing each of them, approximately one-half of the game, and one-half of the time. In foursomes, a victory generally denotes little except an absence of really poor play on the part of either player. Safe, average play is a better asset than brilliancy mixed with error. Of course, brilliancy is possible in foursomes among people used to playing that way. But the inducements, aside from the fact that it is in the direction of avoiding mistakes, rather than of making them.

FINE PLAY IN FOUR-BALL MATCHES.

The four-ball match stands out in striking contrast. Brilliant play abounds, and a match is seldom won in any other way. With all four players evenly matched, it is generally necessary for one of them to "jump out of the bunch" with a "birdie" in order to capture the hole. The strongest argument for the four-ball match is to be found precisely in the point where it is most bitterly censured. Namely, that one player may go all to pieces and yet his side may win. Exactly. But how is it done? By his partner playing the best ball of two others, a most difficult thing to do in golf, with the four players fairly evenly matched. Who will gain the reward if the trick is done, or deny a match which may produce a record score under the stress of one player holding two? In a foursome, under similar conditions, the match degenerates into a procession, and all this proves nothing as to team play, but merely that if one player is off his game in a foursome, all four players and the gallery to boot will have a mighty uninteresting time of it.

"The four-ball match produces one style of play, the foursome another. It is not a question of team play at all. It is a question of taste, which game would you rather play or see? That is all there is to it, and the question has been answered with no lack of emphasis by golfers everywhere. The foursome is old-fashioned and abundantly favored. It is true that it is included in the definition of the game of golf, but we have since enacted rules for four-ball matches, and as against the wonderfully venerable age of the foursome we may with propriety set up its colossal modern unpopularity. Its history proves it to have been prominently a lay game for tired old men after luncheon; for overfed nobles and kings; gentry octogenarians, and the like. As they manly supported the game, long before the discovery of America they had a hand in the first definition of the game, being careful to include the form of competition least calculated to interfere with their gastronomic habits and measures.

"Finally, a word as to the essence of golf. A distinctive characteristic, compared with many other games of skill and endurance, is the entire absence of physical contact with your opponent, your absolute freedom of choice as to balls and clubs; and the basic principle that in playing your own ball from start to finish you will get all along the route, exactly that to which you play entitles you. A shot stroke will bring its own reward, and a stroke into a bottomless pit of the home hole of Garden City, its swift and sure damnation. Ancient definitions of the game to the contrary notwithstanding,



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standing, the foursome is absolutely at variance with the fundamental idea of the game. In a foursome you never play your own ball! You are always playing somebody else's ball, which isn't so!

The foursome, though old as the hills is really a modification of the pure game of golf, and akin to other freak forms of competition, such as one-club matches, obstacle competitions, etc. It is only a step further to a sixome, three playing one ball against three others doing the same. Why not frame the Lesley conditions, so that each team of ten players shall have a joint interest and participation in the progress of a single ball? Imagine the Massachusetts and Metropolitan Associations in a twenty-some ten men on a side.

"My friends, give it up. The foursome isn't doomed. It is dead as a door-nail already, and requires more practice than it is getting in the Lesley competition. If it is ever to breathe again."

BOOM IN LAWN TENNIS.

More Than 200 Tournaments to Be Held in Twenty Weeks.

When the executive committee of the United States National Lawn Tennis Association met yesterday, it expected to finish up the schedule for the coming season, but after working ten hours, trying to crowd 200 tournaments into the season of twenty weeks adjournment was taken, and it will be a week or more before the list is ready. Nothing like the number of applications for tournaments has been seen in the history of the association and the members of the committee declare that if the present boom in the game continues, it will be impossible to provide dates for all clubs.

No statement was forthcoming as to the most important meets, but there was considerable discussion over the championship, and there was a strong feeling that the tournament should be held earlier than usual, preceding instead of following the Southampton meet. There is a feeling among players that it will be necessary before long to have Eastern and Western divisions of the tennis world, with members each ineligible to compete in tournaments outside of their own sections, except in invitation affairs. Conflicts of dates between the East and the West that are certain this year will go a long way toward effecting this change.

Miscellaneous Sporting News.
Stuyvesant High and De Witt Clinton have decided to play off the tie in the high schools basketball championship. The game will take place in the College of the City of New York gymnasium, probably on Friday night.

The annual indoor athletic meet of the St. Ann's Junior Name Society will be held on Tuesday evening at the Sixty-sixth Regiment armory.

W. D. Andrews was elected president, Max Webber secretary, and J. G. Barclay treasurer at the Field Club Soccer League meeting in Brooklyn yesterday.

J. P. Poggenburg beat Count de Dros, 408 to 122, in the International amateur billiard tournament yesterday in Paris.

Philadelphia beat Chicago in the inter-city three-cushion amateur billiard tournament last night in Chicago by 66 to 27.

LARCHMONT YACHT DATES

RACE WEEK TO BE LATER THAN IN OTHER YEARS.

Conflict with Other Clubs Avoided— Wilson Marshall Cup for 65-Footers Istalena, Aurora, and Winsome to Compete — Preparing in England for International Regatta at Kiel.

Racing dates for the summer have just been announced by the regatta committee of the Larchmont Yacht Club. The season will open on June 15, with the annual spring regatta for all classes of schooners, sloops, and yawls. It will be the first big regatta of the year on Long Island Sound waters. On July 4, the annual regatta of the Club will be held from July 20 to 27, both dates inclusive, and the fall regatta will be held on Labor Day, September 2. In addition, the Club will hold races on June 23 and August 31, for its inter-club class of boats. The change of date for race week was made at a special meeting held at the clubhouse in Larchmont during the last week. In order that there would be no conflicting dates among the Eastern, the Larchmont, and the New York Yacht Clubs, the change permits the larger boats to sail in the annual race week of the Larchmont Yacht Club this year.

With the knowledge that the larger craft are going to start, ex-Commodore Wilson Marshall has offered to Horace E. Boucher, chairman of the regatta committee, a handsome prize for one of the more important divisions of boats. As Commodore Richards and the other reg officers have offered trophies for the various schooner classes, the Marshall cup will go to the winner of the sixty-five-foot division of sloops Istalena was the only sixty-five-footer in completion last year. In addition to the sloop of Vice Commodore Lynchon, it is known that ex-Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt intends to race Aurora, and that Winsome will be sailed by her new owner, E. Troubridge Hall.

The chief yachting event of the year abroad will be the great international regatta at Kiel, and all the more important British yachts are pledged to appear there. So far as the large yacht classes in England are concerned, there is a dearth of recruits this year, the only new vessels that have been built of a size exceeding eight metres rating being two cutters of fifteen metres. The racing fleet will, therefore, be composed for the most part of vessels that competed in 1911. The big twenty-three-metre cutters Shamrock and White Heather II will however make a welcome reappearance, and there will be a repetition of the keen duels that characterized the racing in 1909 and 1910. Both yachts have been extensively overhauled under the supervision of Lloyd's, and will be seen at their best. Sir Thomas Lipton's cutter will have her old skipper, Sycamore, at the helm, but in White Heather, Montfield has succeeded Bevis, who was in charge

of Mr. Kennedy's craft when the two last met.

The racing in the "A" class for schooners, yawls, and ketches exceeding 23-metre rating will be confined to the German schooners Meteor and Germania and the Philadelphia Waterwitch, which first made her appearance last summer. The last mentioned it will be remembered, proved a failure, and was badly beaten both at home and abroad by the German vessels. In the hope of improving the yacht, her owner, Mr. Cecil Whitaker, has had her considerably altered, and, with a larger sail area, it is probable that she will prove a better match for Meteor and Germania than she was during her first season.

The first appearance of the 19-metre cutters will be watched with particular interest, as, since the four yachts last met, all have been more or less altered. The racing of this class in 1911 was perhaps the best that has been seen by the present generation of yachtsmen, many of the matches being won and lost by only a few seconds. A feature of the sport last year was the fine seamanship displayed by the helmsman and crews of the four vessels, Octavia in particular was handled superbly by her owner, Mr. W. P. Burton, and her proud position at the head of the class must be attributed as much to the skill and judgment of her amateur skipper as to any superiority in design. For a Corinthian to compete successfully against the cleverest professional talent of the day was something of an achievement, and exploded once for all the old fallacy that an amateur is no match for a professional at the helm of a large yacht.

Mr. Burton's brilliant performance is already beginning to bear fruit, for during the coming season another expert Corinthian will enter the lists, in the person of Mr. Charles MacIver, one of the best known yachtsmen on the Clyde. This gentleman, who has of late sailed the 12-metre cutter Jayvite, will be in charge of the Nicholson-designed Norada, which, in the opinion of many experts, is the pick of the fleet. Mr. Stobber has had to find a new captain for Mariquita, as Sycamore, who was lent to him last year by Sir Thomas Lipton, has been claimed for Shamrock. Mr. Stobber has appointed Robert Wright to command his yacht, and he could hardly have made a better choice, as the Brighton man has had a wide experience of racing in craft of every description. Last year Wright sailed the Spanish "fifties" Triang, very cleverly, and before that was in charge of the schooner Susanna.

The fifty cutters Marquita and Corona have had considerable alterations effected in their underways bodies, with a view to improving their windward work, the point of sailing that tells more than any other. In both instances the fore end of the keel has been lowered and the midship section has been raised in a similar manner to that which proved so successful in the 11-fated Brynhild and the cutter White Heather. Each yacht has been given a new mast to accommodate a rather larger sail area. The champion Germania has had some of the lead that she carried inside last summer added to her keel, a modification that should make for improvement. The alterations to Norada are trivial, being merely a slight modification of the sail plan. What the effect of these alterations is the yacht will be upon the racing it is impossible to say, but it will need but very little improvement in any one of them to improve their windward work. The Royal Thames Yacht Club has allotted to the 19-metre class the cup presented by his Majesty, and the yacht will compete for the coveted trophy in the match from the Nora to Dover.

OVER THE CHESSBOARD.

Rubinstein a Disappointment at the San Sebastian Tournament—Russian Master Too Cautious.

By EMANUEL LASKER.

(Special Correspondence of The Evening Post.)

BERLIN, March 5.—Spielmann has beaten Rubinstein, and thus the dream of Rubinstein winning first prize at San Sebastian fades away. Spielmann needs only to make five points in the second round to carry the prize home in safety. What is the matter with Rubinstein? This tourney is his opportunity, and yet he insists on playing queen's gambit and French defenses. He needs not to be afraid of complications, because he has shown combative talent of the highest order; still he simplifies needlessly. Perhaps he has not enough of the spirit of adventure. But nobody has as yet conquered fame while staying quite secure. The peril calls forth hidden capacities and wings imagination. Constant safety satiates. Let him run risks, or his wonderful talent will fall short of its capabilities.

A fine game, which exhibits Rubinstein's genius for the end game, played at San Sebastian, is the following:

FRENCH DEFENSE.

White:	Black:
Schlechter:	Rubinstein:
1. P-K4	P-K3
2. P-Q4	P-Q4
3. Kt-K3	Kt-K3
4. B-KKt5	P-P
5. P-K3	Q-Kt2
6. Kt-R3	R-K2
7. Nt-Kt1	P-QK3
	P-QK3

White could well have afforded to sacrifice a pawn for development by B-Q3, Kt-Kt, B-R, Q-B, B-Kt, Q-Kt3, Q-Q2, Q-KtP, castles, Q-R3, QR-Kt.

Black does not castle, because Q-K3 would then have prevented the move he now made according to 8. Castles, 3. Q-K3, P-QK3, 10. B-Kt, B-R, 11. Q-K4.

In order to prevent this move, he might have played Q-B3.

11. B-R3
12. Kt-R3
13. Kt-K5
14. Q-R3
15. Kt-Q
16. Castles Queen
17. Bt-R
18. Kt-R
19. R-K5
20. Kt-K5

Black wants to provoke P-Q3, in order to close part of the third rank to the white rooks, which would assume a strong position on QR3.

21. P-QR3
22. Kt-Kt1

White is unaware of any peril, but his pawns are weak. He should have posted his Kt on K3 or Q3 and guarded his K side pawns.

Black would have taken an excellent post for attack and defence with R-KR4. White, therefore, forces black to block that line.

Black makes a sharp attack with very little material. Rubinstein's manner of playing the ending is a pleasure to behold.

30. P-R5
31. R-K2
32. P-B4
33. P-K5
34. P-R4
35. R-K1

Resigns. White loses his rook and has no chance of making a fight with his passed pawn.

Problem No. 124—By I. Chocholous:
(Black eight pieces.)



White (eight pieces).
White to play and mate in three moves.
Solution of problem No. 123, by N. Westin:
1. B-B3.

Rubinstein won the masters' tournament at San Sebastian with 13 victories and 7 defeats. Spielmann and Niemannsdich divided second and third prizes with 11½ games won and 7½ lost, and Dr. Tarrasch was fourth with 10½ won and 4½ lost.

BROWN REAL ESTATE MAN KILLED.

Henry Lavelle Shot by Another Real Estate Operator.

Henry Lavelle, a Bronx real estate operator, who was shot last night as the police assert, by Benjamin F. Jackson, another Bronx real estate man, died in the Fordham Hospital a few minutes after the third o'clock this morning as the result of a bullet wound in the head. Jackson was locked up in the Tremont station after the shooting on a charge of felonious assault, and, as soon as the police were notified of the death of Lavelle, the charge against Jackson was changed to homicide.

The shooting took place at the home of Jackson, at No. 1229 Simpson Street, where Lavelle's sister, Mrs. Martha Lehaney, wife of Thomas Lehaney, a paint contractor, was engaged as housekeeper. Lavelle went to the house to see his sister. There was a quarrel at the front door, during which Jackson saw he picked up a revolver which he kept in the hall for protection and fired blindly.

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