Dec. 10, 1935. E. B. HINCKLEY 2,023,885

GAME CLUB

Filed April 5, 1934

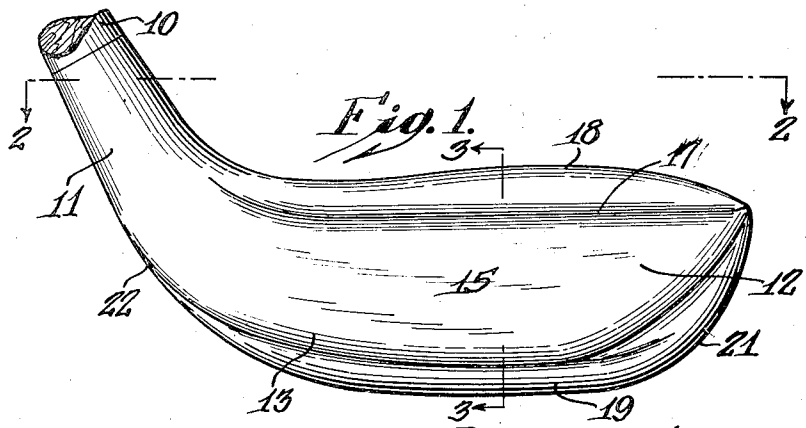


Fig. 1.

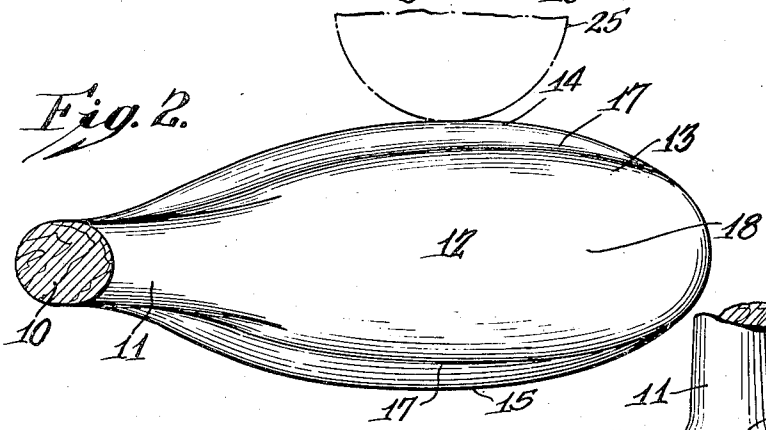


Fig. 2.

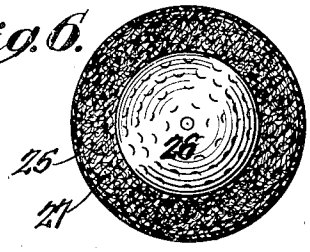


Fig. 6.

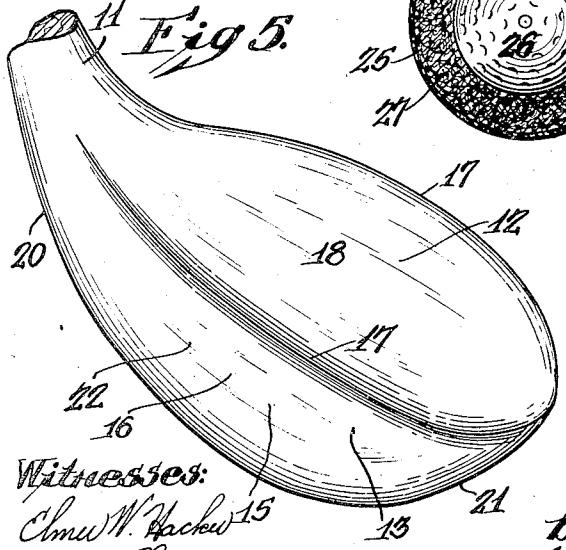


Fig. 5.

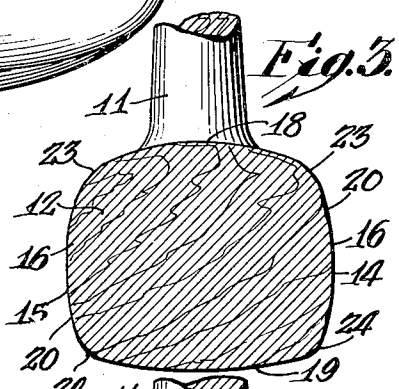


Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.

Witnesses:
Elmer W. Hackett
Walter Chism.

Inventor
Edward B. Hinckley
by Steel & Steel
Attorneys.

Patented Dec. 10, 1935

2,023,885

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,023,885

GAME CLUB

Edward B. Hinckley, Philadelphia, Pa.

Application April 5, 1934, Serial No. 719,186

4 Claims. (Cl. 273—67)

My invention relates to clubs of a type similar to those used for the game of golf, but having marked distinctions from normal golf clubs, and to be used for a different purpose.

In my Patent No. 1,911,569, dated May 30, 1933, I disclose a game called teeball partaking in part of the nature of the games of baseball, tennis and golf, and in which a ball preferably larger than the normal golf ball but of quite resilient construction is struck by the club wielded by the player and is thus propelled into some point in the field.

As in golf the ball is preferably hit from a tee, but instead of attempting to give accuracy through the skill of the player and the special adaptation of the club to niceties of placing through the character of the face given to the club, in the present case one of my main purposes is to make it difficult to direct the ball in any given preferred direction or to any preferred distance or point.

A further purpose of my invention is to curve the striking face of the club convexly, preferably convexing it in both vertical and horizontal planes through the face of the club. In other words, the face of the club is both circumferential and is also bowed in vertical planes, so as to give a face which is most desirably swelled outwardly and curved in all directions.

A further purpose of my invention is to curve the striking face of the club convexly, preferably convexing it in both vertical and horizontal planes through the face of the club. In other words, the face of the club is both circumferential and is also bowed in vertical planes so as to give a face which is most desirably swelled outwardly and curved in all directions.

A further purpose is to provide a club which shall deliver a good blow to the ball, but which shall be deliberately designed to make the result of the blow uncertain, using this as a "hazard" in the club.

A further purpose is to provide a club of the general character of a golf club, but much larger and heavier than the golf club, for the purpose of making it possible to use it effectively upon a much larger ball than a golf ball and a ball of less elasticity than a golf ball.

A further purpose is to form a club having bulged curved surfaces on opposite striking faces, whereby the club is suited to permit use by a right-handed or left-handed player, using the same club, and to disturb the aim of the player in either event.

A further purpose is to provide a club of the general character of a golf club with a definite "hazard" in the club by which it is unsuited for performing its duty to the best effect.

I have preferred to illustrate my invention by one form only, selecting a form which is quite excellent for the purpose which I have in mind, but which has been selected primarily with a view to its suitability to illustration of the invention.

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the lower end of a stick embodying my invention.

Figure 2 is a top plan view, partly in section, of the structure of Figure 1, taken upon line 2—2 thereof and with a ball shown in dot and dash lines adjacent a striking edge of the club.

Figure 3 is a transverse section of Figure 1 taken upon line 3—3 thereof.

Figure 4 is an end elevation of the head end only of the stick seen in the before mentioned figures.

Figure 5 is a perspective view of the lower end of the stick seen in Figures 1 to 4 inclusive.

Figure 6 is a sectional view of a ball used with my invention.

The shaft 10 of the present illustration, is larger than the shaft of the normal golf stick for the purpose of fitting and wielding a neck 11 and a head 12, both larger than the corresponding parts of the normal golf stick.

The head 12 comprises for our present purposes a body 13 heavy enough for the purpose intended and limiting preferably opposite counterpart bulging faces 14 and 15, each of which comprises a complete operating face for a left or right-hand player, as the case may be, and in addition by its bulging shape adds to the weight to make either face effective.

The faces 14, 15 are both convex externally and are curved as at 16 and 17 in vertical and horizontal planes respectively. Though the curvature 16 might be the same as the corresponding length of curvature at 17, giving effect of a sphere if the curves be true arcs of circles, this is not necessary for two reasons. In the first place it is ordinarily desirable to have a smaller radius of curvature in the vertical plane than in the horizontal plane and because there is no need of the curve in either plane being the arc of the circle. It can be varied from point to point progressively in curvature with or without definite law of the variation. This throws open for use here all kinds of curves, including such well-known curves as parabolas, ellipses, hyberbolas, etc., as well as curves whose lack of regularity or plan leaves them without designation.

The top of the body at 18 is shown as crowned, giving additional weight without undue distance between the striking faces and the bottom of the club at 19 is given a normal bulging curvature suiting it to skimming over the ground and making it more difficult to sole the club properly.

The adjoining edges between the striking faces and the top and bottom of the body of the head are curved as at 20, the end of the club is curved at 21, 22 at the front and rear, the limiting edges between the ends and striking edges being also preferably eased off in curves as at 23, 24.

The most desirable curve in horizontal—as well as for vertical cross-section—is a transition curve having the shortest radius at the center of the club face, and built up progressively from different centers as the distance from the center of the face increases.

It will thus be seen that my club is a difficult one with which reliably to guide the ball, being deliberately made more difficult than the golf club by the considerably bulging curvature of the faces. Instead of limiting the hazards by the condition of the field, as in golf, I have provided a special club to act in place of most of them. In the patent there is also a net similar to a tennis net in the form of a hazard, but whose character as a hazard is exaggerated and intensified by the type of head used.

It will be evident that the angle of the club head to the shaft suits the club to be swung like a golf club, with such precision, or more properly lack of precision in the direction and distance in and to which the ball goes as is caused by the studied lack of plane surface upon the striking face of the club head.

It will be noted that the club is comparable to a driver in that it is the forward face of the club which is intended to engage the ball rather than to a spoon or other "lifter" type of club in which the ball engages largely the top face of the club sliding along the top surface while the club head is wedged under it.

A slight variation of the striking of the ball with my improved club will cause the ball to be driven into an uncertain place. It is the uncertainty of placement when the ball is hit that makes this particular club especially adaptable for use with the game of my patent mentioned above.

In Figure 6 a cross-section of the ball 25 is shown including in it a golf ball core 26 and a coating of considerable thickness for the golf ball core of material 27 less resilient than the outer material of the golf ball intended to make the ball larger and heavier and less resilient than a golf ball. Of course, I may use a ball of different construction from that shown. It will be noted that there is a combination between my heavier club and the ball above described for the handicap purpose intended in that the ball is made more nearly a size which can be caught by the fielders in the game described in my patent but not so lively as to be capable of being batted far.

In view of my invention and disclosure variations and modifications to meet individual whim or particular need will doubtless become evident to others skilled in the art, to obtain part or all of the benefits of my invention without copying the structure shown, and I, therefore, claim all such in so far as they fall within the reasonable spirit and scope of my invention.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A teeball club, having opposite faces adapted for driving by left or right-hand players at will and having both driving faces convexed with progressively variant curvature in horizontal planes throughout the normal striking zone.

2. A teeball club, having opposite faces adapted for driving by left or right-hand players at will and having both driving faces convexed with progressively variant curvature in horizontal and vertical planes throughout the normal striking zone.

3. A teeball club having a side striking face convexed with progressively variant curvature in the striking zone, the convexity arising from progressively variant curves in both horizontal and vertical planes.

4. A teeball club having the head and shank or shaft larger than those of a normal golf club driver and convexed with progressively variant curvature on the striking face in horizontal planes.

EDWARD B. HINCKLEY.