No. 682,960. Patented Sept. 17, 1901.

F. L. SLAZENGER.

WOODEN GOLF CLUB.

(Application filed Dec. 26, 1900.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 2.

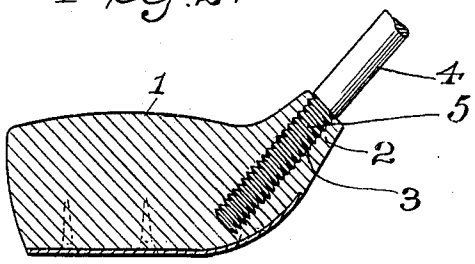


Fig. 1.

Fig. 3.

WITNESSES

H. G. Lamb

M. T. Longdon,

INVENTOR

Frank L. Slazenger

BY

ATTORNEY.

THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK LEGH SLAZENGER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

WOODEN GOLF-CLUB.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 682,960, dated September 17, 1901.

Application filed December 26, 1900. Serial No. 41,025. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK LEGH SLAZENGER, a subject of Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, residing at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Wooden Golf-Clubs; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in golf-clubs, but more particularly has reference to the construction of wooden clubs, such as "drivers" and "brassies."

The object of my invention is to produce a wooden club in which there shall be a perfect continuity of contact between the wood of the shaft and the head without the application of glue or cord winding or metallic parts, so that the full benefits of the elasticity of the wood may be obtained, while at the same time great accuracy may be attained in striking the ball.

In the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this application, Figure 1 is a perspective of a wooden golf-club as it appears when made in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a sectional elevation of such club; and Fig. 3 is a view of the shaft and head in detached condition prior to assembling, the heel of the head being broken away to show the socketed and threaded portion.

Similar numbers of reference denote like parts in the several figures of the drawings.

Prior to my invention wooden golf-clubs have sometimes been made by sinking a tapering socket in a properly-shaped head and then gluing the tapered end of the shaft within said socket, this style of club being used in place of the ordinary "spliced" club; but in driving a golf-ball it is highly essential to get the advantages of the life and elasticity of the wood, and this is impossible in the instance of the ordinary socket-club, where the shaft is glued within the socket in the head, since the glue breaks the proper contact between the wood of the shaft and the wood of the head and as a consequence the life and elasticity of the wood are greatly interfered with. Moreover, the tapering socket affords an inadequate surface contact between the head and the shaft, and this weakens the club, detracts from its power, and when the glue becomes dried out and broken the head will fly off, and this is an occurrence which is impossible in the instance of a club made in accordance with my present invention. It is a recognized fact that glue used in the construction of golf-clubs in this manner renders the club defective and also does not insure a permanent and perfect union between the shaft and head, since the shaft frequently works loose, thereby rendering the club for the time being useless. Golf-clubs have also been made in which a metal shank has been secured to the wooden head, said shank being provided with the interiorly-threaded socket, into which a steel shaft has been driven, but such a club possesses none of the advantages which distinguish the ordinary wooden club, since there is no continuity whatever between the shaft and the wooden head, the driving power of the club is greatly lessened, a wooden shaft cannot be used advantageously, owing to the fact that the contact of the wood with the metal renders the club dead, and the benefit of a particular kind of wood in the head and a particular kind of material in the shaft cannot be obtained, since there is no connection whatever between the head and the shaft save by an intermediate foreign substance. This will be apparent to and will be admitted by any one who understands the game of golf and the nature and advantages of the usual wooden driving-clubs. The end aimed at by all makers of good wooden clubs is to obtain the advantages of a one-piece club with the additional advantages of a head made from one approved kind of wood and a shaft made of another approved kind of wood. My invention aims to overcome these defects, as will be clearly understood from the following description.

1 is a properly-shaped head for a wooden golf-club; 2, the shank thereof; 3, a socket sunk therein at the proper depth and angle, and 4 is the shaft. Golf-clubs are made for both right-handed and left-handed men; but I have shown in the drawings and will herein describe my improved club as made for the use of a right-handed man, it being clearly

understood that for a left-handed man the threads in the socket and on the shaft will be of the opposite nature.

5 is a left-handed thread cut on the end of the shaft, and 6 is also a left-handed thread cut within the inner walls of the socket. In assembling my improvement the threaded shaft is screwed within the socket until the end of said shaft abuts against the bottom of the socket, and the club is then complete and ready for use. The threaded socket extends down the shank and into the head proper of the club, and this not only adds to the strength and power of the club but also gives the player a better control of the club. By extending the socket down the shank and into the body of the head of the club the lower portion of this socket is immediately behind the vertical plane of the driving-face of the club, and this adds greatly to the driving power of the club, while at the same time there can be no shivering of the shaft when the ball is struck near the neck or nose of the head, and the danger of breaking a shaft is reduced to a minimum. In using the club continued blows upon the face thereof cannot loosen the shaft, because they tend to cause said shaft to be screwed more tightly within the socket, and therefore I have done away with the serious defects incident to the use of glue, while at the same time I obtain all the benefits of the life and elasticity of wood. Moreover, should the shaft become broken it may easily be unscrewed from the socket and a new shaft substituted therefor, or should the head break a favorite shaft may be retained by screwing the same within a new head.

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

In a wooden golf-club, the combination of the wooden head having integral therewith a shank which projects upwardly from the heel end of said head and which is provided with an interiorly-threaded socket that extends from the top of said shank down into the body of said head so as to be immediately behind the driving-face of the latter, a wooden shaft having its lower end threaded and adapted to be driven into said socket so that its inner end extends well into the striking portion of the head behind the driving-face of the same, whereby the driving power of the club is increased and the danger of shivering and breaking the shaft is reduced to a minimum, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

FRANK LEGH SLAZENGER.

Witnesses:
J. GARRETT,
L. SAX-SMYTH.