

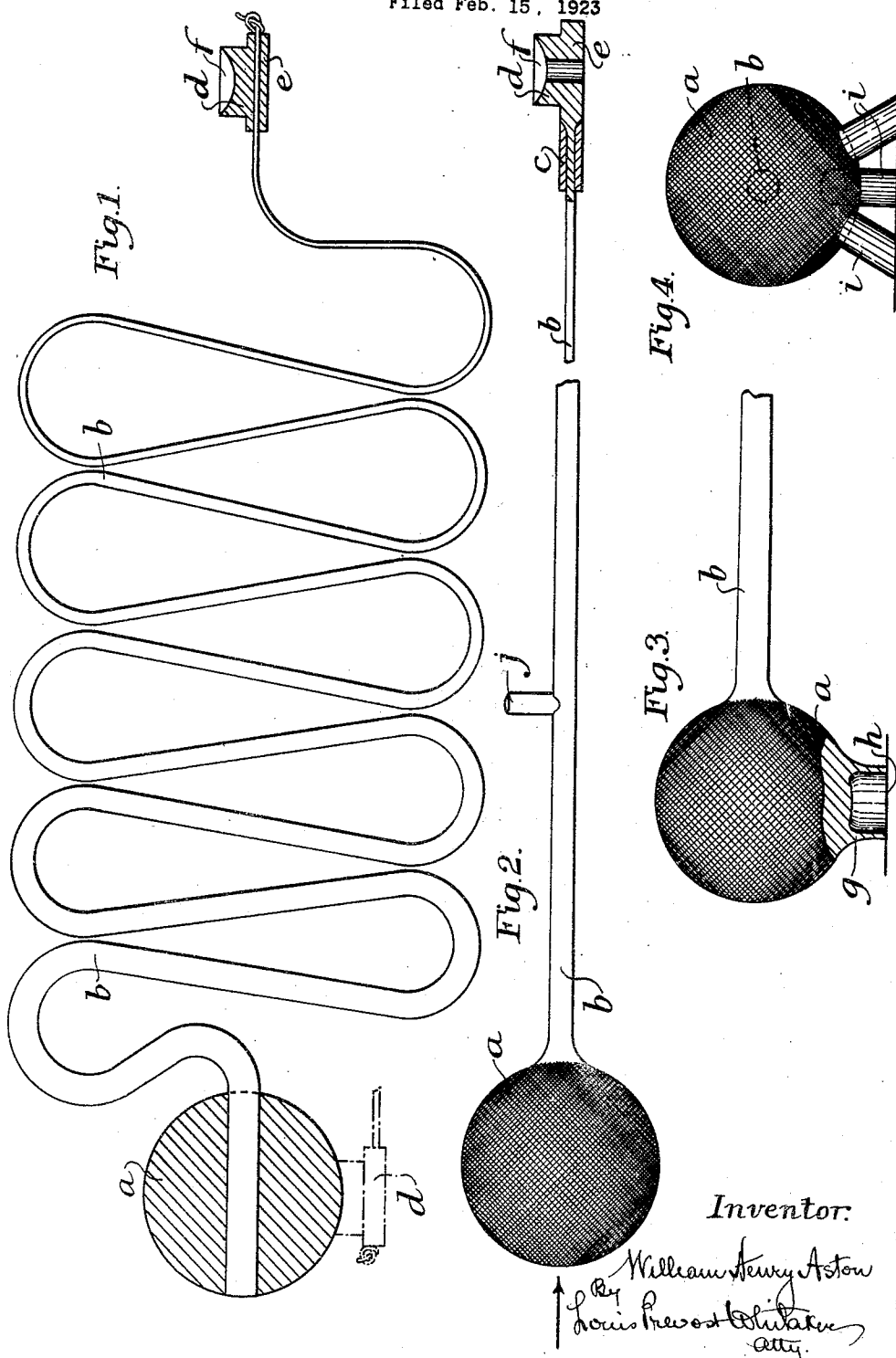
Sept. 9, 1924.

W. H. ASTON

1,507,904

CAPTIVE GOLF BALL

Filed Feb. 15, 1923



Inventor.

William Henry Aston
 By Louis Brewster
 atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM HENRY ASTON, OF LONDON, ENGLAND.

CAPTIVE GOLF BALL.

Application filed February 15, 1923. Serial No. 619,229.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM HENRY ASTON, a subject of the King of Great Britain, residing at 46 Eagle Wharf Road, New North Road, London, England, have invented new and useful Improvements in Captive Golf Balls, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to captive golf balls and has for its object to provide golf balls of this type of a cheap and simple construction.

According to my invention I form a captive golf ball of india-rubber, gutta-percha or other suitable material or composition, and I provide it with a tail of flexible material which will serve to retard the ball in its flight.

This tail may be formed of a strip of leather or other suitable flexible material connected at one end to the ball by being passed into and secured in a diametral hole therein.

Or, the tail may be formed integral with the ball and preferably of tapering form decreasing towards its outer end and having its inner end curved so as to merge into the curved surface of the ball.

To further retard the flight of the ball I may provide thin pieces of lead or other material which are bound round the outer end of the tail. Also a round or other piece or enlargement may be attached to or formed integral with such outer end for use as a tee to support the ball in position for driving, the said piece or tee at the same time serving to prevent the lead or the like, where such is used, from becoming detached from the tail.

To enable the invention to be fully understood I will describe it by reference to the accompanying drawing, in which:—

Figure 1 is a sectional view of a captive golf ball provided with a flexible tail in accordance with the invention.

Figure 2 is a view illustrating a modification of the combined golf ball and tail.

Figure 3 is a sectional view of a golf ball illustrating another modification and

Figure 4 is also a view of a golf ball illustrating a further modification.

a is the golf ball proper formed of rubber or other suitable material or composition and *b* is the flexible tail with which I pro-

vide it and which tail will serve to retard the ball in its flight when struck by a golf club.

In the arrangement of my invention illustrated in Figure 1, the tail *b* is formed of a strip of leather or other suitable flexible material passing into a diametral hole in the ball *a* and being secured therein in any suitable way, for instance by being cemented therein. In Figure 2, however, the tail *b* is formed integral with the ball *a*, that is to say, the tail *b* and the exterior surface portions of the ball proper are formed all in one piece of the same material, as a unitary structure. In both arrangements the tail is shown of tapering form decreasing towards the outer end and in that illustrated in Figure 2, the tail is curved at its inner end so as to merge into the curved surface of the ball and thus form a strong point of attachment.

In Figure 2, I illustrate at *c* the thin piece of lead or other material which is bound round the outer end of the tail *b* to further retard the flight of the ball and *d* in this figure indicates the piece or enlargement at the said outer end of the tail to form a tee and which serves also to prevent the lead or the like *c* from coming off the tail.

In Figures 1 and 2 the piece *d* is made with a flat base *e* and a recess *f* in its upper surface to form the tee to support the ball, preparatory to the latter being driven, as indicated by the dotted lines in Figure 1. In this figure, the tee *d* is shown as being formed separately from the tail *b* and secured to the latter through the medium of a hole in the tee, through which hole the end of the tail is passed and is then knotted. Or, the tee *d* can be secured to the tail in any other suitable way. In Figure 2, the tee *d* is shown as being formed integral with the tail. As shown in Fig. 2, the outer surface of the ball itself, the tail portion and the tee are formed all in one piece of the same material as a unitary structure.

The tee *d* can also be made round or of a shape other than that indicated, and it may be formed integral with the ball proper as indicated in Figures 3 and 4, the tee in Figure 3 being in the form of a single projection or foot *g* having a flat base *h* to make contact with the ground, whilst that in Figure 4 is in the form of three projections

or feet *i* having their bases in a common plane.

j, Figure 2, is a sight indicating projection on the tail *b*, which, when the ball *a* connected therewith is supported on the tee-piece at the end of the tail, is designed to be directed upwardly as indicated and serves as a point at which the head of the golf club is directed when striking the ball in the direction indicated by the arrow and in the line of the portion of the tail extending to such projection.

Claims:

1. A captive golf ball comprising a ball proper and a flexible tail for retarding the ball in its flight, the exterior surface of the ball and said flexible tail being formed all in one piece of the same material.

2. A captive golf ball comprising a ball proper and a flexible tail for retarding the ball in its flight, the exterior surface of the ball and said flexible tail being formed all in one piece of the same material, and an enlargement secured to the outer end of the said tail and provided with a ground engaging portion and a ball supporting upper surface, to constitute the tee for supporting the ball in position to be struck.

3. A captive golf ball comprising a ball proper, a flexible tail for retarding the ball in its flight, and an enlargement at the end of said tail remote from the ball, provided with a ground engaging portion and a ball supporting upper surface, forming a tee to support the ball in position to be struck, the outer surface of the ball, said tail and said

enlargement being formed all in one piece of the same material.

4. A captive golf ball comprising a ball proper, a flexible tail having one end permanently secured to the ball, said tail being provided at its other end with an enlargement having a ground engaging surface and a ball supporting upper surface, to form a tee to support the ball in position to be struck, said enlargement serving also as a weight to increase the retarding action of the tail on the flight of the ball.

5. A captive golf ball comprising a ball proper, a flexible tail for retarding the ball in its flight, permanently secured to the ball, and a sight indicating projection on the said tail located adjacent to the ball and adapted to be placed in advance of the ball in the line of its desired flight to assist the player in striking the ball accurately.

6. A captive golf ball comprising a ball proper, a flexible tail having one end permanently secured to the ball, to retard its flight, an enlargement secured to said tail adjacent to its other end provided with a ground engaging portion and a ball supporting upper surface, forming a tee to support the ball in position to be struck, and a weight member comprising a piece of sheet material bound around the said tail adjacent to said enlargement to retard the ball in its flight, said enlargement preventing the said weight member from becoming disengaged from the tail.

WILLIAM HENRY ASTON.