

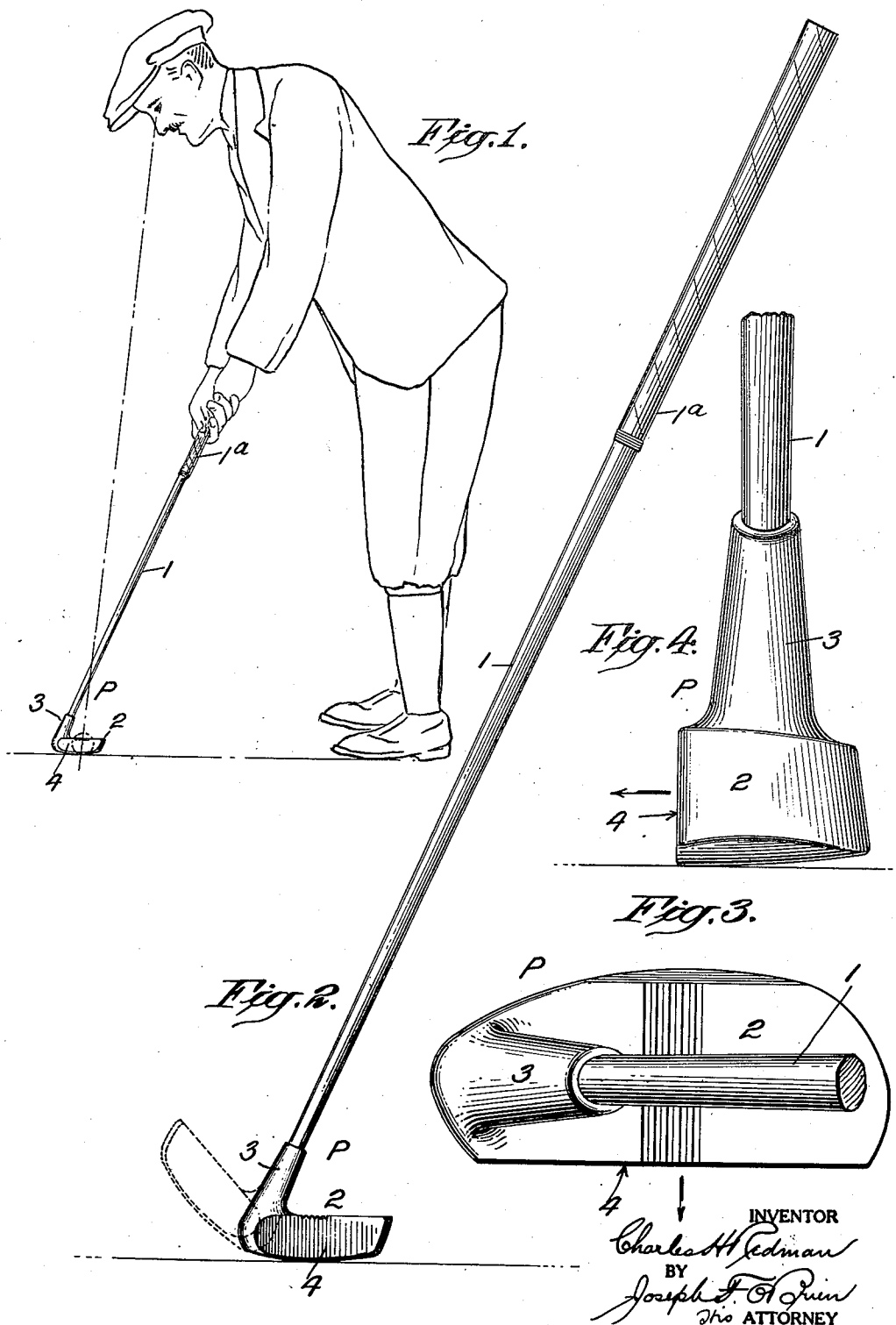
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GOLF CLUB

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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GOLF CLUB.

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This invention relates to golf clubs and more particularly to putters.

Accuracy and proper balance or "feel" are desirable characteristics in a putter. Accuracy is promoted by the use of a club which may be readily and quickly squared with the line of play, or placed in striking position with its striking face perpendicular to such line, and it is one of the objects of this invention to facilitate such squaring of the club with the line of play.

Another object of my invention is to produce a club in which the shaft and head are connected in inclined relationship and the connection of the shaft with the head, which is preferably made by means of a hosel integral with the head, is located at the outer end of the latter and at the end of the head which is more remote from the handle portion of the shaft, so as to cause the head (instead of projecting outwardly and away from the player as in the conventional club) to extend when in playing position inwardly from the shaft, the major part of the head lying between the said connection or hosel and the player and the shaft extending longitudinally over the said head so as to cross transversely over the line of play.

Another object of my invention is to produce a club in which the shaft and head are so arranged that when the club is held loosely in horizontal position or in an inclined plane there will be a tendency on the part of the club to rotate automatically about the shaft as an axis into a position in which the striking face will be substantially perpendicular with the line of play, and to that end I arrange the center of gravity of the head and shaft at a point within the head proper and between the outer end of the striking face and the player, and preferably in substantial alignment with the axis of the shaft.

Another object of my invention is to produce a club having a head provided at its said outer or remote end with a hosel extending upwardly at a relatively sharp acute angle as to cause the shaft to extend over the head in an inclined plane, transversely crossing the line of play and having its axis in a vertical plane substantially parallel with the striking face.

Another object of my invention is to provide a putter having a head and a shaft connected with the head at its outer end and forming such an acute angle that the shaft

extends completely over the head longitudinally and is provided with striking face extending substantially the entire length of the head in a vertical plane substantially parallel with the axis of said shaft, so that in playing the shaft extends between the eyes of the player and said head, and may be utilized as an elongated sighting element.

Another object of my invention is to provide a club in which the center of gravity of the head and shaft is so arranged that when held horizontally or in an inclined position, the head will automatically rotate into a position in which the striking face and the axis of the shaft will be in parallel planes, thus automatically assuming a playing position in which the striking face is substantially squared or in perpendicular relationship with the line of play.

With these and other objects in view, the invention comprises the combination of members and arrangement of parts so combined as to co-act and cooperate with each other in the performance of the functions and the accomplishment of the results herein contemplated, and comprises in one of its adaptations the species or preferred form illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of a player holding my improved golf club in putting position;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged side elevation as seen from the line of play of a club embodying my invention;

Fig. 3 is a further enlarged plan view of the head, hosel and portion of the shaft of the club; and

Fig. 4 is a rear end elevation of the head, hosel and a portion of the shaft of my said club.

Referring now to these drawings, which illustrate a preferred embodiment of my invention, I have illustrated a putter P having a shaft 1 provided at one end with the usual handle portion 1^a and connected at its opposite end to the outer end or that end of the head 2 which is more remote from the handle 1^a, so that the head in playing position will extend inwardly from the shaft toward the player instead of projecting outwardly away from the player as in the conventional club. The connection between the shaft 1 and head 2 is preferably made, as shown, by providing the head with an integral hosel 3 at said outer end. Said head

also has a striking face 4 preferably extending longitudinally the length of the head and arranged, in the embodiment illustrated, at the left-hand side thereof which is the side facing the direction in which it is desired to play. The hosel, as shown, extends upwardly from the head at such a relatively sharp acute angle so as to cause the shaft to extend longitudinally over and above the entire head, to cross transversely the line of play and to intersect the line of vision of the player.

In the preferred form of my invention illustrated, the axis of the shaft is arranged in a plane substantially parallel with the striking face and the side edge of the shaft will likewise be substantially parallel with said striking face. In view of the fact that the shaft is positioned between the eyes of the player and the top face of the head, it will, of course, give a much longer line than the striking face, and the shaft may therefore be used as a sighting element to more accurately square the striking face with the line of play.

The center of gravity of the head and shaft are preferably so arranged that when the club is loosely held in horizontal or inclined position, the head of the club will have a tendency to rotate automatically toward playing position and in the preferred embodiment the center of gravity is so arranged that the head will rotate into a position in which the striking face will be squared or perpendicular to the line of play. This result is preferably accomplished by arranging the center of gravity of the head and shaft well within the head at a point in alignment with the axis of the shaft so as to cause rotation or oscillation of the head to stop at a point where the striking face will be parallel to the axis of the shaft.

The angle of inclination between the head and shaft is such that the shaft will be caused to assume approximate playing position or inclination when the bottom of the head is rested on the ground or, in the alternative, when the shaft is held at proper playing inclination the head will extend inwardly toward the player and the longitudinal axis thereof will be parallel with the ground.

I have found that when the longitudinal

axes of the head and shaft are joined at a relatively sharp angle, viz, approximately 65°, the shaft will be automatically tilted into an effective playing position or inclination, the head, of course, extending toward the player as above specified, and the shaft crossing the line of play and intersecting the line of vision of the player.

While in the embodiment shown the angle between the head and shaft is approximately 65°, it will be understood that any angle may be employed which will cause the head when in playing position to extend toward the player and the shaft to extend longitudinally over the major portion of the head across the line of play.

Having described my invention, I claim:—

1. A golf club embodying a head having substantially parallel upper and lower surfaces and a shaft portion connected to said head at the end more remote from the handle portion at such an angle as to cause the shaft to extend longitudinally over and completely across the said head when the same is in playing position, whereby the shaft will intersect the line of vision of the player.

2. A golf club embodying a head having substantially parallel upper and lower surfaces and a shaft portion connected to said head at the end more remote from the handle portion at such an angle as to cause the shaft to extend longitudinally over and completely across said head and provide a major portion of the handle extending beyond a vertical plane intersecting the projecting end of said head.

3. A golf club embodying a head having substantially parallel upper and lower surfaces and a shaft portion connected to said head at the end more remote from the handle portion at such an angle as to cause the shaft to extend longitudinally over and completely across said head and provide a major portion of the handle extending beyond a vertical plane intersecting the projecting end of said head, said parts having their center of gravity arranged to cause the head when held loosely in horizontal or inclined position to rotate toward the playing position of the club.

In witness whereof, I have signed my name to the foregoing specification.

CHARLES H. REDMAN.