

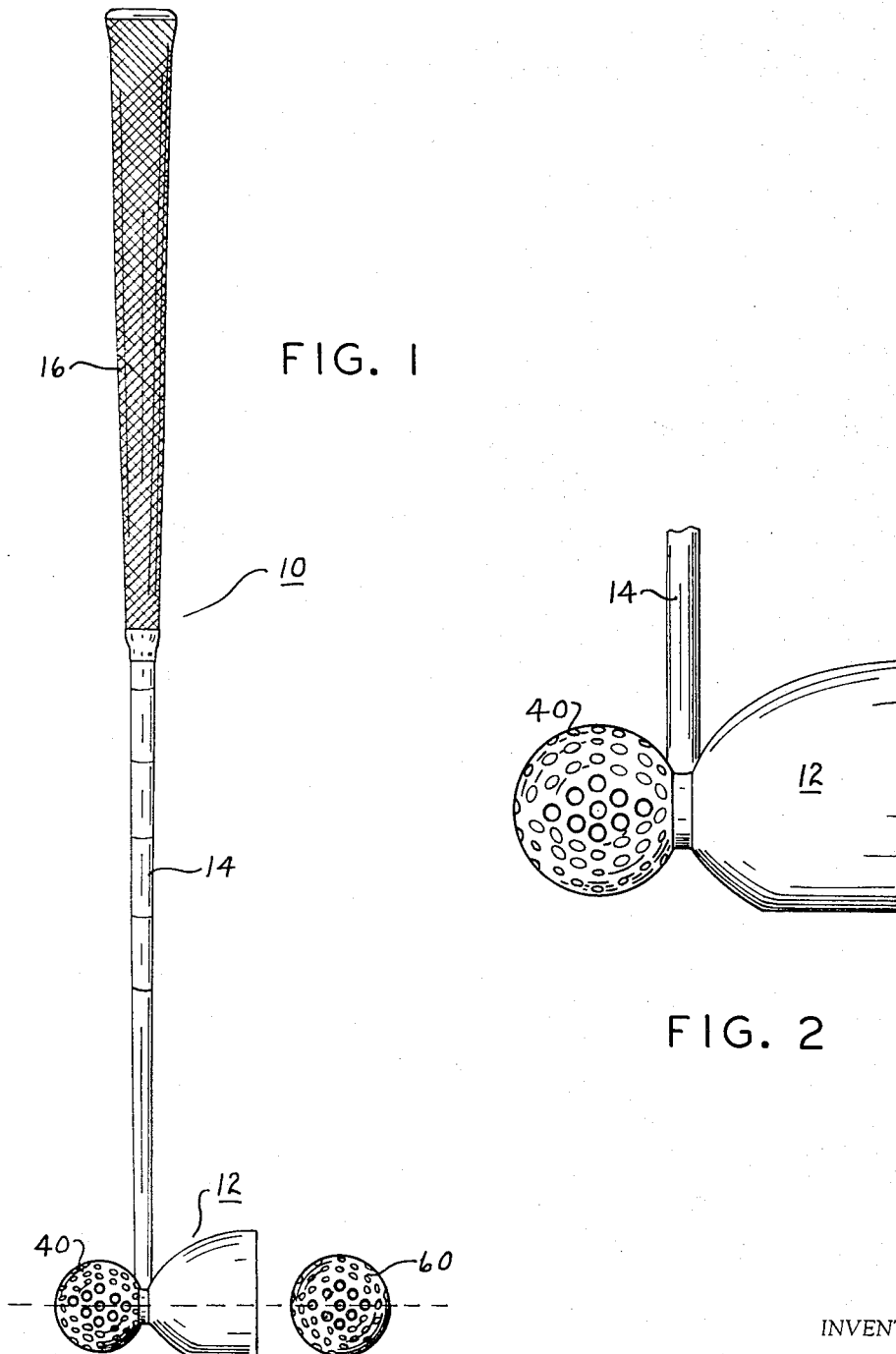
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GOLF PUTTER WITH A SHAFT CONNECTED
INTERMEDIATE A SPHERICAL ELEMENT
AND A HEAD

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2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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GOLF PUTTER WITH A SHAFT CONNECTED INTERMEDIATE A SPHERICAL ELEMENT AND A HEAD**John E. Borah, 815 Mishawaka Ave.,
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5 Claims. (Cl. 273-80.2)**

The present invention relates to a golf club, and more particularly to a golf putter having means thereon for assisting in proper and effective control of the ball.

In putting, it is important to determine, and hold the face of the club at, the proper angle with respect to the ball, this usually being at right angles to an imaginary line between the ball and the cup, and to hold the head down and the eyes on the ball throughout the stroke. Various types of devices and shapes of putter clubs have been devised and tried in the past for assisting in the positioning of the club at the proper angle, and in maintaining the proper head and eye position on the ball and club, but these devices have almost universally been either of such a nature that they actually interfered with the normal putting stroke and aiming, or that they have a direct action on the ball and hence have been ruled illegal by golf associations. Further, these types of devices have frequently had an unbalancing effect on the putter so that optimum control could not be maintained throughout the stroke. It is therefore one of the principal objects of the present invention to provide a putter club having a structure and design such that it will give substantial assistance to the golfer in positioning the club at the proper angle and in holding the head down and the eyes on the ball, without having any direct effect on the putting operation or in any way interfering with the normal stance, aim and stroke of the club.

Another object of the invention is to provide a golf putter which has optimum balance throughout the stroke and which is so constructed that the weight and balance thereof can be varied in accordance with the requirements of the putter.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a putter club having a means for effectively controlling the angle of the club with respect to the ball and for obtaining the proper striking force of the club, which is so constructed that it permits versatility of the club under various putting conditions.

A further object of the invention is to provide a club having a means for assisting in effective putting, which is formed as an integral part of the club and retained in position on the club where it can be used by the player in making a particular putt without contacting the ball or otherwise applying a direct effect thereto which would be considered illegal by golf associations.

Another object of the invention is to provide a relatively simple, easy to use means for assisting in holding a putter club at the proper angle, which does not prevent continued observation of the ball throughout the stroke, and which does not cause any distraction when its use is not required.

Another object of the invention is to provide a putter club which is particularly useful to beginners in learning the proper stroke, including the correct movement of the club and hands, and in eliminating errors by making the errors more obvious to the golfer so that he can improve his putting without the assistance of anyone.

Additional objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description and accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a side elevational view of a putter having the present invention incorporated therein;

FIGURE 2 is an enlarged side elevational view of the

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putter head and lower portion of the shaft shown in FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is a front elevational view of the face of the head, showing a portion of the shaft extending thereabove;

FIGURE 4 is a rear elevational view of the head of the club and a portion of the shaft extending thereabove; FIGURE 5 is a vertical cross sectional view through the head of the club and the lower portion of the shaft, the section being taken on line 5-5 of FIGURE 4; and

FIGURE 6 is a vertical cross sectional view similar to that in FIGURE 5, showing a modified form of the invention.

Referring more specifically to the drawings, and to FIGURE 1 in particular, numeral 10 designates a putter club having a head 12, shaft 14 and grip 16, the shaft and grip being standard in construction and design. The shaft would normally be of steel, wood or fiber glass, joined with the head, and the grip of leather, rubber or plastic, secured firmly to the upper end of the shaft. For the purpose of the present description, the shaft and grip may be considered conventional, having the desired strength, flexibility and weight of a conventional putter, the shaft shown being constructed of steel, tubing-like material joined to the head by any suitable securing means.

The head 12 consists of a body portion 20 having a flat, circular face 22 and a flat, straight bottom 24 extending rearwardly at right angles from face 22. The surface 26 extending rearwardly from face 22 is generally curved inwardly toward a neck portion 28 of reduced diameter to which shaft 14 is rigidly secured. The body is constructed of any metal, preferably of aluminum, or of plastic and, in the embodiment of the invention illustrated in the drawings, an insert 30 of brass or other material has been used to provide a harder and more wear-resistant ball striking surface.

In order to balance the body 20 and to assist in aligning the body 20 and face 22 with respect to the ball, as illustrated in FIGURE 1, a counter-balance and sight element 40 is secured to the rear side of body 20 by neck 28. Element 40 is preferably joined integrally with neck 28; however, it may be secured thereto by any other suitable means such as a threaded stem or the like extending into a threaded bore in the neck. The neck likewise is formed integrally with body 20, although it may be otherwise secured thereto if desired.

Element 40 consists of a hollow shell 42 of the same size as a standard golf ball and, since it is intended to have the appearance of a golf ball, it is provided with the usual pits or recesses 44 in the external surface thereof. In the embodiment of the invention shown in FIGURE 5, the element contains a cylindrical chamber 46 having an opening 48 through which spherical weights, such as lead shots 50, can be placed in the chamber to vary the weight of element 40 in accordance with a particular golfer's requirement or preference. It is seen that the weight of element 40 and hence the weight of the club may be varied by placing a predetermined number of weights 50 in chamber 46, and this can readily be varied from one putt to another if conditions require such changes; however, normally the golfer determines the most effective balancing weight required in element 40 and maintains that weight so long as he, personally, is using the club.

Element 40' may be solid, if desired, as illustrated in FIGURE 6, and a predetermined weight can be incorporated therein during the manufacturing of the club if the required weight for a particular golfer is known. In the embodiment shown in FIGURE 5, a closure may be used in opening 48 if desired, and if the weight in chamber 46 needs to be decreased, the closure is removed and the club inverted, i.e. with the head at the top, thus permitting the weights 50 to fall from opening 48.

The present club is used in very much the same manner as any standard putter club, the one using the club initially placing it adjacent the ball 60 as illustrated in FIGURE 1 with the flat surface 24 on or near the green or ground. As the golfer holds his head downwardly and his eyes on the ball 60, he will unavoidably see the corresponding ball-like figure of element 40, thus easily aligning the ball and element 40, and incidentally, but importantly, aligning the face 22 at right angles to a line between the ball and the ball-like element 40. As the golfer performs the stroke, the balancing effect of element 40 permits him to have full control over his stroke so that optimum accuracy of the shot and control over the ball can be easily obtained.

While only two embodiments of the present invention have been described herein, various further changes and modifications may be made without departing from the scope of the present invention.

I claim:

1. A golf putter club comprising a head having a body with a substantially flat vertical face of generally circular shape, a flat surface on the bottom side thereof, a neck spaced rearwardly from said face and being of a smaller diameter than said face, said body tapering generally inwardly from said face to said neck, a hollow spherical element of substantially the same size as a standard golf ball secured to said neck on the side opposite said body and having a hole connected to the hollow interior of said element and having an axis on a line with the axis of said face, body and neck, a plurality of spherical weights in said element, and a shaft secured to said neck and extending upwardly therefrom.

2. A golf putter club comprising a head having a body with a substantially flat vertical face of generally circular shape, a flat surface on the bottom side thereof, a neck spaced rearwardly from said face and being of a smaller diameter than said face, said body tapering generally inwardly from said face to said neck, a hollow spherical element of substantially the same size as a standard golf ball secured to said neck on the side opposite said body and having a hole connected to the hollow interior of said element a plurality of weights in said ele-

ment, and a shaft secured to said neck and extending upwardly therefrom.

3. A golf putter club comprising a head having a body with a substantially flat face of generally circular shape, a flat surface on the bottom side thereof, a neck spaced rearwardly from said face and being of a smaller diameter than said face, said body tapering generally inwardly from said face to said neck, a spherical element of substantially the same size as a standard golf ball and having an axis on a line with the axis of said face, body and neck, and a shaft secured to said neck and extending upwardly therefrom.

4. A golf putter club comprising a head having a body with a substantially flat vertical face, a neck spaced rearwardly from said face, a spherical element of substantially the same size as a standard golf ball secured to said neck on the side opposite said body, and a shaft secured to said neck and extending upwardly therefrom.

5. A golf putter club comprising a head having a body with a substantially flat face, a hollow spherical element of substantially the same size as a standard golf ball secured to said body on the side opposite said face and having a hole connected to the hollow interior of said element and being on an axis on a line with the axis of said face and body, a plurality of spherical weights in said element, and a shaft connected intermediate said body and said element and extending upwardly therefrom.

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