June 2, 1925. 1,540,350

D. D. LONGENECKER

GOLF PRACTICE APPARATUS

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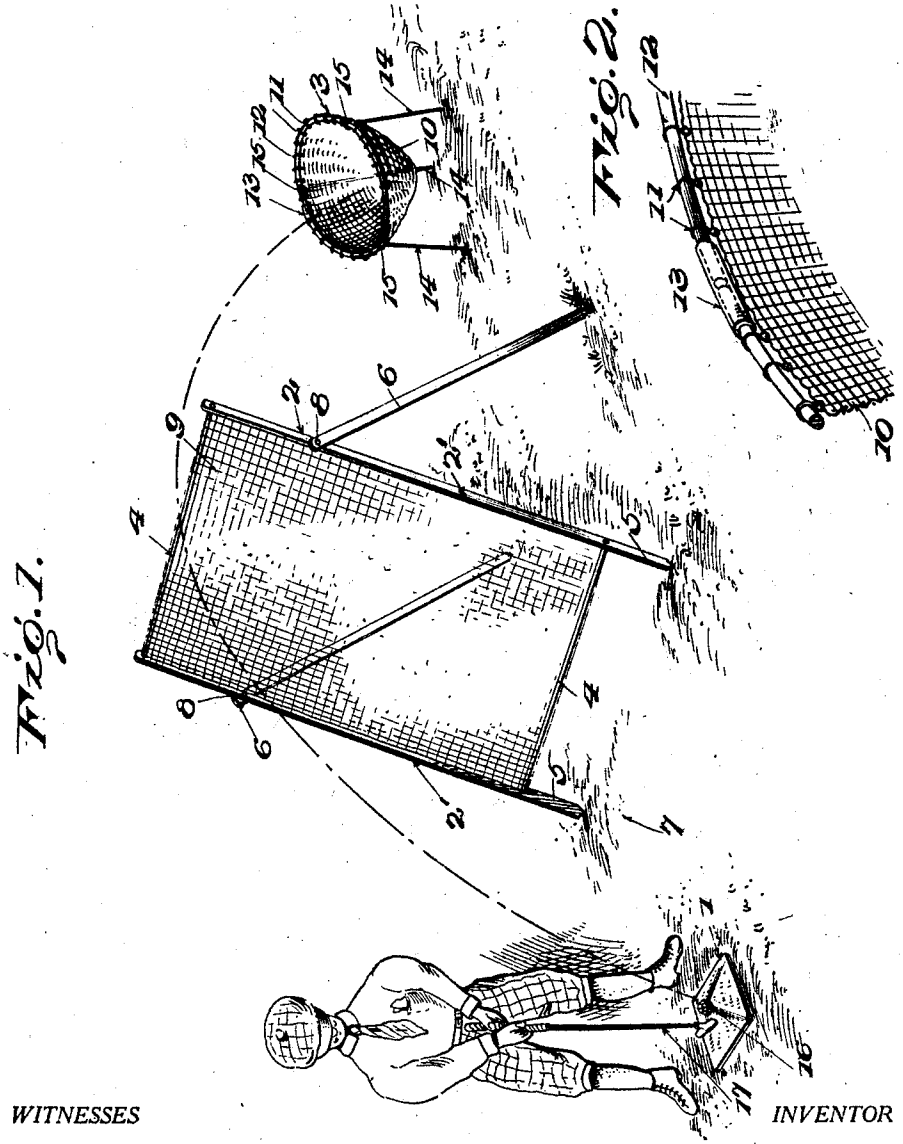


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

WITNESSES

W. A. Williams.

INVENTOR

Donald D. Longenecker.

BY Munn & Co.

ATTORNEYS

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DONALD D. LONGENECKER, OF TOPEKA, KANSAS.

GOLF-PRACTICE APPARATUS.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DONALD D. LONGENECKER, a citizen of the United States, and resident of Topeka, in the county of Shawnee and State of Kansas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Golf-Practice Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in golf practice apparatus, and it consists in the combinations, constructions and arrangements herein described and claimed.

An object of the invention is to provide a golf practice apparatus which is adapted to be set up at home and which when in set up or operative position affords facilities permitting of the use of the niblick club to drive a golf ball under conditions practically paralleling conditions which will be encountered during play on a golf course.

A further object of the invention is to provide a golf-practice apparatus of the character described which is adapted to be folded into small compass for the purpose of transportation or storage and which can be set up instantly without the use of any tools on a surface of relatively small area.

A further object of the invention is to provide in an apparatus of the character described an obstruction which is adjustable to vary the height thereof.

A further object of the invention is to provide in an apparatus of the character described an open basket or receptacle into which a ball is to be driven and means for supporting the basket or receptacle in a desired relation to an obstruction so that the angle of the plane of the open end of the basket or receptacle in respect to the vertical can be varied at will.

A still further object of the invention is to provide in a golf-practice apparatus of the character described an obstruction which permits observation therethrough by a player of a receptacle or basket which is placed at the side of the obstruction opposite the player, whereby a ball which the player has driven over the obstruction toward the receptacle or basket is in the view of the player during its flight and the player therefore is able to vary the stroke to drive the ball until the ball is driven precisely as desired.

Other objects and advantages will be apparent from the following description, considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing a golf practice apparatus embodying the invention in set up or fully operative position, and

Figure 2 is a fragmentary perspective view showing a portion of a basket which is comprised in the invention.

An apparatus embodying the invention is designed particularly for use in practicing the strokes requiring the use of the niblick club. As is well known, the driving face of the niblick club is inclined less in respect to the horizontal than the driving faces of other clubs used in playing golf, the niblick club being designed for use in driving a golf ball lying at the bottom of a sand pit or in a like location so that the ball will have a high trajectory and will clear the side of the sand pit or like obstruction.

Golf players rarely become proficient in the use of the niblick club for the reason that the occasions requiring the use of the niblick club during the playing of a game of golf over a golf course are comparatively few, and the strokes which are to be executed with the niblick club require a high degree of skill which can be attained only as a result of considerable practice.

My invention provides an apparatus which can be set up at home in a space of relatively little area and which permits the use of the niblick club under conditions similar to those which will be found on a golf course.

Referring now to the drawings, I show in Figure 1 an apparatus embodying the invention. This apparatus comprises a mat 1 upon which the ball which is to be driven is placed, an obstruction designated generally 2 over which a ball must be driven, and a basket or receptacle 3 located at the opposite side of the obstruction from the mat 1 and into which the ball is to be driven. The mat 1 may be made of cocoa-fibre or any other suitable material which will conform as nearly as possible in physical characteristics to the bottom of a sand pit or the turf of a golf course.

The obstruction 2 is shown as comprising an open frame consisting of a pair of side frame members 2′ connected together and

held in spaced parallel relation by a pair of spaced apart horizontal frame members 4. The upper horizontal frame member 4 is connected with the side frame members 2′ adjacent to the upper ends of the latter while the lower horizontal frame member 4 connects with the side frame members 2′ at an appreciable distance above the lower ends of the side frame members, so that the extremities of the lower end portions 5 of the side frame members are free and the lower end portions 5 of the side frame members constitute legs for cooperating with a pair of inclined braces or supports 6 to support the frame of the obstruction on a supporting surface 7 at a desired angle to the perpendicular. The respective braces or supports 6 are pivotally attached at their upper ends, as at 8, to the corresponding side frame members 2′ adjacent to and at equal distances from the upper ends of the latter. The braces or supports 6 have the lower ends thereof free and the lower ends of the braces 6 and of the lower end portions 5 of the side frame members 2′ may be pointed to engage with the surface 7 to hold the frame of the obstruction at any desired angle to the perpendicular. It thus will be apparent that the vertical distance at which the upper horizontal member of the frame of the obstruction is located from the surface 7 may be varied by adjusting the angular relation of the inclined braces or supports 6 to the side frame members 2′ and that the height of the obstruction may thus be varied.

A length of foraminous material 9 which may be netting is stretched across the side frame members 2′ between the upper and lower horizontal members 4, being secured to the side frame members 2′ and to the upper and lower horizontal members 4 also if desired, in any suitable known manner, no means therefore being shown in the drawings.

The basket or receptacle 3 is shown as being substantially cup-shaped and comprising a substantially hemispherical body 10 made of netting or like material and having loops or eyes 11 along the edge of the body at the open end thereof. A ring 12 extends through the loops 11 and is sufficiently rigid to hold the body 10 open. The ring 12 is adjustable to vary the diameter thereof and may comprise a rod made of metal or other material suitable to be bent to circular form and being held in circular form by a sleeve 13 which overlaps and frictionally engages with the end portions of the rod. The basket 3 is adapted to be supported on the surface 7 with the body 10 held slightly above the surface 7 with the open end or mouth of the body 10 uppermost through the agency of a plurality of legs 14 which have eyes 15 at their upper ends through which the ring 12 extends and which preferably have the lower end thereof pointed to engage with the surface 7. The legs 14 are arranged in spaced apart relation and since the ring 12 extends loosely through the eyes 15, the angle of the legs 14 in respect to the plane of the surface 7 may be varied to vary the height at which the open end or mouth of the basket will be spaced from the surface 7 or to position the body 10 so that the plane of the open end or mouth of the basket will lie in parallel relation to the surface 7 or at any desired angle within a considerable range to the surface 7.

From the foregoing description of the various parts of the device, the operation thereof may be readily understood. A golf ball 16 is placed on the mat 1 and a niblick club 17 is used to strike the ball with the object in view of causing it to rise at a sharp angle and to clear the obstruction 2 and fall at a desired spot at the other side of the obstruction. The basket 3 is positioned at the desired spot at the other side of the obstruction from the mat and the ball will have the trajectory indicated by the arrows in Figure 1 when the stroke with the niblick club has been executed with precision. The legs 14 may be adjusted to position the basket so that a part of the area of the open end or mouth of the basket lies in the desired trajectory. The height of the obstruction 2 also may be varied in the manner which has been described. Since the body of the obstruction is made of a foraminous material, the player may observe the ball at all times during its flight and is thus able to note the departure of the ball from the desired trajectory and to correct in a relatively short time the faults in the use of the niblick club which cause the ball to be driven inaccurately.

Another important advantage of the apparatus is that the legs 6 may be folded substantially in the plane of the side members 2′, the legs 14 of the basket may be swung into the plane of the ring 12 and the body 10 of the basket may be flattened or folded into the same plane, and the folded obstruction, folded basket and mat 1 may be packed into small compass for the purpose of storage or transportation while at the same time the apparatus can be set up instantly in the position illustrated in Figure 1 without the use of any tools. It thus will be apparent that the receptacle constitutes what may be termed "an objective."

Obviously, my invention is susceptible of embodiment in forms other than that illustrated in the accompanying drawing and I therefore consider as my own all modifications and adaptations of the form of the device described herein which fairly fall within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim is:—

1. In a golf-practice apparatus, an objective comprising a receptacle open at one end, means for adjustably supporting the receptacle on a supporting surface so that the open end of the receptacle will be uppermost and may be positioned in planes extending at various angles to the perpendicular, a mat from which a golf ball can be driven, and an obstruction positioned between said mat and said objective.

2. In a golf-practice apparatus, an objective comprising a receptacle having a substantially cup-shaped body, means for adjustably supporting the cup-shaped body on a supporting surface so that the open end of the body will be uppermost and may be positioned in planes extending at various angles to the perpendicular, and an obstruction adapted to be positioned in a desired relation to said objective, said obstruction being adjustable to vary the effective height thereof according to the inclination of the plane of the open end of the receptacle and the distance of the latter from said obstruction.

3. In a golf-practice apparatus, an objective consisting of a receptacle comprising a cup-shaped body made of a foldable material, a ring engaging with the edge portion of said cup-shaped body for holding the body open at one end, said ring being adjustable to vary the diameter thereof, and means for supporting the body on a supporting surface to position the ring in a plane extending at a desired angle to the perpendicular.

4. In a golf-practice apparatus, an objective consisting of a receptacle comprising a cup-shaped body made of a foldable material, a ring engaging with the edge portion of said cup-shaped body for holding the body open at one end, said ring being adjustable to vary the diameter thereof, and a plurality of legs, each pivotally attached at its upper end to said ring and being free at its other end, said legs being spaced apart along the circumference of the ring.

DONALD D. LONGENECKER.