

the ordinary player would probably feel that it was not necessary for him to consider himself in the championship class and struggle from tees designed only for competition purposes. We think, however, that the very best way to handle this matter is to refer to the tees by color rather than name. Let the tees be called red, white, and blue, or any color you will, and let it be known that the red, we will say, is for championship purposes, the white for regular play, and the blue for ladies. Let the disks be painted accordingly. Of all the courses which have come under the writer's notice, he believes that the National at Southampton has given this subject more thought and has reached a better solution. It is a long, difficult course from the championship tees, with some very severe carries, and from these tees the ordinary player could get little pleasure out of the course, notably at holes such as the 2d, 7th and the 17th, but from the middle tees, which are placed either at different levels or well to the side, it becomes a course of moderate length with entirely reasonable carries and one which it is a delight to play even for a golfer who can not pretend to anything that approximates a good game. They use the color scheme suggested above, and it is interesting to note that the great majority of players at the National use the middle tees as a matter of course and only the men who play exceptionally well attempt the long carries from the back tees.

"Bent"

C. V. PIPER.

"*Bent is not a hazard. R. and A.*"; note under definition 6 of the Rules of Golf. As not one American in a million knows what is referred to by "bent," it would seem as if it should make very little difference whether or not bent be a hazard or an assurance of safety. But of course every golfer should know the rules even if he have trouble in defining what they mean; he certainly needs education as regards "bent."

Bent is an old Anglo-Saxon word, according to the dictionaries, akin to the German word *binse*, a rush. Originally the word bent seems to have been applied mainly to stiff-leaved grasses, but by extension has come to be attached to a diverse medley of species, and even to sedges and rushes. Botanists think of it as applying mainly to the genus *Agrostis*, which includes creeping bent, velvet bent, Rhode Island bent, and many others. But the word is also used for grasses of the genera *Nardus*, *Elymus*, *Amphiphila*, *Andropogon*, *Calamagrostis*, and others. Of course only a botanist knows all these grasses, but among them are some coarse and 8 feet tall, and others fine and delicate and only a few inches high. In short, the word "bent" is now widely inclusive of very different grasses.

There are however other meanings attached to "bent," namely, "a place covered with grass; a field; uninclosed pasture land; a heath." There are also the adjective "benty" as used for a place covered with bent, and the noun "bentiness" signifying the state of being benty. Finally, "benting" denotes the act of collecting bent or bent stalks. These words are manifestly derived from the grass or grasses called bent.

Which is the grass that gave origin to the decision that "bent is not a

hazard" whether the word refers to the grass itself or the area covered with the grass?

Some bent putting greens are bad enough to be hazardous; but golf rules are serious things and the Scotch do not joke. The obnoxious thing they mainly refer to as bent is a coarse grass of the sand dunes, *Ammophila arenaria* or *Arundo arenaria*. In the United States a very similar species is *A. breviligulata*. The European grass is also called "marram," "sea reed," "sea mat," and "spires." The American species is commonly called "beach grass." Both are closely similar, tall, coarse grasses that grow in the loose sand. Both have been much used to plant in sand dunes to keep the sand from drifting, and large areas of blowing sands have in this way been anchored and later planted to forest. There is some of this grass planted in exposed sand hazards at Pine Valley, Lido, National, and perhaps a few other American courses.

The following list of grasses called bent, with some more or less appropriate descriptive word, will indicate how many grasses have acquired the name:

- Black bent. *Alopecurus agrostis* (England), also called "bennet weed;" *Panicum virgatum* (United States); *Nardus strictus* (England).
- Blue bent. *Andropogon provincialis* (United States).
- Bristle-leaved bent. *Agrostis setacea* (England).
- Brown bent. *Agrostis canina* (Europe).
- Carpet bent. *Agrostis stolonifera*.
- Church bent. An old English name for perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*).
- Common bent. *Agrostis tenuis* (England).
- Creeping bent. *Agrostis stolonifera*.
- Dense-flowered bent. *Agrostis maritima* (United States).
- Dense-flowered silky bent. *Agrostis interrupta* (England).
- Dog bent. *Agrostis canina* (Europe).
- Elliott bent. *Agrostis elliotii* (United States).
- English bent. *Agrostis palustris*.
- Fine bent. *Agrostis tenuis*.
- Fine-leaved bent. *Agrostis mutabilis* (England).
- Fine-panicked bent. *Agrostis tenuis* (England).
- Marsh bent. *Agrostis palustris* (England).
- Narrow bent. *Elymus arenarius* (England).
- New England bent. *Agrostis oreophila* (United States).
- Panic bent. *Panicum agrostoides* (United States).
- Purple bent. *Calamagrostis brevifolia* (United States).
- Red bent. *Agrostis borealis*; *Agrostis rubra* (England).
- Reed bent. *Ammophila arenaria* (England); *Calamagrostis canadensis* (United States).
- Rock bent. *Agrostis rupestris* (United States).
- Rough bent. *Agrostis scabra* (United States); *Agrostis asperifolia* (United States).
- Sea bent. *Carex arenaria* (United States).
- Seashore bent. *Ammophila arenaria* (England).
- Seaside bent. *Agrostis maritima* (United States).
- Silky bent. *Apera spica-venti* (England).
- Small bent. *Agrostis minima* (England).
- Southern bent. *Agrostis elata* (United States).
- Spider bent. *Agrostis elliotii* (United States).

- Tall bent. *Agrostis altissima* (United States).
- Twin bent. *Agrostis geminata* (United States).
- Upland bent. *Agrostis perennans* (United States).
- White bent. *Agrostis palustris* (United States and England).
- Wire bent. *Nardus strictus* (England).
- Wood bent. *Agrostis sylvatica* (England).
- Woolly bent. *Calamovilfa longifolia* (United States).

Besides the above, the name "bent" is applied in England to various other plants, among them *Agropyron junceum*, *Phalaris arundinacea*, and *Scirpus lacustris*. The general tendency at present among botanists is to restrict the name to grasses of the genus *Agrostis* and immediately related grasses.

In regard to the rule "Bent is not a hazard," Mr. Alan D. Wilson writes as follows:

"I have looked up the old R. and A. decision from which the rule interpretation came and it throws a good deal of light on the subject, as follows:

"No. 57. The Murcar Links Golf Club, Ltd.—'If a ball is lying among bent, is a player entitled to ground his club? Is bent a hazard?' Answer: Bent is not a hazard; but Rule 15 may not be infringed.

"Rule 15 is in regard to bending fixed or growing objects. In other words, the bent in question is treated just like long grass."

Tennis Courts at Country Clubs

Several months ago one of the member-clubs of the Green Section made the inquiries as to whether or not, based on experience of other clubs, it would be justified in establishing and maintaining tennis courts, and what the proper ratio of tennis courts to club members is. The questions are of vital interest in the economy of golf club organization. A questionnaire was accordingly sent in April of this year to all member-clubs of the Green Section, inviting answers to the following questions: Number of holes? Total club membership? Approximate number of club members playing tennis on the course? Number of tennis courts maintained? Do you consider the number of the tennis courts your club maintains too few, about right, or too large? Are your tennis courts turfed or bare? Do you consider your tennis facilities advantageous or disadvantageous in a financial sense to the club? From the answers received the following compilation is presented:

	9-hole courses	18-hole courses	27-hole courses
Number of clubs that answered questionnaire.....	92	173	8
Percentage of the clubs that have tennis courts.....	59	54	3
Average club membership.....	260	514	855
Minimum club membership.....	65	200	
Maximum club membership.....	825	1200	
Percentage of tennis-playing membership to club membership -----average	13	9½	11
Percentage of tennis-playing membership to club membership -----minimum	2	2	5