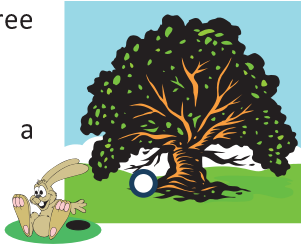


## RULE OF THE MONTH – Relief under 25-1b

I have been asked twice in the last month about relief under a tree take an or near a would



with low lying address position, rabbit scrape or any other abnormal ground condition from which one normally get free relief



being claimed when a ball is lying branches where the player cannot

or in a gorse bush and also either in

A lot of players think that rabbit scrape in these have played a shot had the



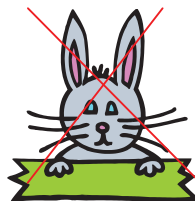
they are lucky and can take automatic free relief from the circumstances, irrespective of whether or not they could rabbit scrape not been there.

In the Rule Book, after **R 25-1b(iv)** there is an **Exception** which reads: A player may **NOT** take relief under this Rule if:-

a) it is clearly unreasonable for him to make a stroke because of interference of **anything other than an abnormal ground condition** or

**b) interference by an abnormal ground condition would occur only through use of an unnecessarily abnormal stance, swing or direction of play.**

This means that if there was no abnormal ground condition near the ball and the player was unable to make a legitimate stroke at the ball having instead to declare it unplayable, he/she cannot then claim free relief from any abnormal ground condition (i.e. rabbit scrape)



**Exactly the same principle applies to Immovable Obstructions under Rule 24 -2b** - if your ball is in a tree root next to an internal fence from which you would normally get relief, but you could not play a legitimate shot from the tree root, then you cannot claim free relief from the fence.

**Read Pages 97 & 100/101 in the Rule book**