THROUGH THE GREEN

High Finance, or Entry Fee Changeth

For 53 years Rip van Entry Fee lived in a world apart, unsullied by sordid commercial necessities. He was $5 when the USGA Championships were created in 1895—$5 each for the Amateur, the Open, and the Women’s Amateur—and he was still $5 for them last year.

You can’t quite say that Entry Fee lived through the two world wars, because the USGA abandoned all Championships both times, but he surely wasn’t changed by them. His has been a life of tranquility, simplicity, monotony—just $5, all the time. Monotony.

Until now.

Starting with this year’s Open, Entry Fee will be $7 for the USGA’s three oldest events.

“This must prove,” says our peripatetic philosopher, Mr. McCackletackle, “that inflation is on the way. Or has it arrived?”

“It proves more than that,” says Mr. Daniel A. Freeman, Jr., USGA Treasurer. “It proves we had to do something after sustaining deficits of $14,704 in 1948 and $9,400 in 1947.”

Contrary to popular impression, the USGA isn’t rolling in wealth—it couldn’t even operate if it had to pay its officers and committeemen, all of whom serve for the fun of it, without remuneration, and defray their own expenses to championships and meetings.

But that’s another story.

The real story is that Rip van Entry Fee has changed. High time.

Walker Cup Captains

Left-handed golfers of real prominence are rare. One of them is Percy B. (Laddie) Lucas. He has been appointed Captain of the British Isles Walker Cup Team which the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews will send here for a match with a USGA Team, August 19-20, at the Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, N. Y.

Lucas, who served with distinction in the last war, played in the 1947 Match at St. Andrews. In foursomes he paired with Leonard Crawley to defeat Marvin H. Ward and Smiley Quick. In singles he lost to Richard D. Chapman.

The last time a British side came to the United States was in 1936. Lucas was a reserve on that team in the Match at Pine Valley.

Francis D. Ouimet, of Boston, is again Captain of the USGA Team. He has been either a player or captain in every Walker Cup Match since the series was started in 1922, and is the only person who has so served for either side.

The USGA Team will consist of nine players in addition to the Captain. Personnel will be selected and announced late in the spring.
Uncensored

John W. Dawson writes from sunny southern California:

"It was the strangest sight I have ever seen to stand on the first tee at Riviera, during the Los Angeles Open, and to see the first fairway covered with snow. Some of us early starters had a little rough time for the first several holes.

"We have been assured of a mild winter from now on. That will make us happy because you have no idea the kidding we have been receiving from all over the country. The only answer we have is that it happens about once every 25 years, so now we are all set for a long time."

Chicago Teamwork and the Open

Some grand cooperation is being given with respect to the USGA Open Championship to be played in June at the Medinah Country Club near Chicago.

Frank M. Whiston, President of the Chicago District Golf Association, advises that the CDGA is "dispensing with our Victory National Tournament this year to devote all our efforts to the success of your tournament, and we hope you will call on us for anything we may be able to do."

To implement this generous idea, Mr. Whiston has appointed a special committee under the chairmanship of Fred Slyder.

Teamwork of this sort is typical of golf associations today.

Wounded Veterans Need Clubs

Don't throw away those old golf clubs. There are many hospitalized war veterans who could use them.

Here is a recent appeal from Dr. N. Howard Hyman, of New York, National Hospitalization Officer of the Jewish War Veterans:

"There are about 2,000 patients at the Valley Forge General Hospital in Phoenixville, Pa. Some of them are the war's worst casualties.

"The hospital authorities are doing all that is humanly possible to keep up the morale of these patients. They have built a nine-hole golf course on the grounds which is proving to be a source of enjoyment. However, there is a shortage of golf clubs and balls. This handicap creates a waiting line for, at times, as long as two hours.

"There must be hundreds of unused clubs lying around in lockers which could be made available to the boys in Valley Forge. Will you please spread this information to your membership?

"The clubs may be sent directly to the hospital in care of Maj. Chesley M. Adams, Special Service Officer, or to me at 295 Central Park West, New York, N. Y."

1949 USGA Executive Committee

The following officers and Executive Committee were elected at the 55th Annual Meeting to serve the USGA in 1949:

PRESIDENT
Fielding Wallace, Augusta, Ga.

VICE-PRESIDENT
Totton P. Heffelfinger, Minneapolis

VICE-PRESIDENT
James D. Standish, Jr., Detroit

SECRETARY
Isaac B. Grainger, New York

TREASURER
Daniel A. Freeman, Jr., New York

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
The above officers and
John D. Ames, Chicago
C. Pardee Erdman, Pasadena, Cal.
Charles B. Grace, Philadelphia
William C. Hunt, Houston, Texas
Charles L. Peirson, Boston
Richard S. Tufts, Pinehurst, N. C.
Corydon Wagner, Tacoma, Wash.
James W. Walker, New York

GENERAL COUNSEL
James H. Douglas, Jr., Chicago
Museum Acquisitions

The golf ball used by William P. Turnesa at the end of his victory for the 1948 Amateur Championship has found a final home in the USGA Golf Museum after an interesting experience.

Mr. Turnesa gave the ball to the Memphis Country Club through George Treadwell, the Club’s general chairman for the Championship. The Club then auctioned it off for benefit of the Memphis Cancer Fund. Udo M. Reinach, of New York, obtained it on his bid of $1,000, and he promptly gave it to the Museum.

Two golf balls of a different sort were acquired recently from Jack Level, of New York. They are wooden ones which were produced in one of the Rhodesias (Africa) during the war when regulation golf balls were not available.

At the St. George’s Golf and Country Club in Toronto, Charles S. Watson discovered one of those rarest of golf balls, a “featherie,” in the possession of Robert Cunningham, the club professional. The ball has a simple, hand-sewed pigskin cover and is stuffed with feathers. Mr. Cunningham brought it from Scotland and kindly presented it to the Museum at the suggestion of Mr. Watson.

In her home at Wakefield, R. I., Mrs. Russell Sturges found a number of old clubs. From them Ralph Rooks, a member of the Museum Committee, selected a Slazenger driver, a “Boodie” midiron with a ridged sole, and a putter with a cylindrical head which can be rotated, as worthy of preservation in the Museum.

From the effects of the late Elmer A. Eulass, of Chicago, a former Secretary of the Western Golf Association, came five books of clippings, mainly about Chicago and midwestern golf from 1904 to 1916 and continuing through 1944, as well as three clubs. Mrs. Sally Eulass and Walter Eulass, widow and brother of the late Mr. Eulass, kindly contributed them.

William B. Langford, a member of the Museum Committee, was responsible for the Eulass contributions and for the gift by John C. Zalinski, of Chicago, of an Auchterlonie driver and a left-handed, short-shafted D. Anderson spoon.

While Dick Chapman was in England last spring for the British Amateur Championship, he was given a torpedo-shaped, center-shafted wooden mashie, 50 or more years old, by Raymond Quilter, of Woking, Surrey, for presentation to the USGA Museum. The club was found in the attic of the Woking Golf Club.

Even though the history of such old clubs cannot often be determined, they give an interesting sidelight on man’s quest for precision in the control of a golf ball.

The Museum Committee hereby records its sincere appreciation.

Frank M. Hardt Passes

We record with profound regret the passing of Frank M. Hardt, of Philadelphia. He was a member of the USGA Executive Committee from 1934 through 1943 and Secretary of the Association in all except the first of those years. He formerly was President of the Golf Association of Philadelphia.