

The USGA Family Grows

When delegates to the 1948 annual meeting amended the USGA Constitution, they made it possible for all clubs and courses to be members. Since then, the USGA family has grown to the verge of exceeding the all-time record of 1,154 members established in 1934.

The significance of this is not growth for growth's sake. What really matters is a wider distribution of the Association's services and increasing ability to improve them.

Recently Fielding Wallace, USGA President, wrote the presidents of non-member clubs and courses and said in part: "To serve golf is the USGA's sole aim. The USGA is a non-profit Association. Our officers and committees contribute their work just because they love the game—without pay or expenses. . . . Do you want a national authority for golf?"

Most of the new members are Regular Member Clubs, composed of individual members who manage their own affairs through officers and committees whom they select. Most of them own or control their own courses; some are regularly organized clubs whose members play at public courses.

The other class of USGA membership is Associate, created in 1948. It is open to courses not controlled by regularly organized clubs.

The first Associate Member was the Beverly Hills Public Golf Club, Warren, Mich., of which Victor H. DeBaeke is Secretary and Treasurer. An interesting reaction came from Mrs. E. E. Vantine, owner and manager of the Twin Lakes Golf Course, Pontiac, Mich., who said: "Associate Membership is the answer to a long-felt need among clubs of this size."

A constitutional change made at the annual meeting was dissolution of the Public Links Section. It was originally established with the aim of eventually requiring that Amateur Public Links Championship entrants be members of such clubs so that the Championship's organization would be improved. However, as only 79 clubs had joined the Public Links Section after sev-

eral years, the original object was considered impractical. Several former Public Links Section members are now Regular Members.

For the first time in many decades framed USGA membership certificates are being issued to all members. As new certificates will be issued annually, members should retain the frames.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

Amateur Public Links

As far as is known, this is the largest major golf competition in point of entries, with 2,633 last year and 3,586 the year before. To reduce the field, there will be 44 Sectional Qualifying events in the period June 27-July 5, with 210 players qualifying for the Championship at the North Fulton Park Golf Course, Atlanta, July 19-24. The Team Championship is July 17.

Entries must reach Sectional Qualifying Chairmen by 5 P.M. on Wednesday, June 16. Entry fee is \$3, of which \$2.50 will be used for expenses of Championship competitors up to \$6 per day plus travel; the 50¢ remainder is the USGA portion. (The Public Links and the Junior are the only events in which competitors may accept expenses without forfeiting amateur status.) Entries are open to men amateur golfers who, at all times since January 1, 1948, have not had the privileges of private clubs maintaining their own courses.

Junior Amateur

Forty-one Sectional Qualifying Rounds have been scheduled late in July for the first USGA Junior Championship. The Championship will be held August 11-14 at the University of Michigan Golf Course in Ann Arbor.

Entries must reach the USGA office by 5 P.M. on Thursday, July 8, filed on USGA forms, along with \$3 entry fee. Entries are open to male amateur golfers who will not have reached their 18th birthday by midnight of August 14.