
THROUGH THE GREEN

Entries and the Three H's

In this materialistic age, when man apparently tends to believe only what he can see with his eye, it is refreshing to have a hand in such a thing as reception of entries for the Open Golf Championship. You come out of it with faith renewed — with the conviction that there are a great many persons who put considerable stock in unseen forces. Forces like Hope, and Humility, and Honor, for instance.

Golfers are a notoriously hopeful breed. But you've never seen Hope at its highest until you've examined a few tardy entries for the Open.

Here's one: Postmarked in Chicago at 3 P. M. on May 16. A trusting soul must surely have thought the post office would haul forth a jet plane and have it in the USGA office in New York by the published closing time of 5 P. M. on May 16. Actually, it arrived the morning after. Entry declined.

One was mailed in Los Angeles at 1:30 A. M. on the 16th, via air mail special delivery (2c postage was due when it reached us); but it didn't arrive until next day. Entry declined.

Several disciples of Hope actually *posted* their entries *after* the closing time. They probably placed most of their hope in USGA charity. On merely technical points relating to entries, we may bend a trifle sometimes and, in the spirit of the game, give opportunity for an *i* to be dotted or a *t* to be crossed. But where tardiness is concerned, there is just one rule: either you miss the ship or you make it.

Time of receipt in the USGA office *has* to be the deciding factor. If time of postmark were considered, you might never be able to close entries in time to hold the Sectional Qualifying Rounds, especially when some of your

constituents do business with the Honolulu post office.

Your heart bleeds for the innocent, trusting, belated applicants. Perhaps an Open Champion lay a-borning among them. It's particularly cruel to decline such entrants: if you take Hope away from a golfer, what've you got left?

Well, you may have Humility left. One Open entrant had it to a marked degree. After reading on the entry blank that you shouldn't send cash but rather a check or money order as entry fee, he enclosed a note with seven one-dollar bills: "I *had* to send cash because the post office was closed this afternoon and I didn't know it." Entry on time and accepted.

The quality of Honor is likewise reflected in the filing of entries. A gentleman's entry fee consisted of a basketball check which the bank bounced right back at us. We reluctantly called the gentleman's attention to this trifling little matter; he forthwith replied with another check and the following philosophical note:

"Try this one. My wife beat me to the punch (or was it the check book?). You know how it is. Sorry. No one hurt. Tear up the other one."

Hope . . . Humility . . . Honor. Now, if we could only putt. . . .

Top-Heavy — Light-Headed

Uncle Joe Dickson, the Sage of Louisville, is Secretary of the Kentucky State Golf Association, has long been a member of the USGA Public Links Committee, and knows human nature. So it's well to listen when he says:

"A top-heavy committee is usually light-headed in the end."

More Caddie Scholarships



Courtesy Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

These eight gentlemen have served as President of the Western Pennsylvania Golf Association and were trapped just before holing out at a dinner celebration of the Western Pennsylvania's 50th Anniversary. Left to right: Norbert Garbisch, Butler, President 1948-49; Jay D. Swigart, Pittsburgh Field Club, 1942; S. Davidson Herron, Allegheny and Oakmont, 1945; Harmar D. Denny, Jr., Fox Chapel, 1931; E. E. McCoy, Oakmont, 1926; Robert Monroe, III, Pittsburgh Field Club, 1947; Ernest R. Braun, Jr., Shannopin, 1944; Robert W. Smith, Greensburg, 1933.

The healthy contagion of lending a hand to somebody else has a good hold on organized golf, especially where assistance to caddies is concerned. In recent months the Detroit District Association has started the James D. Standish, Jr. caddie scholarship. The Massachusetts Association has established the Francis Ouimet Caddie Scholarship Fund; handicap cards are sold at \$2, and \$1 of each will go to the Fund.

The Western Pennsylvania Association, in celebrating its 50th anniversary this spring, revealed that it maintains nine scholarships at the University of

Pittsburgh and two at Carnegie Tech, under arrangements whereby half the cost is provided by the institution and half by the Association.

E. E. McCoy was instrumental in starting this program, which began in 1940 and was interrupted by the war. C. K. Robinson is Chairman of the present Caddie Welfare Committee.

The tireless work of Fred Brand, Jr., as Secretary was recognized by the Western Pennsylvania Association's gift of a watch to him. He has arranged a schedule of 27 events this season, with a tournament for men every week from May through September.

Placing the Cups

What considerations govern the placing of cups in USGA Championships?

Richard S. Tufts, Chairman of the Championship Committee, says:

"It is almost impossible to set up any fixed rules, as there are many factors that can affect a cup location, with the result that the first consideration should always be the use of good judgment in deciding what will give fair results under the given conditions.

"We generally start with the requirement that, for an area of from two to three feet around the cup, the putting

surface be in good condition without any steep slopes or, if possible, any changes in the degree of slope. In other words, the green should be flat, if possible, but it does not have to be exactly level.

"Next, we try to start, if possible, at least five paces away from the edge of the surface especially prepared for putting. If a trap is close to the edge of the surface, the distance should be greater, especially if the approach to the green is over the trap.

"Other than these, there are no general rules to guide the location of the cup. You have to consider the hold-

ing quality of the green, the length of the shot to the green, the probable prevailing conditions for play for the day, and the design of the hole.

"Cup locations for the early rounds can be simpler, and as play proceeds the various architectural features of the course be brought more sharply into play, always keeping in mind that the location selected should be fair."

Passing of Max R. Marston



George S. Pietzcker Photo.

Max R. Marston with the Amateur Championship Trophy in 1923.

Max R. Marston, who passed on recently, had an unusual record in competition. He played in a great many USGA Amateur Championships, was winner once and runner-up another time, and was a member of four Walker Cup Teams.

In the 1923 Amateur he went through a great bracket, defeating among others Robert T. Jones, Jr., then the Open Champion; Francis D. Ouimet and, in the final, the defending Champion, Jess W. Sweetser. The final went 38 holes.

Ten years later, at the age of 41, Marston was runner-up to George Dunlap in the Amateur. He had been a semi-finalist as early as 1915.

Marston was a member of the Ameri-

SPORTSMAN'S CORNER

They have to remain anonymous, so we'll call one the Big Boy and the other the Little Boy—he really was one of the youngest in the tournament. They met in a match in the USGA's first Junior Amateur Championship last year.

Near the finish, the Big Boy accused the Little Boy of moving his ball as he addressed it on the putting green. The Little Boy denied it. They batted a few words back and forth, then called for an official. The evidence indicated that the ball had not moved, so the match proceeded. The Little Boy won on the home hole.

That night, back in the hotel at bedtime, the gentleman who had escorted the Little Boy to the tournament asked him, point-blank: "Little Boy, did that ball move on that green this afternoon?"

The lad stared back with innocently wide eyes. "No, sir", he said. "It surely didn't."

"That's all I want to know," said the man; and he turned out the lights to go to sleep.

Minutes later, the man was just dropping off to sleep when he was awakened by the boy's voice. "Sir," he said hesitantly, "are you awake?"

"No, son," said the man. "What is it?"

"Well, sir, I was just thinking—that Big Boy taking the Lord's name in vain back there on the 17th green this afternoon—that didn't help him any, did it?"

* * *

So there you have two boys—two future leaders—meeting at golf—meeting in a trial of character. There you have the Little Boy making a contribution to the Junior Championship. There you have the Big Boy learning something from it.

In either case, it's great.

Plum Hollow Likes to Read

Some 60 members of the Plum Hollow Golf Club in Detroit are subscribers to the USGA JOURNAL — approximately 18 per cent of the membership.

can team in the first Walker Cup match in 1921 and served again in 1923-24-34.

Golf in Moscow

Bindari Pasha, Egyptian Minister to the USSR, steadfastly refuses to give up golf despite the fact that Russia has no golf courses, Eddy Gilmore reports through the Associated Press from Moscow.

The Minister, who has played golf for many years in championship brackets, goes out every favorable afternoon armed like an expedition. He takes along a caddie, a number of balls, and his clubs.

Bindari Pasha has discovered an open rolling field where the grass—because of much cow grazing—is cut almost as smooth as a fairway. He fixes his eyes on the horizon, locates an imaginary hole, and lets fly.

His “golfing” during the fine summer days Moscow had last year naturally attracted a crowd. One day he found some collective farmers looking on, shaking their heads and muttering to themselves.

It's no wonder, for in addition to his golf clubs, Egyptian caddie, and the small white ball, Bindari Pasha wears plus fours and speaks but little Russian.

Massachusetts Ladies

The Women's Golf Association of Massachusetts started its 50th year with a demonstration of complete democracy. By postal questionnaire, the Association polled all 69 of its Class A players on their wishes regarding the date and system of play in the annual Championship.

There was also instituted a Limited Player Membership for those who retain their interest but cannot compete often enough to submit the required scores for a handicap. Limited Members will not be eligible for the Championship or for weekly prizes but may play from scratch in various events.

Mrs. James H. Cave, Secretary, reveals that the Association was first organized at a meeting on March 5, 1900, with six women present. It consisted of four clubs: The Country Club, Oakley Country Club, Brae Burn Country Club and Concord Country Club. Twenty-five players took part in the first Championship at Oakley, October 22-25, 1900, with Miss Grace B. Keyes defeating Miss Harriot Curtis, 5 and 3, in the final. Miss Pauline Mackay was medalist with 102.



“See how my putter becomes a sword?”

Reprinted from True, the Man's Magazine
Copyright 1949, Fawcett Publications, Inc.