
THROUGH THE GREEN

Thinking Out Loud

Criticism, both malevolent and benevolent, is an editor's lot. As we near the end of our second year of publication, we are grateful that no reader has yet threatened, at least publicly, to pillory us. We are equally grateful that some have made kindly suggestions.

We have been told, for instance, that the USGA JOURNAL is sometimes too technical. We have taken this benevolent criticism to heart and attempted to work out a solution.

Our first step was to increase the number of pages, last spring, from 28 to 36. This enabled us to publish more articles of general interest.

Yet the USGA JOURNAL remained to some extent technical. It has to remain so, because of the very nature of much of the USGA's work. In setting forth our policy in the spring of 1948, we proposed to provide "a meeting place for golf lovers to exchange useful ideas and a medium for USGA decisions, comments and information on such subjects as the Rules of Golf, tournament procedures, handicapping, Championships, amateur status, golf balls and clubs and new trends in the game . . . and the improvement of golf-course maintenance."

We believe our program has been sound and adherence to it has given the USGA JOURNAL a distinctive quality.

We like the remarks of Mr. Hal A. White, member of the Sectional Affairs Committee and Secretary of the Detroit District Golf Association:

"One of the benefits of this USGA JOURNAL would be to make members better directors, officers and operators of golf clubs, because certainly when they get into that type of operation, they should have a good deal of technical background.

"Many clubs in this district limit the time their directors and officers can serve, and the turnover is fast. Promising directors, officers and chairmen of committees should be advised to subscribe, to better prepare themselves for the day when they take over.

"I think we should admit our USGA JOURNAL is technical in many cases but that the information is absolutely and fundamentally necessary to do the job that we think is worth while for golf."

Two Passings

The latter part of the season was saddened by the passing of two professionals whose names will not be forgotten although neither won a national championship.

Macdonald Smith, a Carnoustie man, was one of the great untitled players. In 1910 he tied for the Open Championship and lost to his brother, Alex. Twenty years later, in the 1930 Open, he nearly blocked Bobby Jones' grand slam with a finish that, in the end, earned him second place.

In between, he won almost everything else that counted in this country and set records that endured beyond his prime. The grace and style of his swing, performed in his early years with the old palm grip, remain a standard of perfection wherever swings are discussed.

Frank Turnesa, a New Yorker, was not a great player but he bore a great golfing name with honor as an architect and instructor. The second of the seven brothers, it was his role to serve as an inspiring force within the family and a staff upon whom the brothers could depend.

Golden Anniversary

The USGA was organized on December 22, 1894, and the following Autumn inaugurated one of its principal functions—conduct of Amateur, Open and Women's Amateur Championships. During the intervening 55 years, the Championships have been suspended six times because of two World Wars.

In each instance, therefore, next year's Championship will be the 50th — the Open at Merion Golf Club, the Amateur at Minneapolis Golf Club and the Women's Amateur at the East Lake Course of the Atlanta Athletic Club.

These three Championships will be termed the "Golden Anniversary Championships."

That California Final

We are indebted to John B. Morse of Del Monte, Cal., for an account of one of the most thrilling finals the game has

produced, that between Mac Hunter and Gene Littler for the California Amateur Championship at Pebble Beach. Hunter, who is 21, gained a three-hole lead in the morning round, but Littler, who is 19, had squared things when they came to the 17th in the afternoon. Mr. Morse takes it from there:

"The 17th is a long par 3 right at the ocean. It has a long, kidney-shaped green, really in two parts, and the flag was on the far part. Both elected to play safe and run up the neck onto the green with irons. Littler hooked way back in the trap so that he had to cross on his second shot 20 feet of sand and 20 feet of green to the pin. Hunter rolled up on the lower half of the green but was stymied on his putt by the kidney which is, of course, rough. Littler was away, took out his wedge and laid his ball three feet from the pin. Since Hunter

Earning Their Pay?



When Charles B. Grace and Isaac B. Grainger, members of the USGA Executive Committee, used a tape measure to determine which of two balls was away during a match in the Amateur Championship, two spectators were overheard in conversation:

First Spectator: "What're they doing?"

Second Spec: "Measuring the putts."

First Spec: "Why do they do that?"

Second Spec: "Oh, they've got to do something to earn their pay."

The remark was not intended to be funny, but it was. USGA officials give their time and even pay their own expenses to serve the game.

could not putt, he took a wedge on the green, lifted his ball beautifully over the rough and it stopped one foot from the pin, leaving Littler a dead stymie. Littler again used his wedge and holed out, giving Hunter his putt. Both made 3s and nobody putted.

"They went into the long finishing hole still all even. Both hit fair drives but were stymied by that enormous pine in the center of the fairway. With the greatest courage, they sliced their long brassies out to sea and back again onto the course. Littler played a No. 5 iron to the green 22 feet from the hole. Hunter laid a No. 6 iron 20 feet from the hole. Littler sank his putt for a birdie 4. Hunter lined up his and halved him with another birdie 4.

"They went up to the first hole, the 37th of the match. Hunter made a magnificent drive and Littler hooked into the rough. Littler played a magnificent controlled hook which ended pin-high, 20 feet away. Hunter sliced into the trap. It looked as if the match was over. Hunter was away, deep down in the trap and blind to the hole, but he sank his recovery for a birdie 3. Once again the match seemed over, but Littler, under the most terrific pressure, dropped his putt to halve with another birdie.

"They went to the second extra hole, which is a par 5. Both slapped out long drives and long brassies, were on the green in two and for the third successive hole halved in birdies.

"On the third extra hole, Littler was to the right and made a nice pitch to the green but it wouldn't hold and slid off into a trap. Hunter was on and sank his putt for a 4 and the match was over."

Who's Afraid of Stymies?

Australians seem to know what to do when faced with a stymie.

Joe Greening was stymied three times in a match against Maxie Eise at the Metropolitan Golf Club near Melbourne. In each case, Eise's ball lay about four inches from the hole (Royal and Ancient Golf Club rules governing) and Greening's a little more than a foot farther away.

Greening holed his ball each time.

SPORTSMAN'S CORNER

TO THE USGA:

At this time of year when there is considerable space devoted on sports pages relating to the selection of "All-Americans", it seemed to me that you might well select some "all stars" from among our golfers.

Truly this might prove quite a task, especially if you decided to select one person who had contributed most to the game in 1949.

However, from the sidelines, it appeared to me that one young man in particular had added considerably to his stature during the last few months. A year ago he was semi-finalist in the British Amateur and later won our National Championship. Then this year he reached the final of the British and the semi-final of our Amateur. These are cold facts.

But behind them lies a human story of this man's character and courage. One or two newspapermen were aware that while he was competing in the championships, a member of his family was fatally ill and that our sportsman assumed a daily share of the responsibility that cloaked the grieving family. In deference to good taste a general silence was observed: the background was never communicated to the public.

It was edifying for a bystander to observe this American in action. Golf may be only a game, but this was a man who was playing it.

There was another outstanding person on the scene this year. He was the leader of the British Walker Cup Team. Had the result been a triumph for the visitors in the international series, undoubtedly he would have been widely acclaimed. But he left an ineradicable mark nevertheless on the 1949 season. There was always a complete understanding of his task and teammates, no matter what the outcome. And despite his deep disappointment at the result, he added immeasurably to the spirit of fellowship which was part of the Walker Cup atmosphere.

And these are only two who in my humble opinion merit your consideration.

Sincerely,

LINCOLN A. WERDEN
THE NEW YORK TIMES

(Editor's note: Mr. Werden refers to William P. Turnesa in the first instance and Percy B. (Laddie) Lucas.)

A Trophy Returns to Kebo Valley



The mug held by John J. O'Brien (center), President of the Kebo Valley Club, represents second prize in a tournament played there 55 years ago. It has been presented to the club by its winner, E. Shirley Goddard (left). First prize in the same tournament was won by Hugh Scott (right).

The Kebo Valley Club in Bar Harbor was the first permanent golf club in Maine. It was incorporated by a group of huntsmen in 1838 (the same year that the Old Apple Tree Gang of the St. Andrew's Golf Club started playing golf in Yonkers, N. Y.), and its first golf holes were laid out in 1891.

On September 8, 1894, the Club conducted a handicap stroke-play tournament which must have been one of the first held Down East. The competition consisted of three rounds on the six-hole course. The winner was Hugh Scott and the runner-up E. Shirley Goddard.

As the recent season was ending at Bar Harbor, the two leaders in that Nineteenth Century competition, now aged 77 and 79, respectively, lunched together again at Kebo Valley with John J.

O'Brien, the Club President, and Mr. Goddard presented to the Club the mug he had won almost exactly 55 years ago.

The inscription on the mug reads: "Kebo Valley Golf Club Handicap. Second Prize. Won by E. S. Goddard. Scratch. Sept. 8, 1894. Score 111."

Mr. Scott promised to scour the attic of his home in Wellesley, Mass., for the first prize he won on the same day, with a handicap and score he cannot recall. If he is successful, the two trophies will also be reunited, in the Club's trophy room.

The room already contains another of the Club's most prized possessions: a placard announcing a tournament on August 19, 1897, for "all visitors to Mount Desert Island, Sorrento and Grindstone Neck."

New Caddie Scholarship

The caddie-scholarship idea continues to flourish. The Detroit District Golf Association is one of the most recent additions to the list of sponsors, and John Anderson, who is 18 and lives in Pontiac, Mich., is the first winner of a full-tuition scholarship from Detroit's James

D. Standish, Jr., Scholarship Fund of the Evans Scholars Foundation. Anderson is attending Wayne University. Mr. Standish was long President of the Detroit Association and was recently nominated to be President of the USGA.