
THROUGH THE GREEN

Ben Hogan

The spirit of fraternity among golfers is unique even in the world of sports, where men seem to get along with one another better than in most other spheres. So it is that the hearts of golfers have gone out to Ben Hogan.

You hear all manner of comment and inquiry about Ben and the injuries he sustained in a Texas motor accident



Lathrop-Silvera

last winter. You hear all sorts of guesses about when he will be able to play again.

The remark which seems best to fit the case is this very simple one: "If anybody can beat this bad break, Ben Hogan can."

There is a classic tribute—a tribute not so much to the Open Champion as to a person, a sportsman.

Americans Abroad

By weight of numbers, if nothing else, Americans will make an impression in the British Amateur Championship during the week of May 23 at Portmarnock, near Dublin. Nearly twoscore entries have been certified by the USGA.

The more serious travelers are Frank Stranahan, holder of the British Championship; William P. Turnesa, who won it in 1947 and who is the current USGA champion; and Robert H. (Skee) Riegel, 1947 USGA Champion.

It may sound anachronistic, but Francis Ouimet and Chick Evans are in the list. So is Ellis Knowles, former Seniors' Champion. He is going over with his son, James B. Knowles. That makes two father-and-son pairs, for Robert A. Stranahan will be a rival entrant of his son Frank.

Three Californians have entered — Edward E. Lowery, Clarke Hardwicke and Max Felix. Leonard Martin and Udo M. Reinach, of New York; Elmer Ward and Frank Craven, of Boston; Theodore S. Bassett of Rye, N. Y., and three soldiers stationed abroad — Major Lewis J. Wright, Lieut. Willis Johnson and M/Sgt. William G. Ebey—are in the American platoon.

It will be the first holding of the British Championship on Irish soil. Mr. McCackletackle, our peripatetic philosopher, asked us:

"Have you seen a shamrock divot?"

The British Ladies' Championship is to be played in the same week as the British Amateur, at the Royal St. David's Golf Club, Harlech, Wales. It, too, will have American entrants of quality. Miss Grace S. Lenczyk, our Champion, has entered. So has Miss Peggy Kirk, of Findlay, Ohio. There may be others.

Walking Off With The Flag

When an Englishwoman was fined five pounds for stealing two scarves from a shop, her husband testified that she was very absent-minded, and that her habit of walking off with a flag from the green when playing golf had annoyed the other club members so much that she had to give up playing.

Spreading The Word

To increase the usefulness of the USGA JOURNAL, Fielding Wallace, USGA President, has requested the presidents of all USGA Member Clubs and Courses to cooperate in a widespread subscription plan. The idea is for each club to send to all of its individual members little folders containing a description of the JOURNAL and a subscription form (the folders being supplied by the USGA); it is suggested that they be enclosed with each club's next general mailing to its members.

Feasibility of this plan was proved during a test conducted by the Sectional Affairs Committee. Each committeeman was asked to arrange with one club in his section to try the plan with its members. Results exceeded expectations.

The Blue Hills Club, of Kansas City, produced 64 new subscribers; and that's testimony to diligent work by E. L. Hoth of the Sectional Affairs Committee. Incidentally, 125 individuals constituting the boards of ten clubs in the Kansas City section are JOURNAL readers.

Pittsburgh Field Club, inspired by Fred Brand, Jr., turned in 61 subscriptions. Col. Lee S. Read of Louisville doubled up his test, with the following results: Big Spring G. C., 41; Audubon C. C., 35. Other leaders were: Winged Foot G. C., Mamaroneck, N. Y., 34; Kenwood C. C., Cincinnati, 30; Guyan G. and C. C., Huntington, W. Va., 29; Illini C. C., Springfield, Ill., 27; Meridian Hills C. C., Indianapolis, 24; Montclair (N. J.) G. C., 24; Brae Burn C. C., West Newton, Mass., 23.

\$500 To Aid Children

The Women's Golf Association of Northern California had its outstanding season in 1948, according to Mrs. L. V. Parmelee, retiring secretary: 1,088 members, record tournament entries, a new Grandmothers' and Seniors' Tournament with 90 participants, hole-in-one pins to 15 members.

"With our increased membership and interest," Mrs. Parmelee says, "we were able to donate \$500 to the 'Save the Chil-

dren Federation.' This sum is being used to sponsor two schools, one in Finland and a Navajo Indian school in Arizona."

They Serve The Game

Maynard G. Fessenden, of Chicago, President of the Western Golf Association, has been voted by the Golf Writers' Association of America as the man who made the outstanding contribution to golf in 1948. He has been awarded the William D. Richardson Memorial Trophy for his leadership in developing the Western's caddie scholarship program.

Runner-up in the writers' voting was Bing Crosby, followed by Mayor James Rhodes, of Columbus, Ohio, who founded a national caddie tournament, and Dr. Fred V. Grau, Director of the USGA Green Section.

Chairmen of USGA Committees

The following Chairmen of USGA committees for 1949 have been appointed by Fielding Wallace, of Augusta, Ga., President:

- Rules of Golf—
Isaac B. Grainger, New York.
- Championship—
Richard S. Tufts, Pinehurst, N. C.
- Implement and Ball—
John D. Ames, Chicago.
- Amateur Status and Conduct—
James W. Walker, New York.
- Membership—
Daniel A. Freeman, Jr., New York.
- Green Section—
James D. Standish, Jr., Detroit.
- Women's—
Miss Frances E. Stebbins, Boston.
- Public Links—
Totton P. Heffelfinger, Mnnneapolis
- Sectional Affairs—
William C. Hunt, Houston, Texas.
- Handicap—
William O. Blaney, Boston.
- International Relations—
Charles W. Littlefield, New York.
- Museum—
C. Pardee Erdman, Pasadena, Cal.
- Public Relations—
John D. Ames, Chicago.



M. G. Fessenden



"Yes, I admit I lost my temper."

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Pigeon Run

It took the lady the longest while to realize that the shot is not called the pigeon run.

Happy Birthday To You

These are Golden Anniversary days for the Western Golf Association, the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association, and the Western Pennsylvania Golf Association.

Many clubs reach their 50th birthday this year. Among those which already have come to notice are the Bellevue Golf Club, Melrose, Mass., and the LaGrange Country Club, LaGrange, Ill.

The New Haven (Conn.) Country Club, which completed a half-century in 1948, has just published its history, entitled "The First Fifty Years." It is replete with interest, thanks largely to painstaking research by Robert D. Pryde. Here is one excerpt:

"It is said that 'bad manners' were responsible for the founding of the New Haven Country Club. For the New Haven Golf Club admitted Yale students, who soon overran the course and made it impossible for the women members to play. . . . We are told that the Club was not able to control the students or to get rid of them, and the only way out was the formation of another club. Whether this is too harsh a judgment may be hard to determine now; at any rate, the strong feeling against student play long manifested itself at the Country Club. Thus the Board's proposal for the admission of undergraduate students 'not exceeding fifteen' was voted down

at the annual meeting of 1901. In December, 1903, the Board had to take steps to warn members against bringing students out to play golf. The rule persisted for many years, until long after the Race Brook Country Club was started and a new outlet thus opened for the undergraduates."

At another point, an 1898 conservative expressed the view that "Golf is a new game to the Americans and it may not appeal to them for very long."

Salutations!

And Happy Birthday To Us

Thank you very much, and this is the beginning of the second year for the USGA JOURNAL. It's a good occasion to recall promises we made in the first edition:

"We shall be mainly concerned with two things — the play and conduct of the game, and improvement of golf course maintenance.

"As for play of the game: We propose 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, USGA Championships, amateur status, golf balls and clubs, and new trends in the game. We'll also touch on golf history and background. Successful players will give hints on how to play.

"As for golf course maintenance, each issue will contain a section entitled **TIMELY TURF TOPICS** — information issued by the USGA Green Section. For more than 25 years the Green Section has been advising the Member Clubs on course upkeep. Its work has been a major factor in developing many of the best greenkeeping practices now standard on many courses. The Green Section's advice has been invaluable in terms of improved playing conditions and economical maintenance — elements important to all golfers.

"The JOURNAL thus will help further to unify these two major spheres of interest — how the game is played, and where it is played."

This being a non-profit publication by golfers for golfers, we welcome contributions of articles, notes and photographs of general interest.

Light up that first candle, Mr. McCackletackle!