

Miss Hanson Turns Professional

A new Women's Amateur Champion will be determined next month at the Town and Country Club, St. Paul, Minn. Miss Beverly Hanson, who won impressively at Atlanta last year, has forfeited her title by turning professional.

Of those who have been Champion since 1938, all except two have forsaken amateur status.

Miss Hanson competed unsuccessfully in the British Ladies' Amateur Championship this year, and just before returning home was reported by a British journalist to have made disparaging and intemperate remarks about the course where the Championship was played.

While the USGA JOURNAL does not intend to set itself up in judgment of the case, it should be noted that some British golf writers in the past have written untruthful and distorted articles about visiting Americans. It sometimes has been a case of "Never let a good story be spoiled by the facts," as the late Hugh Fullerton, Sr., put it.

Miss Hanson has refuted many of the remarks attributed to her, and wrote the USGA in part as follows, prior to turning pro:

"First off, I'd like to thank you for your kind and helpful attitude and, secondly, for the opportunity of explaining the remarks attributed to me on my departure from England.

"The story starts in the passenger area of the London Airport on June 7. I had cleared through customs and immigration and was standing by a magazine stand when a man walked over, called my name and began talking to me about having played in the Championship at Broadstone. I presumed him to be a fellow passenger since at no time did he introduce himself or make known his position and it was not until 'the interview' was completed and he asked me to pose on the plane steps for a photographer that I realized he was a reporter, though I hasten to add with emphasis had this information been known at the time I would not have altered my statements. Also, to my knowledge he took no notes.

"His opening question asked if I had enjoyed my stay, to which I replied very enthusiastically in the affirmative. Then he inquired as to what my reaction was to the Dorset Golf Club, scene of the Championship, and my reply was that 'it played terribly short for a Cham-

pionship Course.' I also enlarged on that by stating, 'I base my game on distance, and I wouldn't play my mother on a course that short and she doesn't even play golf.' I explained that the yardage for the competition was well under 6,000 yards and that fact coupled with eight days of sun and wind and no water had made the actual playing yardage about 5,100 yards.

"Earlier in the day I had lunched with Viscountess de Saint-Sauveur, Mme. P. Eloy, Mlle. A. Jaquet, all foreign entrants, and Mr. Tom Scott, Editor of GOLF ILLUSTRATED, and in anticipation of press queries had sought their advice as to the diplomatic answer to the tried and true question, 'How did you like the course?'

"Their advice was to respond as follows: 'It was the consensus of opinion of the competitors that it was not a championship course; and accordingly I remarked that 'it was a shame after having invested so much money to come over for the Championship that I couldn't play on one of the many great British courses where my length would have been an asset.'

"He then asked me how much I figured it had cost, and I replied 'something between \$1,000 and \$1,200.' He gasped and then asked if I would be back next year. I said: 'I certainly hope so. I understand the Matches (Curtis Cup) will be at Muirfield and the Championship at Troon, and I also understand that both courses are superb tests of golf.'

"Next he pointed to a photographer standing nearby and asked about a picture, to which I, of course, agreed. I then read a magazine for 10 minutes until called to the bus which drove us right to the plane. I mention the magazine reading and bus ride to point out how impossible it was to have ended the interview and 'stomped out to the plane,' as I was reported to have done.

"My first knowledge of the results of this talk came when I called my parents in California after arriving in Washington June 8, and, needless to say, I was greatly upset. Upset not only for the light in which it placed me and the USGA, but also upset for the members and friends at Dorset Golf Club who, while they haven't a true championship course by British standards, do have as beautiful a course in as beautiful a countryside as I ever hope to see.

"It was with deep regret that I saw this incident 'built up,' and it now is my most sincere hope and wish that through this letter the misunderstanding is clarified and damage rectified."