
THROUGH THE GREEN

Taking No Chance

As the golfers topped a rise they saw an old lady sitting in the fairway. One of them said: "You know, it's very dangerous to sit there."

"Oh," she said, "it's quite all right; I'm sitting on my macintosh!"

SOUTH AFRICAN GOLF

Fair Play For Substitutes

By 3:15 P. M. on the Saturday before this year's Amateur Championship, all except three of the 200 contestants were present or accounted for. Having had no word from those three, the USGA Championship Committee defaulted them and arranged for replacements.

Fifteen minutes later, one of those three telephoned to say he would be there after a while—he had been playing in a nearby tournament in eastern Pennsylvania. He was chagrined to learn that his place had been forfeited under

the following rule:

"Every qualifier or alternate who becomes eligible for the Championship must register with the Registration Committee at the Saucon Valley Country Club by 12 o'clock noon on Saturday, September 8, or must advise the USGA Executive Secretary, in care of the Club, of a later time of arrival. If he fails to do so, his place in the field may be forfeited and re-assigned.

"Players exempt from Sectional Qualifying should not file entries unless they positively intend to compete in the Championship, in order that places reserved for them may not be wasted.

"These regulations are to insure fair play to players who may be able to compete in the Championship should qualifiers be unable to do so."

Such a rule is used for all USGA Championships with Sectional Qualifying. Every entrant in this year's Amateur was sent five notices about the deadline.

The rule is four years old. It was adopted after many places in 1947 Championships were wasted when eligible players did not show up and did not let

A 10,000-to-1 Shot—by Camera and Club



Camera fiends might click madly all their lives and never get a picture like the one on the left. It is an actual photo of a hole-in-one. Dr. Gene H. Kistler, of Chattanooga, Tenn., was playing the Highlands, N. C., Country Club with his wife and two sons. Unknown to the doctor as he teed off with a 4 iron on the 185-yard 18th, all carry over a lake, his younger son snapped his picture. The ball went into the hole; the photo on the right shows Dr. Kistler retrieving it. It was his first ace in 30 years of golf.

the USGA in on their plans. Of 171 eligible places in the 1947 Open, seven were unfilled; of 210 in the Amateur, ten were unfilled. Yet there were hundreds of players eager to substitute.

To give alternates a last-minute opportunity to fill in for withdrawing players who keep their intentions secret, the deadline for reporting was adopted in 1948. It has helped greatly in promoting fair play to the waiting alternates.

In the last four years, the four USGA male events — Open, Amateur, Public Links, Junior Amateur — have had a grand aggregate of 2,842 starting places available in the championship proper. Actually all but three places have been filled. The records do not show the quantities of time devoted by the USGA to informing alternates of their eligibility — the telephone is kept quite warm the last few days before a Championship.

But there has always been a reluctance to forfeit a place even though the USGA reserves the right to do so. For this year's Amateur the Committee waited three hours past the time when it could first have taken action. Then it declared three places vacant and set about offering them to the next available alternates.

One of the three players actually appeared on the scene not long after his place had been forfeited.

What of the two other delinquents? Well, around noon on Monday, the first day of the Championship, a casual cablegram was received by the Saucon Valley professional from one of them stating that he would not appear; he was in London, and would the professional please inform the USGA?

The other gentleman, who lives in Phoenix, hasn't been heard from yet.

But there were 200 starters in all 200 of the available places.

And by the way, there were record entries this year of 1,511 for the Open and 1,416 for the Amateur.

U.S.—Canada Match

One of the many pleasant events at Saucon Valley was the informal Team

Match between the United States and Canada, held on September 7.

The contest was patterned along the lines of the Walker Cup Match, in abbreviated form. It was compressed into one day by playing both the foursomes and singles at 18 holes instead of 36.

The Canadians remained over for the Contestants Dinner preceding the Amateur and seemed to enjoy the entire trip immensely. The U. S. Team, our Walker Cup representatives, won by 10 points to 2, which score by no means indicates the keenness of the competition.

1953 Championship Sites

The 1953 British Walker Cup Team will have a chance to sample two widely varying types of United States courses. The Walker Cup Match will be held at the Kittansett Club, Marion, Mass., on which the visitors should feel somewhat at home. The Kittansett course is considered to bear a strong resemblance to British seaside courses.

From there to the Amateur, at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club in Oklahoma City, Okla., will be a far cry as well as a long jump. The invitation of this southwestern club was accepted for the event.

The USGA accepted the invitation of the Rhode Island Country Club, at West Barrington, R. I., for the Women's Amateur.

"Winter Rules"

We have now reached the time of year when that old sign, "Winter Rules," is dragged out and erected near the first tee at many clubs.

This recalls an article on the subject by W. F. Bebout in the Akron, Ohio, District Golf Association publication, *FORE YOU*, last winter.

Mr. Bebout pointed out that there is no set of official "Winter Rules" and that usually such rules are whatever a golfer wants them to be at the time—in other words, what is easiest for his game.

Mr. Bebout asks if we ever thought of it this way: We are guaranteed 18 per-

fect lies in a round, one on every tee. Allowing two putts on every green, and greens being the nearly perfect surfaces they are, there are 36 more excellent lies we can expect. Even if we shoot 90, we take a chance on only about 40 per cent of our lies in a round.

"Winter Rules" are not easily enforced because they hardly ever mean the same thing to any two players. And it is questionable whether they save the course when the ball is usually moved to the best clump of grass in the vicinity and that clump is promptly cut off in making the shot.

Like Mother, Like Son

Club championships in at least two New York State clubs have been won by mothers and their sons this year.

At the Albany Country Club, Mrs. Marguerite Stevens was victor for the tenth time, and her son Chuck won the

Sportsman's Corner

It had rained torrents during the afternoon of the semi-finals in the Amateur Championship at Saucon Valley.

When the greenkeeping staff set to work early Saturday morning, the putting surfaces were so wet that it was decided not to cut the grass before the start of the final round. Mowing such soggy turf would have marked it up considerably.

By the time the afternoon half of the final started, however, the course had dried out appreciably and the greens had been cut.

Joe Gagliardi knew this. But he didn't know whether Billy Maxwell was aware of it. It was knowledge that would affect one's play.

Joe had the honor on the first hole of the afternoon. He teed up his ball, then turned around and said to his opponent:

"Billy, I don't know whether you know it, but they've cut the greens since this morning."

men's club championship.

It was the same at The Creek Club,

Winged Foot Honors Its Champions



The Winged Foot Golf Club of Mamaroneck, N. Y., has so many champions among its members that something had to be done. Result: a "Night of Champions" dinner. Shown above are, left to right: Ralph Kennedy, who has played 3,020 different golf courses; Tom Robbins, United States Seniors' Champion and Winged Foot Club Champion; Claude Harmon, Club professional, holder of Metropolitan Open and PGA titles; Homer Johnson, Club President; Joseph Gagliardi, Metropolitan Amateur Champion and runner-up in USGA Amateur; Earl Ross, President of Metropolitan Golf Association.

A. Chase Holmes Photo

Locust Valley. In one and the same day, Mrs. J. B. Balding and her son, Bobby, won their respective championships. Mrs. Balding is also Long Island match play Champion and President of the Women's Long Island Golf Association. She and Bobby hold the Metropolitan mother-and-son title.

The Creek requires that juniors who have not reached their 18th birthday must be accompanied by adults when playing on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. This may be a touch embarrassing for the men's club champion—Bobby Balding is 16.

Enchantment of Distance

One of the more unusual propositions the USGA has ever received came from a gentleman who recently wrote as follows:

"I have invented a 'gadget' that will make golf balls (of a fairly good grade or bounce) go 15% farther. In other words, a golf ball driven normally 200 yards will go 230 yards.

"This 'gadget' will not change the appearance of golf clubs in any way. Likewise it will not change their weight.

"I am willing, provided this invention hasn't been patented, to give the Golf Association 25% of the net profit if the USGA will guarantee that this invention will not be banned by them. This 'gadget' will probably be sold for from two to five dollars to all golfers owning their own clubs."

The Chairman of the Implements and Ball Committee, Charles B. Grace, of Philadelphia, handled that one, and replied in part as follows:

"May I refer you to pages 56 and 57 of the 1951 edition of the Rules of Golf, specifically the form and make of golf clubs, which must 'consist of a plain shaft and a head which do not contain any movable or mechanical contrivances.'

"With respect to golf balls, 'The velocity of the ball shall be not greater than 250 feet per second when measured on the USGA's apparatus.'

"The USGA is very much concerned with the distance of golf balls, and it is their feeling that there must be a limitation in distance, otherwise there would be a great number of golf courses which would become obsolete. The expense involved in making them suitable for the longer ball would be costly to the players who support the clubs and therefore make it practically prohibitive."

They Gave to the Game

Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, N. Y., where the 1949 Amateur was played, is marking the 50th anniversary of its founding this year. Dr. John R. Williams advises:

"As a part of the celebration it was decided to install in the Club's portrait gallery of champions and golf history a panel of the five Americans who over the past 50 years had contributed the most to American golf. A committee was selected to make the choice, consisting of five sports writers and telecasters, five golf professionals, and five old-time golfing members of the Club—a total of 15. The voting was secret.

"Walter Hagen, Ben Hogan, Bobby Jones, and Francis Ouimet were unanimously chosen. Gene Sarazen received 10 votes. The five remaining votes were scattered among Byron Nelson, John J. McDermott, John G. Goodman and Charles Evans, Jr.

"The results were announced at a meeting, at which the audience had been asked beforehand to make its own selections. The majority of those present made the same selections as the committee."

Passing of Joseph Gumbel

Golf has lost a devoted friend in the passing of Joseph Gumbel, of New Orleans.

Mr. Gumbel had served in many official golf capacities and at his death was a member of three USGA committees—Sectional Affairs, Public Links and Junior Amateur.