

Golf in Veterans' Hospitals

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"AWVS Swings with the Veteran" is the title of the monthly section in the AWVS-owned GOLFER magazine, and this title often brings forth a lot of questions:

Why a dance program in a golf magazine?

What is the AWVS?

Why does it own a golf magazine?

Where do the Veterans come in?

Let's answer these questions in the order of asking—and at the same time answer the USGA's request for the AWVS-VA Swing Club story for the USGA JOURNAL.

When the first AWVS golf club was opened in the Veterans Administration Hospital, at Palo Alto, Cal., a contest was held by the patients to give their club a name. When the day of judgment came, "Swing Club" won (a golf swing, not a dance!). Through the success of the project, the name is now generally used for this hospital golf club plan. The project has been highly praised for its therapeutic as well as enjoyment value by the powers-that-be in the Veterans Administration at Washington.

So it's a golf program in a golf magazine, which is owned by the AWVS - American Women's Voluntary Services. This connection comes through a need for financial support for AWVS programs, and the need for a year-round monthly publication to help promote golf.

As to where the Veterans come in—there are 157 VA hospitals in our country, and work in them has been one of the AWVS major projects. "Why not a golf club?" was all that was needed to say to Gen. Waldron, Manager of the Palo Alto VA Hospital. Permission was granted, a location selected, and with the help of the local PGA and golf course superintendents' association, the course was built in record time. Then came the AWVS staffing of both the course, which means golfing with the veterans, and the Club, or Nineteenth Hole, where clubs and balls are handed out for play and soft drinks and cookies are served.

This all fell into line quite simply, and in no time the Swing Club program was in full swing. Weekly contests are carried out. Exhibitions by local or touring experts are greatly enjoyed, both

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In There Swinging for AWVS Swing Club



Patty Berg, sparkplug in the AWVS Swing Club Program, displays her grip to two disabled Veterans.

Photo courtesy THE GOLFER

Happy International Relations

This has been a notable year in international relations in golf.

It began with conferences looking to a world-wide code of Rules, among British, Australian, Canadian and American representatives. Our Walker Cup team played a Match abroad in the spring and an informal one with Canada in September. Dick Chapman won the British Amateur, and Bobby Knowles won the French Amateur. American women pros made a successful tour of Britain.

Bobby Locke, from South Africa, and Roberto DeVicenzo, from the Argentine, gave spice to open tournaments here. The British Ryder Cup Team came over in the autumn. And Francis Ouimet became the first American Captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland.

Those are international high points which come readily to mind. Doubtless there were a good many others. They all add up to the fact that there has been great development this year in simple friendship and understanding among golfers of many lands.

This is wonderfully exemplified by the creation of one code of Rules to apply throughout the golf world. Recommendations of the conferees in last spring's meetings abroad were adopted by the USGA during the summer. The final step was approval by the membership of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club; the vote was overwhelmingly in favor.

Now the revised code will go into effect January 1, 1952. The sole point of difference is the diameter of the golf ball, and that difference is $6/100$ of an inch. The British minimum is 1.62 inches; our is 1.68, except that in international team competitions here the British size ball may be used.

Relations between the Royal and Ancient, Britain's golf-governing authority, and the USGA could scarcely be happier. There have been and will continue

R. AND A. CAPTAIN



Francis Ouimet, first American to be honored with the captaincy of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club at St. Andrews, Scotland, driving himself into office in the annual ceremony. A cannon shot signalizes the act at precisely 8 A. M.

to be a completely free exchange of views.

The Royal and Ancient has 842 members at home and 200 abroad. Captain Ouimet is one of 64 American members.

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professional and amateur, including members of the Women's PGA who have taken this on as a pet project.

The VA in its delight over its program at Palo Alto carried national publicity in its official bulletins. As a consequence, there are now several AWVS-VA Swing Clubs in operation, with many requests still to be filled in all four corners of our U. S. A.

The PGA has set up an AWVS-VA Hospital National Committee with Eddie Duino of San Jose, Cal., as Chairman. He co-operated wonderfully in making the Palo Alto Swing Club possible when he was President of the PGA of Northern California.