

New Pattern for the Open

In an effort to reduce the premium on qualifiers' places in the USGA Open Championship, the form of qualifying will be changed next year.

There were 1,692 entrants for the Championship recently concluded at the Northwood Club, in Dallas, Texas, and of these 28 were players exempt from sectional qualifying by reason of previous performances. As a result, 1,664 players had to compete for 134 places in the Championship proper, and only one player of every twelve could qualify.

This ratio is considered unduly restrictive.

Therefore, next year, after the usual 36-hole sectional qualifying rounds, 300 players will be qualified, instead of 162. The present exemptions from sectional qualifying will be continued; that is, former Open Champions, the 1952 Amateur, PGA, British Open and British Amateur Champions and the 20 low scorers and those tied for twentieth place in the 1952 Open.

All of these 300 players, except the defending Champion, Julius Boros, will play another 36-hole Championship qualifying competition of one round each at the Oakmont Country Club and the Pittsburgh Field Club, on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 9 and 10, the two days immediately preceding the Championship proper.

Out of this Championship qualifying competition, 149 players, plus the defending Champion, will qualify for the Championship proper at the Oakmont Country Club, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 11, 12 and 13.

The Championship proper will be conducted as in recent years, with one round each on Thursday and Friday and, or the 50 low scorers and those tied for 50th place, two rounds on Saturday.

Prize money for professionals will be increased from approximately \$15,000 to approximately \$20,000.

The USGA Executive Committee considers that this new form is the most likely means of making more qualifiers' places available to the various sections of the country and that it also will stimulate among potential entrants an increased interest in the Championship.

Prior to the final decision, the views of various individuals and groups, particularly former Champions and officers of the PGA, were requested, and the reaction was generally favorable.

The new form is for a trial in 1953 and is not necessarily permanent. The real test will come in the playing.

The 1954 Open Championship is scheduled for the Baltusrol Golf Club, Springfield, N. J. Baltusrol has two courses which could be used if the 1953 trial is a success.

The Ills of Golf

Oh, the Ills of Golf
Are the Bills of Golf,
And that's where the trouble lies.
We've invented so much that the costs of the
game
Are up to the blessed skies.

Fourteen little magic wands
At forty quid to start,
A tanner for a little bag,
Then one for a caddie-cart.

Cannot the Powers who rule this game
Pity our penurious flurry,
Send manna from heaven,
And cut down to seven,
The numbers of clubs we may carry?

Gone in a flash
Are our worries of cash,
Lesser the load on our backs;
Gone are all caddies and numerous trolleys,
Which cut up the greens with their tracks.

For the Ills of Golf
Are the Bills of Golf,
And nothing will turn this to fiction,
Till the Powers that be
Take pity on we
And bring in the seven-club restriction.

COL. C. P. S. DENHOLM-YOUNG
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