

A Women's Open and Other Departures

The USGA was organized in part to conduct three Championships of national scope in 1895—an Amateur, an Open and a Women's Amateur. Now, fifty-eight years later, it is conducting seven Championships and three International Team Matches.

Four of these have been originated in the last six years, and the most recent is the first Women's Open Championship of the United States Golf Association, which will be conducted at 72 holes, stroke play, at the Country Club of Rochester, N. Y., June 25-26-27.

The Women's Open Championship is being undertaken at the request of the Ladies' Professional Golfers' Association, which has conducted a Women's National Open Championship since 1949. The Championship was originated by a predecessor organization called, the Women's Professional Golfers' Association, in 1946 and has been held annually since that year. In assuming responsibility for the conduct of this Championship henceforth, the USGA will offer a purse for professionals of \$7,500 this year.

The second youngest of the new competitions is the match among men's amateur teams representing Canada, Mexico and the United States for The Americas Cup. This was originated at the Seattle Golf Club last summer and has now been formalized with the presentation by Jerome P. Bowes, Jr., of Chicago, of the handsome silver cup 34½ inches high and emblazoned with the colored enamel flags of the three countries. The cup was accepted by Colin Rankin, President of the Royal Canadian Golf Association; Pedro R. Suinaga, ex-President of the Asociacion Mexicana de Golf, and Totton P. Heffelfinger, President of the United States Golf Association.

The final decision to conduct the Women's Open Championship and the acceptance of The Americas Cup by the three Associations took place during the

Executive Committee meetings and the fifty-ninth Annual Meeting of the Association in New York at the end of January.

Variety of Decisions

In addition to accepting the new portrait of Robert T. Jones, Jr., a gift from a group of members of the Augusta National Golf Club for "Golf House", and adopting a new handicap system which will develop both basic and current handicaps for men, the Association considered a wide variety of other matters and reached many decisions of broad interest to golfers.

The 1952 officers were re-elected for a second year in accordance with custom, except that James W. Walker, of New York, retired as Treasurer and was succeeded by Charles L. Peirson, of Boston. The officers for 1953 will be: Totton P. Heffelfinger of Minneapolis, President; Isaac B. Grainger of New York, Vice-President; Richard S. Tufts of Pinehurst, Vice-President; John D. Ames of Chicago, Secretary, and Charles L. Peirson of Boston, Treasurer. The other members of the Executive Committee also were re-elected, and Edward E. Lowery, of San Francisco, was elected to replace Mr. Walker.

Women's Event All Match Play

A recommendation by the Women's Committee that the Women's Amateur Championship be conducted entirely at match play was approved, and the 18-hole qualifying round which has been held in the last two years will be eliminated at the Rhode Island Country Club in August. A poll of players who have competed in recent Championships resulted in a ratio of approximately six to one in favor of all-match-play competition. In order to conduct the competition in this form the match play draw will not be made until after the entrants have registered at the scene of the Cham-

The Americas Cup Is Received by Three Nations



United Press Photo

Amateur teams representing Canada, Mexico and the United States first competed for The Americas Cup at the Seattle Golf Club last August, but the handsome silver cup itself could not be completed until this winter and formal presentation took place during the annual meeting. The inscription reads: "Toward greater international understanding through the sportsmanship and good will of friendly competition among the amateur golfers of the Americas." From left to right are Colin Rankin, President of the Royal Canadian Golf Association; Jerome P. Bowes, Jr., donor of the cup; Totton P. Heffelfinger, President of the United States Golf Association; and Pedro R. Suinaga, ex-President of the Asociacion Mexicana de Golf.

pionship on the Saturday prior to the play. The Women's Committee will not permit shorts to be worn.

The prize for the winner of the Open Championship, if a professional, was increased from \$4,000 to \$5,000, and the last thirty of the fifty money prizes were increased from \$100 to \$150 each. Increases will be made throughout the entire prize list as a result of an earlier decision to increase the total prize money distribution from approximately \$15,000 to approximately \$20,000, effective this year.

The Association accepted an invitation from the Olympic Club-at-Lakeside, San Francisco, Cal., to entertain the 1955 Open Championship.

The entry fees for the Open and Ama-

teur Championships were increased from \$7 to \$10.

Amateur Status Rules Changed

The Rules of Amateur Status underwent some revision.

Teaching golf to students will no longer affect the amateur status of faculty members of recognized educational institutions who are not primarily teachers of physical training or athletic sports and whose golf instruction is incidental to their academic duties.

Merchandise prizes may not exceed retail value of \$150. Formerly, the limit was \$100.

Scholarships in educational institutions must be approved by a regular authority of the institution awarding

all scholarships if they are not to affect a student's amateur status.

One may be an employee engaged in making, repairing or cleaning clubs in a golf shop at a golf course up to his 21st birthday without losing amateur status. Formerly, the limit was the 18th birthday.

As has been customary in recent years, the Chairman of each Sub-Committee rendered an oral report at the Annual Meeting.

Rules of Golf Unchanged

Mr. Grainger, Chairman of the Rules of Golf Committee, stressed the advantages of the uniform code under which the USGA and the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, have been operating during 1952 and announced that no changes would be made in this code prior to January 1, 1954, by which time the weaknesses revealed to date and the effects of another year of experience will have been sufficiently analyzed to determine what amendments, if any, are

necessary. Mr. Grainger expressed his gratification at the wide acceptance of the new code and stated that neither his committee nor the Royal and Ancient Golf Club had yet found any feasible means of reducing the penalties presently applied when a ball is out of bounds, lost or unplayable.

Lewis A. Lapham, Chairman of the Membership Committee, announced that the membership has reached another record high, and stood at 1,590 clubs and courses at the end of the fiscal year on November 30, 1952. This represented a net gain of 95 clubs and courses during fiscal 1952.

Mr. Tufts, Chairman of the Green Section Committee, expressed his belief that the opening of a regional office of the USGA Green Section in Davis, Cal., to serve member clubs on the West Coast would receive financial support sufficient not only to carry itself but to justify the Association in expanding the regional office plan for the benefit of member clubs in other areas.

USGA COMPETITIONS FOR 1954

Curtis Cup Match — September 2 and 3 at the Merion Golf Club, Ardmore, Pa.
Women's Amateur Teams, British Isles vs. United States.

(Dates entries close mean last dates for applications to reach USGA office, except in the case of the Amateur Public Links Championship. For possible exceptions in dates of Sectional Qualifying Rounds, see entry forms.)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Entries Close</u>	<u>Sectional Qualifying Rounds</u>	<u>Championship Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>
Open	May 24	June 7	*Qualifying: June 15-16 Championship: June 17-18-19	Baltusrol G. C. Springfield, N. J.
Women's Open	June 9	none	June 24-25-26	to be determined
Amateur Public Links	†June 4	‡June 20 to June 26	Team: July 10 Indiv.: July 12-17	Cedar Crest G. C. Dallas, Texas
Junior Amateur	July 6	July 20	Aug. 4-7	Los Angeles C. C. Los Angeles, Cal.
Amateur	July 12	July 27	Aug. 23-28	C. C. of Detroit Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.
Girls' Junior	August 16	none	Aug. 30-Sept. 3	Gulph Mills G. C. Bridgeport, Pa.
Women's Amateur	August 30	none	Sept. 13-18	Allegheny C. C. Sewickley, Pa.

* Qualifying at Championship site scheduled provisionally. Form of tournament to be determined.

† Entries close with Sectional Qualifying Chairmen.

‡ Exact date in each Section to be fixed by Sectional Chairmen.