

Miss Rawls New Open Champion

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Seven annual tournaments are now conducted by the United States Golf Association, and it is questionable whether any had as fine an inauguration as did the Women's Open Championship in late June.

Actually it was the eighth time a Women's Open was held on a national scale, but it was the first under USGA auspices. The USGA assumed sponsorship at the request of the Ladies' Professional Golfers' Association.

The Country Club of Rochester, N. Y., was the host, and a more favorable home for the tournament would be difficult to imagine. This is an old-line club, founded in 1895. Its members took the 38 entrants to their hearts, and it worked the other way, too. The course, playing 6,417 yards in length, was in fine condition and afforded an excellent test for the ladies. The Club provided outstanding committees under the direction of Otto A. Shults, General Chairman, and Dr. George M. Trainor, Co-Chairman, both of whom had previous experience in planning the 1949 Amateur at nearby Oak Hill.

The galleries were large and enthusiastic, the play of the game first class, and it was an altogether splendid first Women's Open under the USGA banner.

Miss Betsy Rawls emerged as Champion after a playoff. For a young lady of 25, Miss Rawls has a number of real accomplishments to her credit. While a student at the University of Texas, she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, national honorary scholastic society. In the last four Women's Open Championships, she has twice won and once been runner-up. In 1950 as an amateur she was runner-up, and she won in 1951 as a professional.

This event was conducted on exactly the same lines as the men's Open—one round Thursday, one round Friday, two rounds Saturday. After 36 holes Miss Patty Berg held an eight-stroke lead with 144. Her closest rivals were Mrs. Jacqueline Pung and Miss Marilynn Smith, each

CLIVE HELFERICH

Here are his prizes and here his rewards.
Just look them over. The best life affords.
Gathered to honor him—friends of the years.
Nothing to equal them ever appears.
Friends who have worked with him, friends who
have payed.

Add them up—the best score ever made.

Proof of man's triumph which better imparts,
Name stamped on silver or name stamped on
hearts?

Here in our district forever his name
Is linked with what's known as "the good of the
game."

Playing to win, but perhaps at the end
Losing a golf match, but never a friend.

Time was I shared with him many a game.
Grateful and glad when those afternoons came.
Now only backward I'm able to look
But scanning the pages of memory's book
Nothing but friendship comes into my mind,
Nothing of Clive but is gracious I find.

Ours is a debt we can never repay
Save by a dinner and words that we say.
Still better by far than the fortunes men get
Are friends who acknowledge this kind of a debt.
So we're gathered tonight in his honor to show
How much to Clive Helderich for service we owe.

Edgar A. Guest

*Delivered at the Detroit Golf Club, May 15,
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prominent Detroit golf official.*

with 152. Next at 153 came Miss Rawls and Miss Peggy Kirk.

But the strokes began to slip away from Miss Berg in the 36-hole closing day, which she played in 80-79 for a 72-hole total of 303. She came to the final hole needing a birdie 3 to win, but her approach was a bit strong and she took 5.

Mrs. Pung meanwhile had posted 302, with a closing round of par 74. Miss Rawls, who had 74 in her third round, produced a 75 next and so tied Mrs. Pung.

The 18-hole playoff the next day found Miss Rawls building an early lead, with some brilliant birdies. She played well every stroke the course demanded, went out in 34, and surpassed par by three strokes with 71. Mrs. Pung strove to the

end, even holing a chip shot on the final hole, but needed 77.

And so the new USGA trophy went to Spartanburg, S. C., where Miss Rawls was born and where she recently returned after having lived most of her life in Austin, Texas.

For Mrs. Pung, it was a remarkably fine performance in her first year as a professional. The jolly Hawaiian matron, mother of two children, won the USGA Women's Amateur Championship in 1952 and turned professional during the winter.

The victory was worth \$2,000 to Miss Rawls. Mrs. Pung's cash prize was \$1,250. A total of \$7,500 in money was divided among the 12 leading professionals. Six of them are former USGA Women's Amateur Champions, and it was rather like old times to receive them again in a USGA competition.

Miss Patricia Ann Lesser, of Seattle, indicated once more that she is a most promising young amateur with her score of 315, which won a gold pin symbolic of first amateur prize. She was low amateur also in 1951.

There is obviously a somewhat restricted field for women professional golfers. Their opportunities apparently lie mainly with educational institutions, as representatives of golf equipment manufacturers, and as competitors in a growing number of open tournaments. They certainly honored the game in their first USGA Women's Open.

In an early round Miss Berg's approach shot to the home green stopped some five feet from the hole. Her fellow competitor, Miss Patricia Devany, an amateur, played a stroke from perhaps 50 yards off the green which struck Miss Berg's ball and moved it an appreciable distance.

Under the Rules of Golf, Miss Berg was obliged to replace her ball as near as possible to the spot from which the ball was moved. Miss Berg was not certain of the precise place where her ball had lain. She first placed the ball several feet farther away than its original lie. When told that was not the proper spot, she did inch it up a bit, but an official had a difficult time trying to persuade her that the ball had been much nearer the hole than she wanted to place it. She did

everything possible to avoid taking unfair advantage.

It is pleasant to record that she holed the putt for a birdie 3.

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