



Ed Oliver's 16

Ed Oliver, like a lot of other golfers, got a big laugh out of the 16 he took on the 222-yard sixteenth hole at Cypress Point, in California, during the Bing Crosby tournament.

"I've never been so glad to get out of a place in my life," Oliver relates. "I was down on the beach for thirty-three minutes, with the sea lions barking and the seals flapping. I tell you, it was an eerie experience."

Oliver hit four balls from the tee into the surf and then waded in to play the first ball when it was washed near the beach. He got on in fourteen and took two putts. His card read 36-50-86, and he turned it in.

"Once I took an eleven, but that was with penalty strokes," he recalled. "But can you imagine—sixteen strokes and not a single penalty!"

Attachment On Putter Face

During its meetings last January the Executive Committee considered a new aluminum and plastic device now being marketed for cementing to the face of a putter, purportedly to reduce the scope of vision and therefore of concentration. It is called Strokoscope.

The Committee came to the conclusion that this device, even though permanent-

ly attached to a putter face, did not conform to Rule 2-2b because it embodied a substantial departure from the traditional and accepted form and make.

Harold W. Pierce Retires

To most golfers in the Boston area, Harold W. Pierce and The Country Club have always seemed synonymous. As a matter of fact, they have been substantially synonymous over a normal golfing lifetime because, for twenty-seven years, Mr. Pierce has been Chairman of the Club's Golf Committee and the arbiter of all its golfing activities. Even during the years from 1933 through 1941, when he was treasurer, a vice-president and president of the USGA, he retained the chairmanship of this committee.

This winter, Mr. Pierce resigned from the Club's Board of Governors, hence also from the Chairmanship of the Golf Committee, and the golfing face of The Country Club is sure to seem unfamiliar for some time to come. His successor is Charles L. Peirson, who, like Mr. Pierce about two decades ago, is Treasurer of the USGA.

Male Athlete of 1953

When Ben Hogan came out on top in its balloting for "male athlete of 1953," the Associated Press of course called him to ask whether his biggest thrill had come

in winning the USGA Open, the British Open or the Masters Tournament.

"The U. S. Open," Hogan said.

Not the British Open, in view of the facts that it had been his first try and he had won three previous USGA Opens?

"No," Hogan explained. "If I were to win the U. S. Open fifty times, I'd still get the biggest kick out of it."

The poll was the twenty-third in the series and it selected a golfer for the first time since 1944 and 1945, when Byron Nelson was the choice. The only other golfer ever chosen was Gene Sarazen in 1932, the second year of the poll.

Hogan was an overwhelming choice, receiving 67 first-place votes among the 129 ballots cast and rolling up 229 points on a 3-2-1 computation system. Rocky Marciano, the heavyweight boxing champion, was second in the poll with 23 first-place votes and 80 points.

Golf events also were selected as the two most thrilling sports episodes of 1953

in another poll conducted by the Associated Press.

Most thrilling, according to the ballots, was the 140-yard wedge stroke which Lew Worsham holed for a 2 on the last hole at the Tam O'Shanter Country Club, in Niles, Ill., before a gallery of 10,000 and unnumbered television viewers. The eagle gave Worsham a 72-hole score of 278 and a first prize of \$25,000 which Chandler Harper seemed to have secured by completing a score of 279 moments earlier. Harper had to be content with a \$10,000 prize.

Second most thrilling episode was voted to be Hogan's victory in the British Open. He scored a record 68 on his final round at Carnoustie, Scotland, to win in his first try.

The 14-14 football tie between Notre Dame and Iowa was considered the third most exciting event of the year.

British Curtis Cuppers

The Ladies Golf Union is away in a running start on the task of selecting its Curtis Cup Team which will play at the Merion Golf Club, in Ardmore, Pa., next September. It has selected Mrs. John Beck, of Ascot, England, as Captain and Miss Jeanne Bisgood, of Bournemouth, England, Miss Philomena Garvey, of Dublin, Ireland, and Mrs. George Valentine, of Perth, Scotland, as players. Mrs. Beck, a former Irish Champion, is the wife of the Captain of the 1947 British Walker Cup Team.

All three of the players were members of the British Teams in 1952 and 1950. Miss Garvey also played in 1948, and Mrs. Valentine previously took part in 1936 and 1938.

Mrs. Valentine, then Miss Jessie Anderson, won the British Championship in 1937 and also has held the French, New Zealand and Scottish Championships. Miss Bisgood has held the English Championship and Miss Garvey the Irish Championship.

The remainder of the Team is to be selected after the British Women's Championship at Ganton, England, late



Mrs. Dale Morey receives instruction in the proper grip from her husband, who was runner-up in the last Amateur Championship, following their wedding in Indianapolis shortly after Christmas. She is the former Miss Martha Jeanne Curry. in June.

A Pledge

The things one remembers longest are not necessarily events which carry the greatest impact at the time.

Few things golfwise in 1953 carried the impact of Hogan's riflelike iron to the flag on the final hole of the Open Championship or Gene Littler's birdie on the last hole in the Amateur Championship, for example. Yet another episode which is as clear today as on that hot night in Marion, Mass., last summer was that in which Lord Brabazon of Tara, then Captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, said at the dinner for the Walker Cup Teams:

"There is one regret in our hearts. That is the death of Mr. Walker, the inspirer of these meetings and the donor of the Cup.

"It must have warmed his heart, in the evening of his years, to know that all he dreamt of, all he hoped for, had been realized in these contests.

"They stand today unique. Nothing like them exists in the whole sphere of international sport.

"United we pledge his memory to keep it thus, for it is well."

Another Blow At Pools

The Executive Committee of the Metropolitan Golf Association, meeting in New York this winter, unanimously resolved that its members would not participate in member-guest or member-professional events where Calcutta pools were involved. This Committee also is suggesting to Associations in Long Island, New Jersey and Westchester County that they adopt similar resolutions.

Earl A. Ross, of North Salem, N. Y., a former president of the Metropolitan Golf Association, has been waging a campaign against organized gambling in golf, and the Committee emphasized its stand by honoring him with a special plaque which cites the words of Theodore Roosevelt: "Aggressive fighting for the right is the noblest sport the world affords."

SPORTSMAN'S CORNER



J. B. Johns

A sportsman can be almost any kind of fellow, as long as he savors the fun of the game and seeks no unfair advantage. J. B. Johns, who operates a business college in Hot Springs, Ark., turned out to be a real sportsman, for example.

Mr. Johns first came into our life when he wrote quite casually a day or two before the Amateur Championship:

"I see by yesterday's paper that you are to have the National Amateur Tournament September 14-19. I would like to play in your tournament if possible.

"I am 70 and most of the time play in the seventies on my home course. Incidentally, I play the game a little different from most golfers in that I can and do play either right or left as the occasion demands."

While we were unable to accept Mr. Johns' late and informal entry, we were interested enough to try to obtain more facts about him.

"I carry a mixed set of clubs," he replied. "A bad lie for a right-hand club might be and usually is O.K. for a left-hand club, so with me it makes no difference.

"I am now in my seventy-first year, and was out of the seventies during 1953 only a few times. I have a lot of fun and exercise playing the greatest game ever devised for pleasure, health and wholesome recreation."



Robert T. Jones, Jr.'s popularity has not dimmed since his Grand Slam in 1930. The same old battery of photographers gave him a workout at the second annual dinner of the Metropolitan Golf Writers' Association, in New York. There, nearly 400 saw him receive the Gold Tee Award and learned that Mrs. George Zaharias had won the Ben Hogan Award, newly established for "a person who has overcome a handicap in order to play golf and thus proved an inspiration to o'hers." Lincoln A. Werden, president of the golf writers, is standing with him, while Eugene G. Grace, who was honored a year ago, and Totton P. Heffelfinger, retiring President of the USGA, are at the left. Two days later Jones attended the annual meeting of the USGA in New York, where the institution of the Bob Jones Award for sportsmanship was announced.

What Littler Proved

Gene Littler's victory in the \$15,000 San Diego Open last month, before he turned professional, was the first by an amateur in a circuit tournament since Frank Stranahan won the Miami Open in 1948. Littler's score of 67-66-69-72—274 had him in the lead after every round, and he won by four strokes over Dutch Harrison. The event was held at the Rancho Santa Fe Golf Club, where Littler previously bested some very good professionals in the 1953 California Open.

All this goes to refute the popular theories that amateurs no longer can compete with professionals and that young

men of 23 years no longer can meet the demands of top-level golf. It also confirms the impression that quality came to the top in the last Amateur Championship.

Western's Officers

Stanley J. McGiveran, of Toledo, Ohio, has been re-elected president of Western Golf Association. Under Mr. McGiveran during 1953, WGA awarded 154 college scholarships to deserving caddies and produced new highs in income, individual and club members.

Trustees of Evans Scholars Foundation are Carleton Blunt, Jerome P. Bowes, Jr., James L. Garard and Stuart Smithson, all of Chicago.