

Bob Jones Award and Other Developments

The USGA has long maintained that sportsmanship is a great deal more important to the good health of golf than skill, but never until recently had it developed a means of recognizing sportsmanship as it has skill. When the two qualities were not combined in the same individual, the sportsmanlike golfer might receive only a pat on the back while the skillful player was stepping onto the platform to accept a championship trophy.

The Executive Committee has therefore decided to establish an annual award, to be known as the Bob Jones Award, for distinguished sportsmanship in golf. This will serve a two-fold purpose: It will provide a vehicle for singling out and honoring individuals of any degree of golfing skill for acts of real sportsmanship, and it will commemorate the exemplary sportsmanship, as apart from the skill, of Robert T. Jones, Jr.

The name of the winner will be announced at the USGA Annual Meeting each year, starting with the one to be held on January 29, 1955. Selection will be made by a special committee of seven to be appointed each year by the President of the USGA. This committee will seek out sportsmanlike acts wherever they may have occurred—in the East, West, North or South, in informal play or in national championships. The sportsmanship might be revealed in a single act or in a series of acts over a period of years.

This decision was made during the meetings preceding the sixtieth Annual Meeting of the USGA, an event which resulted in the election of Isaac B. Grainger, of New York, to the presidency, succeeding Totton P. Heffelfinger, of Minneapolis.

John D. Ames, of Chicago, succeeded Mr. Grainger as a Vice-President, and Charles B. Grace, of Philadelphia, succeeded Mr. Ames as Secretary. Richard S. Tufts, of Pinehurst, N. C., and Charles L. Peirson, of Boston, were re-elected as Vice-President and Treasurer, respectively.

What Kind of Member Are You?

Are you an active member, the kind who would be missed,
Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?
Do you ever go to visit a member who is sick
Or leave the work for just a few and talk about the clique?
Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the crowd,
Or do you stay at home and crab long and loud?
Do you take an active part to help your club along,
Or are you satisfied to be the kind that just belong?
So attend the meetings regularly, and help with hand and heart.
Don't be just a member, but take an active part.
Think it over Brother. Are we right or are we wrong?
Are you an active member or do you just belong?

*Fairway News
Oahu Country Club
Honolulu, T. H.*

Thomas H. Choate, of New York, Gordon E. Kummer, of Milwaukee, and F. Warren Munro, of Portland, Ore., were elected to the Executive Committee in place of Messrs. Heffelfinger, Lewis A. Lapham, of New York, and Corydon Wagner, of Tacoma, Wash.

Federal Tax On Dues

In addition to establishing the Bob Jones Award, the Executive Committee reached several other decisions of general interest to golfers.

As a result of its concern at the continued imposition of the 20 per cent federal tax on club dues and initiation fees, it recommended to Member Clubs that they and their individual members urge the repeal or the substantial reduction of this tax. The Executive Committee doubts the propriety of a tax on dues which relate to health and recreation through golf.

Operation of the Western and Southwestern Regional Offices of the Green Section was found to be so satisfactory that two more Regional Offices were authorized. One of these will be the Southeastern Regional Office, to be located at

NEW MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



BLACKSTON*

Thomas H. Choate



CURRYS

Gordon E. Kummer



F. Warren Munro

Tifton, Ga., in cooperation with the Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station. The other will be the Northeastern Regional Office, to be located at New Brunswick, N. J., in cooperation with Rutgers University.

The Green Section's Regional Turf Service, which operates through these Regional Offices, is designed to bring the latest and best information about turf maintenance to subscribing Member Clubs through personal visits by Green Section agronomists. The Western Regional Office was opened in June, 1952, and the Southwestern Regional Office in July, 1953. Additional offices are contemplated so that all Member Clubs may eventually be able to avail themselves of this specialized service.

In response to suggestions received from many individual senior golfers, the advisability of instituting a senior championship was considered in general terms. A special committee was appointed to study the matter further, to consult with the United States Seniors' Golf Association and other senior organizations and to make recommendations.

There will be no USGA senior championship this year, but obviously one in the future is a possibility. While there are many tournaments for seniors now, and the number is growing steadily, the

major ones are conducted on a membership or invitation basis. The suggestion really is that the USGA supplement these with a championship open to any senior who could qualify.

Open Championship Exemptions

The large entry for the Open Championship in recent years compelled a reduction in the number of exemptions from sectional qualifying so that, effective in 1955, more qualifiers' places can be made available to the various sections.

Exemptions have this effect: There were last year 1,669 entries, of whom 29 were exempt from sectional qualifying. Under the present plan for the Open Championship, this would leave 1,640 players attempting to qualify sectionally for 133 of the 162 places in the Championship field. Only one player of every twelve in the sectional fields could qualify.

To relieve this constriction, two categories were reduced to exempt only the winners of the last five Open Championships, instead of all former Champions, and only the lowest ten scorers and ties in the last Open Championship, instead of the lowest twenty and ties. No change was made in the exempt status of the Amateur, PGA, British Open and British Amateur Champions of the previous year or of the head professional of the Club entertaining the Championship.

If these reductions had been effective in the hypothetical case outlined above, only sixteen players would have been exempt and thirteen additional places would have been available for allotment to the qualifying sections.

The reductions were deferred one year because the Association felt it had a moral obligation to competitors who finished among the first twenty and ties last year and who had thereby earned an exemption under the regulations effective at that time. Once the reductions become effective, they will tend to make the Championship somewhat more a test of current ability. Younger players should have an increased chance of qualifying as older players are eliminated from the exempt list.

The Chairman of the Women's Committee, Mrs. Harrison F. Flippin, of Ardmore, Pa., and a member of the Girls' Junior Committee, Miss Frances E. Stebins, of West Newton, Mass., participated in an Annual Meeting for the first time in years. Women's golf therefore received more attention there than usual.

News in this field included the word that the Association will no longer prohibit players in its women's tournaments from wearing shorts, unless the entertaining Club has a contrary regulation. The ban on shorts had been effective for just one year.

A course-rating system for women was adopted and will be promulgated in due course. It is patterned after the system long recommended for men, in preference to par, as a basis for computing handicaps; and it must be implemented by local, state and sectional women's associations, which are the proper agencies to rate courses within local areas. No change was made in the recommended method of computing handicaps.

The entry fee for the Women's Amateur Championship was increased from seven to ten dollars to bring it into line with the Open, Amateur and Women's Open.

USGA PUBLICATIONS OF GENERAL INTEREST

THE RULES OF GOLF, as approved by the United States Golf Association and the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, effective January 1, 1954. Booklet, 25 cents (special rates for quantity orders).

ARE YOUR LOCAL RULES NECESSARY? a reprint of a USGA Journal article containing recommendations regarding local rules. No charge.

THE RULE ABOUT OBSTRUCTIONS, a reprint of a USGA Journal article. No charge.

USGA GOLF HANDICAP SYSTEM FOR MEN, containing recommendations for computing Basic and Current Handicaps and for rating courses. Booklet, 25 cents. Poster, 10 cents.

HANDICAPPING THE UNHANDICAPPED, a reprint of a USGA Journal article explaining the Callaway System of automatic handicapping for occasional players in a single tournament. No charge.

TOURNAMENTS FOR YOUR CLUB, a reprint of a USGA Journal article detailing various types of competitions. No charge.

PROTECTION OF PERSONS AGAINST LIGHTNING ON GOLF COURSES, a poster. No charge.

MOTION PICTURES ON GOLF (list). No charge.

HOLE-IN-ONE AWARDS. No charge.

AMATEURISM IS IN THE HEART, a reprint of a USGA Journal article by E. G. Grace. No charge.

BETTER LAWNS TO COME, a reprint of a USGA Journal article. No charge.

TURF MANAGEMENT, by H. B. Musser (McGraw-Hill-Book Co., Inc.), the authoritative book on greenkeeping. \$7.

USGA JOURNAL AND TURF MANAGEMENT, a 33-page magazine published seven times a year and containing authoritative information on the Rules of Golf, USGA championships, handicapping, amateur status, greenkeeping methods, clubs and ball, new trends and the play of the game. \$2 a year.

These publications are available on request to the United States Golf Association, 40 East 38th Street, New York 16, N. Y.