



THROUGH THE GREEN

The Uniform Ball?

The British are becoming more cognizant of the need for controlling the distance their golf ball can be hit, if the following editorial in The Weekly Scotsman is a criterion:

"Circumstances and, I think, changing opinion are hitting the golf ball more firmly into practical politics. More and more people are asking if the time has not arrived for some measure of restriction on the power of the ball in this country.

"Clearly, judging from a statement made by the President of the United States Golf Association, Isaac B. Grainger, a new and solid effort will be made, in conference with the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, early next year to attain ball uniformity in the two countries. . . .

"The ball reformers in this country are convinced, and their preaching has no doubt made converts, that the present British ball goes too far.

"As the basic implement in the game, the pivot on which everything hinges, the ball can, of course, decide whether golf gets out of joint, becomes more expensive and reduces the pleasure for the great majority of its players.

"Nobody questions that greater length of shot has come into the game and that courses have had to be stretched to meet that development, with added course maintenance costs and more superfluous walking for the golfer . . .

"The extra 'hiking' now involved between green and tee at, for example, Hoylake and Portmarnock indicates the extension needed to meet the problem of longer-hitting. Even the Old Course at St. Andrews has had to be brought into line, and the tees set as far back as possible."

Service to the Game

The forthcoming Open Championship at the Baltusrol Golf Club, Springfield, N. J., is the ninth USGA competition that Club has entertained, a record of service to the game which can be matched only by the Merion Golf Club, in Ardmore, Pa., and the Chicago Golf Club, in Wheaton, Ill.

Baltusrol will have held four Open, three Amateur and two Women's Amateur Championships since 1901. Merion has had four Women's Amateur, three Amateur and two Open Championships since 1904, and will go ahead later this season when it entertains a tenth event, the Curtis Cup Match. Chicago Golf Club has been host to four Amateurs, three Opens, one Women's Amateur and a Walker Cup Match since 1897.

The only Club other than Baltusrol which has held as many as four Open Championships is the Myopia Hunt Club, in South Hamilton, Mass. It entertained its four in the years from 1898 through 1908.

Splendor with a Purpose

Those dark brown jackets you will see

during the Open Championship will be adorning members of the Golf Writers Association of America.

During the past winter the golf writers adopted not only this jacket, which will bear the insignia of the organization on the breast pocket, but also a dark green necktie embroidered with gold tees.

The outfit is designed primarily for identification rather than splendor, but it does happen to be good looking, too.

The golf writers held their annual election during the Masters Tournament and renamed Lincoln A. Werden, of The New York Times, president; Charles Curtis, of the Los Angeles Times, and Desmond Sullivan, of the Newark News, vice-presidents; and Charles Bartlett, of the Chicago Tribune, secretary-treasurer.

Jones Award Committee

The USGA announced last winter the institution of the Bob Jones Award for distinguished sportsmanship in golf, to be presented annually starting next January.

Isaac B. Grainger, president of the USGA, now has named the following to the selection committee to pick the first winner: Messrs. Jerome P. Bowes, Jr., Chicago, Ill., T. R. Garlington, Atlanta, Ga., Totton P. Heffelfinger, Minneapolis, Minn., Horton Smith, Detroit, Mich., Richard S. Tufts, Pinehurst, N. C., Lincoln A. Werden, New York, N. Y., and Mrs. Harrison F. Flippin, Ardmore, Pa.

For a Blind Tee Shot

The sixth hole at the Tamarack Country Club, in Greenwich, Conn., calls for an uphill tee shot toward a large green which cannot be seen from the teeing ground. Unless the tee shot is extremely long, the green cannot be seen when playing the second stroke, either.

In order to make intelligent position play possible, Tamarack has had a small relief model of the green reproduced in wood, appropriately painted and set table-like on a post beside the teeing ground, with a miniature flagstick and a series of small holes in which it can be placed.

When the hole is changed on the green, the position of the small wooden flagstick

on the relief model is changed accordingly, and any player can determine at a glance before playing his tee shot which route will be best that day.

An Artificial Aid

Another device has been placed on the market in an attempt to aid golfers in controlling their swings. This one is a leather-covered weight which can be strapped on either hand. The maker claims that it slows the hand action during the swing, with beneficial results.

The USGA Rules of Golf do not permit the use of such a device. It is presumably designed to give a player artificial aid in making a stroke, and it is a basic tenet underlying all the Rules that a player should not receive any such artificial aid in making his stroke.

The President's Green

A small practice putting green has been established on the south lawn of the White House. It is a gift from the United States Golf Association to President Eisenhower, who finds golf a refreshing diversion from his heavy duties.

The green comprises nearly 3,000 square feet of polycross creeping bentgrass, a recent development of Prof. H. B. Musser of the Agronomy Department of Pennsylvania State College. The USGA purchased the sod from the Aronimink Golf Club, Newtown Square, Pa., which had grown it in a nursery last year. The apron of the green is sodded with Merion bluegrass. Establishment of the putting green did not entail any public expense.

The green was designed and constructed under the direction of Alexander M. Radko, Northeastern Director of the USGA Green Section, and Richard Watson, turf advisor to the Burning Tree Club, Chevy Chase, Md., where President Eisenhower often plays golf. James E. Thomas, golf course superintendent of the Army-Navy Country Club, Arlington, Va., and president of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents, assisted. The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America cooperated.

It is not always easy to be a hero in the eyes of your caddie, but Billy Joe Patton has made the grade.

Two years ago Patton was a contestant in the USGA Amateur Championship at the Seattle Golf Club. He was not one of the stars of the show, being eliminated in the third round after a default and a win, but he must have won the heart of his 13-year-old caddie, John Coughlin.

Last April Patton nearly won the Masters Tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club. From the time he took the driving contest with a swat of 338 yards until he putted for a birdie on the 72nd green in the hope of tying Sam Snead and Ben Hogan, he captured the imagination and the support of many spectators. Here was an amateur, little known outside his home state of North Carolina, playing stroke for stroke with the great masters.

Of the many nice happenings that befell Patton, one which touched him deeply was a telegram he received from John Coughlin. It read simply:

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST OF LUCK FROM YOUR CADDIE IN THE 1952 AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP AT SEATTLE.

As Patton said, "This telegram demonstrates that the best things in this world are really relatively simple."

Bill Zongker, professional to the Seattle Golf Club, fills us in with a bit more information about young John Coughlin, who is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Coughlin of Seattle:

"John was 13 at the time of the 1952 Amateur and had been caddying at the Broadmoor Golf Club for two years. He has become very



JOHN COUGHLIN

interested in golf and extremely interested in the exploits of Billy Joe Patton, having saved every clipping from newspapers and magazines that has any mention of Billy Joe.

"He has the T-shirt we supplied the caddies for the tournament and the big number 196 hanging on the wall of his room to remind him of something he considers quite special in his life."

We who play the game can never know when or how we may affect the heart of the boy who carries our bag. But it is a certainty that we do affect him, for good or for ill.

Superintendent's Salaries

The 1953 Annual Report of the Detroit District Golf Association once again contains a most interesting section on turf-maintenance practices at twenty-eight clubs in that part of the country.

Among other things, it lists the results of a survey on superintendents' salaries which, for clubs in the metropolitan area,

ranged from \$7,300 to \$4,000, with an average of \$5,400, and, for clubs out-state, ranged from \$5,000 to \$3,000, with an average of \$4,150.

Ten clubs supplied a house and eight reported extra allowances ranging from \$200 to \$800 in the form of Christmas bonuses, car expenses and utilities.

Appraisal of Pine Valley

Herbert Warren Wind, writing in the June issue of *HOLIDAY*, relates the tale of Eustace Storey's first look at the formidable second hole at Pine Valley when he remarked: "I say, do you people play this hole or do you just photograph it?"

In addition to this and other anecdotes which have given the Clementon, N. J., course its fearsome reputation, Wind also sets down as fine an appraisal of the layout as you will read in many an evening:

"The demands that Pine Valley makes on a golfer are like those of no other course. As should be fairly obvious, it is no place for a duffer or a sprayer. The man who cannot bang a straight tee shot at least one hundred and seventy-five yards on the carry should attempt the course only if he is bent on atoning for some transgression. But for the golfer of reasonable competence, it offers rare and authentic excitement. The word *challenge* is so abused these days that one hesitates to use it, but the tee shot on every hole is a wonderful challenge to a golfer's ability to hold his concentration in the teeth of terror and produce the solid, accurate shot necessary to reach and hold the fairway (or, on short holes, the green). If the golfer comes through with the required tee shot, the course then lavishes a magnificent bounty on him: the most dazzling succession of superb second shots available on any course . . . A par on a hole is an honest prize."

Greenkeeping Exhibit

Warren Bidwell, superintendent at the Seaview Country Club, Absecon, N. J., is directing a campaign among members of the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America to establish in "Golf House" an exhibit which would trace the development of the art and science of greenkeeping.

The nature of this exhibit has not yet been precisely determined, and will not be until Bidwell has more information on available items. However, pictures and plastic figurines seemed destined to have a place along with actual implements and tools. Among the items he is especially

seeking are a photograph of sheep grazing on a golf course, the leather boots which horses formerly wore while cutting grass in the spring, an Austrian scythe and early home-made aeration tools.

Myers Park

The USGA has accepted an invitation from the Myers Park Country Club, in Charlotte, N. C., to entertain the 1955 Women's Amateur Championship. The dates will be August 22 through 27. This will be the first USGA Championship to be held in North Carolina.

1955 British Championships

The 1955 British Amateur will be held at the Royal Lytham and St. Anne's Golf Club, Lancashire, England, starting June 4; and the 1955 British Open will be played at St. Andrews, Scotland, starting July 4.

The Golf Business

Once again golf equipment led all other categories of athletic and sporting goods in sales during 1953, according to the annual survey conducted by Ernst & Ernst for the Athletic Goods Manufacturers Association. Measurement is in dollar volume, based on factory selling price including excise tax.

Sales of golf equipment during the year were \$48,707,666. Sales of baseball and softball equipment, the second-place item, were \$24,911,342.

Golf equipment comprised almost one third of all athletic and sporting goods sold, which reflects a slight decline in its relative position in the field. However, golf equipment sales last year increased 23 per cent over the previous year.

Manufacturers who participated in the survey sold last year 4,071,245 golf clubs, 2,716,552 golf balls and 495,422 golf bags.

Failed to Qualify

The last time the Open Championship was held at the Baltusrol Golf Club, Springfield, N. J., was in 1936, and the list of those who failed to qualify for the final 36 holes included the name of Ben Hogan. He scored 75-79-154, which was three strokes too many.