

IT'S YOUR HONOR

Expression of Gratitude

TO THE USGA:

I wish I had the ability to describe properly my gratitude to golf for the great pleasures, the vivid (but soon forgotten) disappointments and the health it has given me. From the health point of view, I really credit it with being, perhaps, a life saver for me, at least a life prolonger.

Although now more than 70 and my wife more than 60, we feel it a wonderful privilege to be able still to enjoy together several nine-hole rounds each week. We have never had low handicaps nor have we collected many trophies. During the about forty years I have played a businessman's game week-ends, vacations, etc. I have never made a hole in one. In fact, in all that time I have seen only one made.

Nevertheless, we have and still do enjoy it. So we feel we would like to make a contribution, even though small, to "Golf House" and the USGA as a grateful tribute to the excellent work you have done for this grand game, your splendid leadership in popularizing it and helping to keep it on such a high level of true sportsmanship and courtesy.

JAMES L. HALL
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Exemption of Ex-Champions

TO THE USGA:

As just another golfer, I would like to protest your new ruling which compels all former Champions to qualify for the Open in the future. (Editor's Note: The last five winners will continue to be exempt.)

Many of us who play and enjoy

Editor's Note: The USGA Journal invites comments on matters relating to the welfare of the game and will publish them if space permits.

watching golf have never seen some of these former greats in action, for one reason or another. Furthermore, would you eliminate such men as Sam Snead or Ben Hogan when, in a few years, they start going downhill?

It seems to me that by extending the tournament a day, the problem could be solved without any trouble. Perhaps another alternative would be to have a Senior Open, limited to golfers over 50 or some other age. Whatever the solution—and I'm convinced there is one—I think your present stand is 100 per cent wrong.

ED VAN HORN
NEW YORK, N. Y.

TO THE USGA:

The writer feels the urge to drop a note to your organization after reading an article by Joe Williams of the *New York World-Telegram and Sun*.

I imagine the reasons which prompted the recent USGA ruling regarding former Open Champions' automatic right to play this tournament were many and justified.

In competitive athletics, people pay to see performance and not "gracious companionship." If, as Mr. Williams says, the maximum number of places to be gained is five or six which will be filled by a like number of strays from the Missing Persons Bureau, represented by our career caddies, then perhaps he had better take a look into the past of some of our best golfers today.

Let Mr. Williams champion a few of these so-called "strays from the Missing Persons Bureau" as he has our illustrious old campaigners.

I favor your ruling and honestly believe it will prove beneficial to all.

JOHN R. BABEUF
NEW YORK, N. Y.

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