



## THROUGH THE GREEN

### **Sportsman's Service**

On the Sunday before the last British Open Championship, a church in Southport, England, held a sportsmen's service, and, we are pleased to be able to report, there was a good attendance of golfing people. Norma Von Nida read the lesson.

### **A Champion of Club Champions**

We have recorded a series of achievements by individuals who have won the same championships over particularly long spans of years—and 39 years seems to be the longest span.

Now we come to a sub-division of this type of thing and present the case of T. Val Bermingham, who, starting in 1907, played in twenty-six consecutive club championships at the Wykagyl Country Club, New Rochelle, N. Y., gaining the final twenty-one times and the championship twenty times.

This is short of the record of the late A. D. S. Duncan, who won the championship of the Wellington (New Zealand) Golf Club twenty-three times over a thirty-eight year span, but it is still a remarkable achievement.

Another is the feat of Leslie W. Mercer, of St. Albans, Vt., who won the Vermont Amateur in 1921, at the age of 16, was in the final again in 1935 and

once again was in the final last summer, thirty-two years after winning and at the age of 48.

### **Village of Golf, Ill.**

The Village of Golf, Ill., seventeen miles north of Chicago's Loop, will become the address of the Western Golf Association and the Evans Scholars Foundation.

Plans for construction of a one-story brick structure of contemporary Georgian design have been announced by Carleton Blunt, chairman of the Evans Scholars Foundation trustees, and Vic Bowers, president of the Village of Golf. Ground-breaking will start immediately and completion is scheduled for March 1, 1955.

The building will be owned by the Evans Scholars Foundation, which since 1930 has sent more than 400 deserving caddies to college and which this year will furnish scholarships to 207 caddies at 25 colleges and universities. Funds will be raised through donations. The Butz Foundation already has pledged a substantial portion of the cost in memory of Theodore C. Butz, former president of WGA and a trustee of Evans Scholars Foundation.

The new headquarters will be used by Golf as its Village Hall.

The Village's name was originated at the turn of the century by the employees of the Milwaukee Railroad. The President of

tine road, H. E. Byram, was an ardent golfer and member of the Glen View Club. When in the mood for golf, he would call the operating department of the Milwaukee road and state, "I'm going to golf today," after which arrangements would be made to stop the Minneapolis-bound train at a prairie stop near the club.

The prairie stop became known as Golf and when the Village was incorporated in 1925 the name was retained.

### **International Flavor**

British Curtis Cup Team members will not represent the only foreign threat in the Women's Amateur Championship at the Allegheny Country Club, near Pittsburgh, this month.

The Argentine is sending Mrs. Carmen Baca Castex de Conen and Mrs. Margarita Mackinlay de Maglione, both of Buenos Aires; and Belgium is sending Miss Arlette Jacquet, of Brussels, the Belgian Champion.

Miss Marlene Stewart, of Fonthill, Ontario, who recently defended her Canadian Championships, will play again, too, but in view of the fact that she is such a close neighbor and goes to college in this country, it is difficult to think of her as a foreign threat.

The Championship once again will be entirely at match play and the draw is not made until the entrants have registered at the Club. Miss Mary Lena Faulk, of Thomsville, Ga., is the defender.

### **British View of Calcuttas**

The evils we have noted in Calcutta pools seem not to be restricted entirely to this country. Henry Longhurst, a broad-gauge writer for various British publications, had these pungent remarks to make in *Golf Illustrated* on July 8:

"There is one aspect of money and golf that in my opinion stinks to high heaven, and if I offend one or two valued friends by saying so, well, I shall be very sorry, but there it is. I refer to the selling sweep. Not the little one that adds to the gaiety

of the club dinner but the one that runs to hundreds, and in some cases thousands, of pounds. I have had experience of quite a number and here indeed money is the root of evil. No need to be pious about it. Human nature is what it is and the prospect of seven or eight hundred pounds free of tax is in these days a prize sufficiently glittering to make an otherwise honest man subdue his conscience to a remarkable degree.

"In the United States the selling sweep or Calcutta, as they call it, has reached such proportions that the USGA have had to start a special battle to combat the proven evils that it is bringing in its train.

"Things have not reached such a pass in Britain, but I have seen enough of these selling sweeps to regard them as an unmitigated evil. How preposterous that a man who normally might not play for a fiver should find himself engaged to win many hundreds of pounds off handicap! After all, without wishing to be unduly cynical, the only thing proved by any handicap tournament is: "Whose handicap is most wrong?" And, my word, some of the handicaps in some of these selling sweeps are about as wrong as wrong can be! I shall never forget a man coming in one day after a minor weekly "spoon" remarking blithely, "Had to finish 7, 6, 4, 6, 6 to save me 'andicap.'" He was farming himself, needless to say, for the annual sweep which, I am happy to recall, he failed to win.

"Actually I was playing in it myself and was defeated by a superbly judged piece of gamesmanship which still rankles. Perhaps if I had won the dam' thing my views on selling sweeps would be a little more tolerant."

### **Psychiatric Rules**

The golf course of the London Hunt and Country Club, in Canada, encircles many of the buildings of the University of Western Ontario. It was there that the Americas Cup Match and the Canadian Amateur Championship were played last month.

In promulgating local rules, the Royal Canadian Golf Association showed the utmost consideration for the frayed nerves of the golfers. Or perhaps it drafted the services of a University psychiatrist to frame the following one:

"Hole No. 5. For any who might worry, the glass windows in the Collip Building are shatterproof."

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London's eighteenth hole is an innocent-looking 320-yarder, with the Medway River immediately in front of the green. The Medway is not glamorous as rivers go and, in August, is almost dry, with many boulders in its bed and banks.

In an Americas Cup foursome, the Canadian and the United States teams both drove within ten yards of the river. The tee shots were scarcely a yard apart and both were virtually stymied by a tree on direct line to the flagstick.

Every one of the four players took a crack at trying to put a ball on the green, and all failed. The first, an American, struck a tree head on. The next, a Canadian, dumped his ball onto the river bank. A second American then pitched his side's ball into the same declivity. And the second Canadian, playing on the river bank, barely nudged his shot three feet or so, and still on the bank.

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The next day, at the same hole, a Mexican representative drove onto the clubhouse roof. He stalked into the clubhouse, trailed dutifully by his caddie.

A United States representative, having just finished his match, was in the locker room and was startled to see player and caddie go trudging up the stairs inside the clubhouse. His question as to what the player was doing brought no response.

For by that time the Mexican was out on the roof, and was chipping the ball down onto the eighteenth fairway.

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One player had the eighteenth hole won, to all intents and purposes. His opponent had just plopped a pitch into the

wet part of the Medway River. Without giving the opponent an opportunity to see what had happened, the player picked up the opponent's ball and tossed it to him.

That was a violation of Rule 27-2a: "If a player's ball be touched or moved by an opponent . . . the opponent shall incur a penalty stroke." But the player was never charged with the stroke. His own ball lay within the confines of the same water hazard, but easily playable. He took a couple of practice swings in the hazard and soled his club. This violation of Rule 33-3 cost him a hole he had practically sewn up.

### **Encouragement**

When one is a junior, it is easy to fall victim to discouragement. By the same token, a small potion of encouragement at the right moment may make a boy.

Arnold Blum, of Macon, Ga., first alternate on the last Walker Cup Team, must have appreciated this when he read of the defeat of his young friend, Davis Adams, Jr., by one hole in the third round of the Junior Amateur Championship way out in Los Angeles. So Blum quickly wired:

"You did swell. I played in three nationals before I won a match."

### **Dr. Robert A. Keilty**

We record with deep regret the passing of Dr. Robert A. Keilty, of Chevy Chase, Md., who served faithfully as a member of our Sectional Affairs Committee from 1942 to 1953 and also had been president of the District of Columbia, Middle Atlantic and Maryland Golf Associations. His was a life of real service to both the profession of medicine and the game of golf.

### **Uniform Accounts**

The Club Managers Association of America has issued, with the cooperation of Horwath & Horwath, a revised and con-

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solidated manual entitled "Uniform System of Accounts for Clubs." This supersedes two earlier publications which established a common language for club accounting and became so popular that they went out of print.

The objectives of this new manual, arranged primarily for country and city clubs are:

1. To modernize club statement presentation and terminology in accordance with the latest accounting trends.

2. To make uniform the arrangement and terms used by country clubs and city clubs insofar as they have common departments and balance sheet accounts.

"The operation of country clubs has developed into an industry of no mean importance," the Club Managers Association points out. "While, of course, country clubs are not conducted for profit, that does not mean that they should not be operated with all possible efficiency.

"The annual change of officers, directors, and committee chairmen — always men whose interests and experience lie in fields entirely different from club operation—makes it more or less necessary for the club manager to prove anew each year his capability. It is difficult for him to do this without an adequate measuring stick, and difficult for his employers to judge his efficiency.

"The only fair way to weigh the manager's success or failure is through comparison of his results with those of similar clubs, but such comparison is almost impossible because clubs prepare their financial statements in such different forms.

"The booklet herewith submitted offers a practical method of classification of accounts. The great majority of clubs could adopt it without any too radical changes and without any additional expense other than, possibly, the first order of properly ruled stationery."

It is available through the Club Managers Association of America, 408 Olive Street, St. Louis 2, Mo., at a \$7.50 charge.



**TOMMY AARON**

Tommy Aaron, of Gainesville, Ga., is 17 and serious about golf. He went all the way to The Los Angeles Country Club last month, not to make a half-hearted effort but to do the best he could in the Junior Amateur Championship. It was his last year of eligibility and he had missed out the previous year because of a broken ankle.

Tommy's best is good, in both golf and football, and he shortly found himself playing in the quarter-final round against Allen L. Geiberger, of Santa Barbara, Cal., who holds the California, Southern California and Los Angeles City Junior Championships.

Geiberger was 1 up going to the sixteenth hole, a 444-yard affair, and he rifled his second shot onto the green. Aaron's went into the dry, fragile bermuda rough behind the green, so that he was still away.

Charles P. Stevenson, of Buffalo, N. Y., the referee, walked into the rough with Aaron and stood by while he played his critical third shot out of the long grass and onto the green.

The play to this point seemed routine, and Aaron seemed to have at least a chance for a half returning to the green when he said:

"I concede the hole. My ball turned over in the rough while I was addressing it, and I lie four."

Not even the referee, who was standing by for just such an eventuality, had seen the ball move, but Aaron knew he had to call it on himself, even though no one else had seen the movement and even though it made his opponent dormie two. Geiberger went on to win the match, 3 and 1, but Aaron won something just as important.