



The Latest Entry, The Newest Reason

Many are the reasons which accompany late entries for USGA Championships. The latest for the Amateur Championship this year was supported by this bit of testimony:

"As I was just married and came back from our honeymoon yesterday, I did not know till then that the entries were to be in by the 12th."

We're all in favor of romance, so we simply declined the entry and let the bridegroom go on with his dreams.

Record Qualifying Score

The 66-66—132 which Hillman Robbins, Jr., scored at the Colonial Country Club, Memphis, Tenn., in sectional qualifying for this year's Amateur Championship is an all-time record. The 1954 collegiate champion, playing his home course, led his field by nine strokes. The previous low for sectional qualifying for the Amateur was 134, and the honor was shared by three players:

In 1938, Roger Kelly did 66-68—134 at the North Course of the Los Angeles Country Club, in California, and Ven Savage of Magna, Utah, made 69-65—134 at The Country Club, in Salt Lake City. Their feats were not equalled until 1951, when Capt. Frederick G. Moseley made 67-67—134 at Brae-Burn Country Club, in Houston, Texas.

Clubs of Champions

The USGA Museum's collection of Clubs of Champions in "Golf House" continues to increase. Four more clubs have been received recently.

Among the new arrivals is a putter used by Mrs. H. Lindley Johnson (the former Miss Pauline Mackay), of Nantucket, Mass., in winning the Women's Amateur Championship of 1905. The club, a blade putter with a brass head, has an unusually thick grip. In winning the title that year, Mrs. Johnson defeated Miss Margaret Curtis, of Manchester, Mass., 1 up in the final. In recalling the match, Miss Curtis writes:

"I had her 3 down at the turn, then she came on a little, I slipped a little and she beat me on the 18th. Pauline was an extremely effective putter. I think she used the croquet stroke."

The putter was presented to the Museum by Mrs. Johnson.

The putter which Gene Andrews, of Pacific Palisades, Cal., used in defeating Jack E. Zimmerman, of Dayton, Ohio, 1 up in the final of the 1954 Amateur Public Links Championship at the Cedar Crest Golf Course, Dallas, Tex., was presented by Andrews.

Another former Amateur Public Links Champion, Andrew Szwedko, of Sharpsburg, Pa., also presented a putter. This was the club which was instrumental in gaining a 1 up victory for him over Phillip Gordon, of Oakland, Cal., in the 1939

NEW MEMBERS OF THE USGA

REGULAR

A. C. Read Golf Club, Fla.
Anderson Country Club, Ind.
Aurora Country Club, Ill.
Austin Country Club, Minn.
Brooke Manor Farms Country Club, Md.
Brownwood Country Club, Texas
Curtis Creek Country Club, Ind.
Fairview Golf Course, Mo.
Gadsden Country Club, Ala.
Hampton Country Club, S. C.
Hill Crest Country Club, Texas
Indian Hills Country Club, La.
Inverness Golf Club, Ill.
Lake Shore Golf Club, Pa.
Lexington Golf and Country Club, N. C.
Lincoln Country Club, N. C.
Locust Valley Country Club, Pa.
Longwood Golf Club, Va.
Park Hills Golf Club, Pa.
Pocatello Golf and Country Club, Idaho
Raleigh Country Club, N. C.
Ridglea Country Club, Texas
Roanoke Rapids Country Club, N. C.
Springbrook Golf and Country Club, Tenn.
Signal Mountain Golf and Country Club, Tenn.
Sunset Golf Club, Colo.
Waynesboro Country Club, Va.

ASSOCIATE

Brooklands Golf and Country Club, Mich.
Gatlinburg Country Club, Tenn.

Championship at the Mount Pleasant Park Golf Course, Baltimore, Md.

Miss Barbara Romack, of Sacramento, Cal., presented the putter used by her in winning the 1954 Women's Amateur Championship at the Allegheny Country Club, Sewickley, Pa. Because of a rain-storm, there was an elapsed time of 29 hours and 15 minutes between the first tee shot and the last putt of the final, in which Miss Romack defeated Miss Mickey Wright, of La Jolla, Cal., 4 and 2.

The above clubs, of course, are in addition to Jack Fleck's putter, which was instrumental in defeating Ben Hogan in the Open Championship play-off at San Francisco this year. As previously mentioned, a replica of the putter temporarily will repose in "Golf House," as Fleck intends to use the original club a while longer.

Two More USGA Competitions

Only two more Championships remain on the USGA calendar for 1955. They are the Amateur Championship at the Country Club of Virginia, Richmond, Va., September 12 through 17, and the Senior Amateur Championship, to be played over the Belle Meade Country Club course at Nashville, Tenn., September 26 through October 1. The sectional qualifying for the Amateur Championship was completed by August 30, and the sectional qualifying for the Senior Amateur Championship was scheduled for completion by September 8.

Youngest Qualifier

The youngest qualifier in the Amateur Championship?

He appears to have been a fellow who should be well known to you as Robert T. Jones Jr., Bob was among the thirty-two who qualified for match play in 1916 when he was 14 years 5½ months old. He was born on March 17, 1902, and the Championship started September 4, 1916. There was no sectional qualifying that year. The Championship was held at the Merion Cricket Club, near Philadelphia, and the young Jones won two matches and lost in the quarter-finals to Robert A. Gardner.

However, Billy Dettweiler, of Washington, D. C., also has distinguished himself in this connection. Billy qualified sectionally in Washington in 1932 when he was 14 years 6 months old, and he is the youngest to pass this particular test, which was inaugurated in 1931. Billy was not, however, one of the thirty-two who qualified for match play in the Championship proper that year.

Amputee Tournament

Jack Harrison, 43 year old leg amputee, of Grand Rapids, Mich., became the first three-time winner of the national amputee golf championship over the Revisloe Country Club course, at Homewood, Ill.

National Golf Day funds are going a long way toward the rehabilitation of amputees, according to Dale Bourrisseau, Chairman of the National Amputee Golf Program.

SPORTSMAN'S CORNER

THE KANSAS WIND was whipping across the Wichita Country Club course at about 35 miles an hour. Even such an experienced player as Miss Patty Berg was having difficulty maintaining perfect balance in the second round of the USGA Women's Open Championship this summer.

As a matter of fact, at the precise moment her club started a backswing in a bunker at the ninth hole, a gust of wind pushed her forward slightly.

A big question immediately popped into Patty Berg's sensitive mind—Had the clubhead touched the sand in the hazard?

Before turning in her score at the 18th, Miss Berg asked for a ruling. The question hinged on whether the clubhead had touched the sand before her downswing. It was a question of fact, and only those who saw it could determine the fact.

Miss Berg's marker and caddie both did not think the club had touched the sand. Patty herself was doubtful. The official told her that if there was honest doubt about it, she could take the benefit of the doubt and her word would be accepted.

"But," said Patty, "there are forty-some other players out there on the course. What about their rights?"

She was reminded that the only question was one of fact—did the clubhead touch the sand, or did it not?

Patty Berg, her keen blue eyes shining, didn't take long to answer.

"It touched the sand." That was her word.

Instead of having a 6 she had an 8—and instead of a 78 for the round it was 80. And there was a small tear in Patty's eye as she signed her card.

Patty Berg's last round was a 71, the lowest of the tournament, but not low enough to make up the ground she lost earlier.

This was not an unusual incident in Patty Berg's life. There was another in



MISS PATTY BERG

the USGA's first Women's Open two years ago at the Country Club of Rochester, N. Y.

In an early round her approach shot to the home green stopped some five feet from the hole. Her fellow-competitor, Miss Patricia Devany, played a stroke from perhaps 50 yards off the green which struck Miss Berg's ball and moved it an appreciable distance.

Under the Rules of Golf, Miss Berg was obliged to replace her ball as near as possible to the spot from which the ball was moved. She was not certain of the precise place where her ball had lain.

She first placed the ball several feet farther away than its original lie. When told that was not the proper spot, she did inch it up a bit, but an official had a difficult time trying to persuade her that the ball had been much nearer the hole than she wanted to place it. She did everything possible to avoid taking unfair advantage.

When you think of these things, your memory wanders back to the first time

RETALIATION

The St. Andrews, Scotland, Citizen, in commenting the other day on the passing of A. M. C. Brown, well-known St. Andrews golfer, stated:

"Mr. Brown was particularly remembered for one incident. This was his spectacular protest against the slow play of West of Scotland golfer Erl Watson in the Eden Tournament. Mr. Brown took a deck chair on the course and sat there while his opponent was deliberating over his strokes."

you saw Patty Berg. It was her first USGA Championship, the Women's Amateur, in 1935 at her home club, Interlachen, in Minneapolis. Patty was a freckle-faced girl of 17.

All week long she had played like a veteran, and she went all the way to the final. There she opposed Mrs. Edwin H. Vare, Jr., the great Glenna Collett, who had already won the Championship five times.

Going down the first fairway in the morning round, Patty asked her escort: "Do you think I play too slowly? Some people said I was pretty slow during the week."

That was on the true side. The escort glanced down at the little teen-ager, playing in a national final on her first attempt. It would have been cruel to dampen her spirit at the outset of this great day in her life. So the escort merely said that Patty ought to play the game just as it seemed best to her.

Mrs. Vare won the 36-hole final, 3 and 2. No one has ever come close to touching her record of six Championships.

The prize-giving was handled by the USGA President, Prescott S. Bush, who is now a United States Senator from Connecticut. When he came to Patty, he took one look at the little redhead with the eager eyes and the freckles, and he confessed to being stymied.

"Patty," he said, "I don't know whether to call you a great kid or a noble woman."

The years that have since passed have proved that Patty Berg is *both* a great kid and a noble woman. As a volunteer in the U. S. Marines Women's Reserve; as a champion golfer, first as an amateur and now as a professional; as a—well, any way you look at her, Patty Berg is a thoroughbred. The world of golf is finer because she has been among us.

Shirley M. Liscomb

Shirley M. Liscomb, of the Kebo Valley Club, Bar Harbor, Me., passed away last month as members were planning to celebrate the fiftieth year of his association with the club, and his twenty-third year as manager-professional. He succeeded his



SHIRLEY M. LISCOMB

father there in 1932, after several years as assistant, and in turn is being succeeded by his son, Waldron, who had been his assistant. The picture shows him on the third, or Bunker Hill, hole of the Kebo course, which was endowed in his honor by Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Stevenson.

You can't help a little child up the hill without getting nearer the top yourself.