



Clubs of Champions

Three more clubs have been added to the USGA's collection of Clubs of Champions in "Golf House."

From Ben Hogan, winner of the USGA Open Championship four times and the British Open Championship once, we received a No. 4 wood which played an important role in his victories. The balls with which he finished the British and USGA Open Championships of 1953 already were in "Golf House."

Robert A. Gardner, Amateur Champion in 1909 and 1915, used a center-shafted wooden putter in winning the 1915 Championship. It was given to the USGA Museum by Frank Rodia, of San Diego.

When Miss Pat Lesser won the Women's Amateur Championship at the Myers Park Country Club, Charlotte, N. C., last August, one of the most helpful clubs in her bag was a pitching wedge. That club is now in "Golf House."

"In the final round, I used this wedge to chip up for one putt on five of the first six holes," wrote Miss Lesser.

Age Limit Lowered

Metropolitan Golf Association has lowered the age limit in its Junior Championship to the 18th birthday. This brings MGA into line with the three junior tournaments conducted on a national scale by the USGA, Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Hearst newspaper organization.

The MGA Junior formerly had the 21st birthday as its age limit.

The MGA did not consider that its Junior Championship was justified simply as a vehicle for displaying the prowess of young men who had matured sufficiently to play in men's championships. Rather, it considered that its objective should be to indoctrinate young men and boys during their formative years.

WGA Changes Amateur

The Western Golf Association has changed its Amateur Championship. The winner of the event, to be played late in May at Belle Meade Country Club, Nashville, Tenn., is scheduled to play 216 holes. This includes 72 holes of qualifying over three days, to be followed by 36-hole matches during the next four days for the low 16 golfers.

Last year WGA adopted 72 holes of stroke play to qualify eight for 36-hole match play. The 1956 format adds 36 holes to the 1955 playing schedule. In addition, the champion will not be exempt, but must qualify with the rest of the field.

James L. O'Keefe, president, also has announced that all future tournament contracts of the WGA will include the clause that no gambling can be connected officially with the championship. This will place the long established policy on record and put the weight of WGA's position on the side of golf for fun.

New Club — Yes and No

The USGA Executive Committee, during meetings held in January, considered the original model of the newly designed utility club called "Mr. Flipper."

New features built into the club are in the width of the sole, which is 1¼ inches, the additional loft, possibly 4 degrees more than any other club now being made, and a goose neck.

The Committee ruled that the club does not conform to Rule 2-2e, since the shaft and neck do not remain in line with the back of the heel, or with a point to right or left of the back of the heel. The manufacturer promptly announced that he would produce a revised model conforming to the cited rule. He did.

Golf For Charity

The nation's golfers will soon have an opportunity to match scores with some of the top golfers in the country, and to assist various charities at the same time.

Jack Fleck and Fay Crocker, USGA Open and Women's Open Champions, respectively, will play against all challengers on Saturday, June 9, in the fifth annual National Golf Day. Various charities and golf projects receive the proceeds of this event, held this year under the sole sponsorship of the Professional Golfers' Association. The Champions will play their rounds at the Oak Hill Country Club, Rochester, N. Y., site of the 1956 Open Championship.

In a slightly different tournament, golfers may challenge any of several "champions" during the week of July 1 through 8 for the benefit of United Voluntary Services Swing Clubs, serving Veterans Administration hospitals and military installations. The challenger may play, at handicap, against such golf-lovers as: Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Harvie Ward, Chick Evans, Fred Waring, Patty Berg and Phil Rodgers.

Plans were recently announced for a proposed Golf Day to be held in June for

the Babe Didrikson Zaharias Fund, Inc. Clubs throughout the country will be asked to join the fund raising drive by holding tournaments or special golfing events. The Fund is to provide support, through grants-in-aid, to approved tumor clinics and cancer treatment centers for advancing detection and treatment of cancer and allied diseases.

Club Management School

A short course in club management will be offered at Cornell University from August 20 to 24, under the joint sponsorship of the University and the Club Managers Association of America. The program will feature a panel of experts on the subject of club management, drawn in part from the regular faculty of Cornell's School of Hotel Administration and prominent men in the field.

Carl J. Jehlen, General Manager, Baltusrol Golf Club, Springfield, N. J., is in charge of arrangements for CMAA, and Professor J. W. Conner, Secretary of the Statler Club, is representing the University. Registration fee for the course, covering all class work, five luncheons and the closing banquet, will be \$71. Inquiries and reservations may be sent to Mr. Conner, Statler Hall, Ithaca, N. Y.

Sonny Hiskey

The tragic death of Marion (Sonny) Hiskey in a plane crash has claimed one of golf's talented young amateurs. A native of Pocatello, Idaho, Sonny was on duty as a First Lieutenant in the Air Force when the crash occurred.

The winner of several championships in the Idaho area, including the Idaho State Amateur and Utah State Amateur Championships in 1952 and 1953, Sonny was well known in Texas, where he attended North Texas State College. In 1952 he was medalist in the Mexican National Amateur Tournament and individual champion of the National Association of Inter-Collegiate Athletics.

Handicapping the Novice

The USGA Golf Handicap System is the approved method for determining handicaps but, like every other system, it will not solve some unusual problems.

One of the most difficult is that of determining fair allowances for convention and resort tournaments which attract novice and occasional players.

In August, 1948, the USGA Journal published an article which explained the popular handicap system, devised by Lionel F. Callaway, of Lakewood, N. Y., for just this type of event.

Under the Callaway system, a player is permitted to deduct from his gross score a certain number of the highest individual hole scores he has made, the number being dependent on his total gross score.

Recently, Callaway revised his system so that a player may deduct only a certain number of the highest individual hole scores he has made on the *first sixteen holes*. Scores on the seventeenth and eighteenth holes are now disregarded in determining worst hole scores. The change tends to prevent players from artificially building up handicaps.

Summaries of the Callaway Handicap System are available upon request from the USGA.

Women's Low Scores

We have recorded from time to time low scores by women in golf competitions.

On September 1, 1937, Mrs. Opal S. Hill scored a 66, with all putts holed, in the first match-play round of the Missouri Women's Championship. Her nine-hole scores were 32 and 34.

Several women subsequently had 66s in competition, notably Miss Grace Lenczyk in the 1949 Women's Western Open and Mrs. George Zaharias in the Weathervane Tournament in Dallas in 1951. Miss Patty Berg scored a 64 in the first round of the Richmond, Cal. Open in April, 1952.

Mrs. Ann Casey Johnstone, of Mason City, last year won her fourth Iowa State Women's Amateur title. In her semi-final match on July 21, 1955, Ann scored 30 on the second nine, the lowest women's

CONTRIBUTORS TO "GOLF HOUSE" FUND

INDIVIDUALS

J. E. Baell
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Rolling Hills Country Club, Saudi Arabia

nine-hole competitive score to our knowledge. Her score for the eighteen was 71, four under women's par.

While we have no record of a score lower than 30 for nine holes by a woman, our records are not conclusive. We would appreciate information on this subject, if any is available.

Chapin Elected To USGA Executive Committee

William C. Chapin, of Rochester, N. Y., has been elected to the Executive Committee of the USGA, replacing Thomas H. Choate, of New York, who has resigned. Mr. Chapin was elected to fill the vacancy by the remaining members of the committee.

A member of the USGA Sectional Affairs Committee since 1951, he is now serving his second term as President of the Oak Hill Country Club, in Rochester, N. Y., scene of the 1956 Open Championship in June. He was President of the Rochester District Golf Association in 1954.

Stacey Bender, Sr.

Golf lost another ardent friend in the passing of Stacey Bender, Sr., who died at his home in Westfield, N. J. He was 77.

Mr. Bender formerly was a member of the Sectional Affairs Committee of the USGA, President of the Metropolitan Golf Association for three terms, from 1932 to 1941, and a member of the Executive Committee of the New Jersey State Golf Association.

Pitch-and-Putt Rules

Occasionally we are asked about the appropriate penalty for a ball out of bounds on one of the new pitch-and-putt courses which are springing up throughout the country. The following answer may therefore be of general interest:

"Inasmuch as the holes of the course vary from 62 to 128 yards in length and the total yardage is only 1,583, it might appear on the face of it that your situation would warrant unusual treatment. However, we see no reason to modify any Rule of Golf, including the stroke-and-distance penalty for a ball out of bounds as provided for in Rule 29-1.

"The very fact that the holes are all unusually short means that emphasis is placed upon accuracy. The shorter the hole, the more readily can the player control the stroke, theoretically. Without having seen your course, we would assume that only quite bad shots would go out of bounds. Should not the accurate player have a decided advantage in such a case? The stroke-and-distance penalty emphasizes the premium on control.

"Do you not apply all other Rules of Golf uniformly on the 'Palms' course? If you introduce one deviation, no doubt reasons could be adduced for softening other Rules, to the general detriment of the game.

"We would assume that one object of the short course is to help educate new golfers. That being so, play by rules other than the Rules of Golf would be a disservice.

"Rule 36-7b provides: 'A penalty imposed by a Rule of Golf shall not be waived by a Local Rule.'

"For these reasons we recommend that you observe the Rules of Golf uniformly, and we shall be grateful for your cooperation."

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. Booklet, 25 cents (special rates for quantity orders).

THE RULES OF AMATEUR STATUS, a page. 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.

THE CONDUCT OF WOMEN'S GOLF, containing suggestions for guidance in the conduct of women's golf in clubs and associations, including tournament procedures, handicapping and course rating. 25 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:

"The Rules of Golf—Etiquette," an official USGA film (16 mm. color, with sound, runs 17½ min. Rental \$15). Descriptive folder. No charge.

"Inside 'Golf House'," an official USGA film (16 mm. black and white, with sound, runs 28 min. Rental \$15. In combination with "The Rules of Golf—Etiquette," \$25.) Descriptive folder. No charge.

List of films on golf available from other sources. No charge.

List of films on golf course maintenance available from other sources. No charge.

HOLE-IN-ONE AWARDS. No charge.

GAMBLING IN GOLF TOURNAMENTS, a reprint of a USGA journal article by Richard S. Tufts. No charge.

MISTER CHAIRMAN, a reprint outlining the duties of the Chairman of the Green Committee. No charge.

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

USGA CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD BOOK. Detailed results of all USGA competitions since their start in 1895. \$2.

USGA JOURNAL AND TURF MANAGEMENT, a 33-page magazine published seven times a year. \$2. a year.

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