

HONORING A BRAVE LADY HONORS THE ANNUAL MEETING

by

JOHN P. ENGLISH

USGA Assistant Executive Director

THERE was a time when the Annual Meeting of the United States Golf Association was conducted with great swiftness but made little news.

Such meetings often consisted almost exclusively of the swift election of officers. The election remains, of course, an important feature, and Richard S. Tufts, of Pinehurst, N. C., was reelected at the 63rd Annual Meeting in New York last month.

However, in the last decade the chairmen of the USGA committees have been presenting their reports in person. This inaugurated a trend in which the meetings became more newsworthy.

Two years ago the Association further enlivened the proceedings by making it the occasion for the presentation of its Bob Jones Award for distinguished sportsmanship in golf.

The third winner is the late Mrs. Mildred Didrikson Zaharias, and the announcement of her selection and the touching acceptance by her husband George Zaharias moved this 63rd Annual Meeting as no other has ever been moved.

Mrs. Zaharias' courageous fight against cancer had stirred the emotions of all golfers. As Totton P. Heffelfinger, chairman of the Bob Jones Award Committee and a former president of the Association, said, the Babe had seemed to be using in her fight for life the qualities she had learned in golf. The fight seemed to have been made in the name of golf.

When George Zaharias came forward to accept for her, the 150 delegates and committeemen rose with him and remained standing in tribute throughout his remarks.

Robert T. Jones, Jr., in whose name the

award had been offered, was present and took the occasion to remark publicly on his affection and respect for the Babe. He said that her selection honored him.

The Annual Meeting opened with the preview of the latest USGA color motion picture "Play Them As They Lie." The showing of a new USGA film is becoming a fixture and further brightens the proceedings. This edition, third in the series, dramatizes the Rules of play in fairway and rough and features Johnny Farrell, the 1928 Open Champion. It is described more fully on page 9 and is available from National Educational Films, Inc., for showing at clubs throughout the country.

The meat and potatoes of the meeting is, however, provided through the reports of the committee chairmen. Here is revealed the work of the Association through the year.

Green Section

Prior to introducing the committee chairmen, Mr. Tufts drew particular attention to the service the Green Section was offering to Member Clubs, exemplified by the fact that the Regional Directors had visited 1,010 Member Clubs during 1956. He described the service as a means of obtaining full value for the increasing costs involved in golf-course maintenance today.

Mr. Tufts also reported that a number of inquiries had been received from Member Clubs protesting the application of the 20 per cent Federal dues tax to charges that many individuals did not customarily regard as dues. He said the Association would investigate and was hopeful of being able to present a case that might influence the present views of the Internal Revenue Service on this matter.

William O. Blaney, of Boston, Mass., chairman of the Handicap Committee, indicated that the Association is nearing the goal of a single handicap system, the desire for which had been revealed in a nationwide poll of member clubs and other golf associations.

Charles L. Peirson, also of Boston, Mass., chairman of the Implements and Ball Committee, announced that Arthur D. Little, Inc., a research firm, had been engaged to make a comprehensive study of the golf ball with the possible objects of developing an improved standard or rule to control the distance the ball may be struck and a simpler and more practical control test of the flight of the ball than the present velocity test.

Membership Gain

Gordon E. Kummer, of Milwaukee, Wis., chairman of the Membership Committee, reported that the Association had had a net gain in membership for the eleventh consecutive year and that the enrollment of Member Clubs and courses had been 2,076, another new record, at the close of the fiscal year.

William C. Chapin, of Rochester, N. Y., chairman-designate of the Green Section Committee, pointed out that 539 golf courses are now subscribing to the Regional Turf Service of the USGA Green Section, an increase of 126 during the year, and that they had been serviced by five regional offices. The service entailed a Green Section deficit of approximately \$34,000, and therefore the fee has been increased by \$10. Each subscriber will receive one scheduled visit and a second if necessary. The five Green Section offices served 35 states and the District of Columbia. It is hoped to give complete coverage throughout the country this year.

Interest in the Green Section program

had been highlighted by the attendance of some 120 club green Committee members and golf-course superintendents at an Educational Program on the afternoon preceding the Annual Meeting. Allan Brown, chairman of the Green Committee at the Montclair Golf Club, Montclair, N. J., presented an analysis and procedure for green committee work and two panels discussed successively the relationships between the green committee and the club and between the green committee and the golf-course superintendent. The first panel was moderated by Dr. Marvin H. Ferguson, Southwestern Regional Director, and included Charles G. Chapman, Chairman, Green Committee, Country Club of Detroit, Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.; William G. Harding, Chairman, Green Committee, Dedham Country & Polo Club, Dedham, Mass.; Dr. Andrew P. Virtuoso, Chairman, Green Committee, Whippoorwill Club, Armonk, N. Y.; Elmer J. Michael, Superintendent, Oak Hill Country Club, Rochester, N. Y., and Charles K. Hallowell, Mid-Atlantic Regional Director. The second panel was moderated by A. M. Radko, Northeastern Regional Director, and included Rear Adm. John S. Phillips, Chairman, Green Committee, Army Navy Country Club, Arlington, Va.; Malcolm E. Stone, Chairman, Green Committee, Rhode Island Country Club, W. Barrington, R. I.; Edward J. Casey, Superintendent, Baltusrol Golf Club, Springfield, N. J.; Eberhard R. Steineger, Superintendent, Pine Valley Golf Club, Clementon, N. J., and William H. Bengueyfield, Western Regional Director.



WM. WARD FOSHAY

WILLIAM McWANE

STUART A. HEATLEY

Continuing the reports of the committee chairmen, John D. Ames, of Chicago, chairman of the Championship Committee, pointed out that the USGA competitive program in 1956 had attracted 6,952 entrants, the largest number in history.

F. Warren Munro, of Portland, Ore., chairman of the Sectional Affairs Committee, drew attention to the importance of his committee in conducting Association affairs on the local level and announced that, as the result of sentiments expressed during the year, a meeting of the Sectional Affairs Committee had been scheduled during the Amateur Championship at The Country Club, Brookline, Mass., next September.

Mr. Peirson, acting chairman of the Finance Committee, presented a statement of income and expenses which revealed that the Association had enjoyed an excess of income for the fiscal year amounting to \$40,405.

In addition to the reelection of Mr. Tufts for the customary second term as president, the other four officers also were reelected. They are: John D. Ames, of Chicago, Ill., vice-president; John G. Clock, of Long Beach, Cal., vice-president; Charles L. Peirson, of Boston, Mass., secretary, and J. Frederic Byers, Jr., of Pittsburgh, Pa., treasurer.

New Members

Stuart A. Heatley, of San Francisco, Cal., and William McWane, of Birmingham, Ala., were elected to the Executive Committee, filling vacancies left by T. R. Garlington of Atlanta, Ga., and Edward E. Lowery, of San Francisco.

The remaining eight members of the Executive Committee were reelected. They are: C. W. Benedict, of White Plains, N. Y.; Emerson Carey, Jr., of Denver, Colo.; William C. Chapin, of Rochester, N. Y.; John W. Fischer, of Cincinnati, Ohio; Richmond Gray, of Richmond, Va.; Gordon E. Kummer, of Milwaukee, Wis.; F. Warren Munro, of Portland, Ore., and John M. Winters, Jr., of Tulsa, Okla.

The report of the Nominating Committee had proposed the name of Fraser M.

Horn, of New York, N. Y., for an eighth term as General Counsel. After the report was filed, Mr. Horn passed away, on November 13, and Wm. Ward Foshay, also of New York, had been elected by the Executive Committee to fill the unexpired term. Mr. Foshay was therefore proposed for election as General Counsel and the proposal carried.

Two amendments to the USGA constitution also were approved by the delegates.

The first amendment confirmed the practice of denying members of Regular Member Clubs delinquent in their dues entry in the recently established Senior Amateur Championship. Members of such clubs have long been denied representation in the meetings of the Association and entry in the Amateur and Women's Amateur Championships.

The second amendment indemnified members of the Executive Committee against expenses which they might incur in the defence of any legal action to which they might be made a party by reason of being members of the Executive Committee. The Association has no knowledge of any such legal action presently contemplated.

For three days prior to the Annual Meeting the Executive Committee met privately in New York and resolved a larger-than-usual volume of Association business. One of its actions was to enlarge the number of exemptions from sectional qualifying by the following:

Amateur Championship: Semi-finalists in the last Amateur Championship, and all past winners of the Open Championship who are amateurs.

Amateur Public Links Championship: Runner-up in the last Amateur Public Links Championship.

Junior Amateur Championship: Runner-up in the last Junior Amateur Championship.

Senior Amateur Championship: Runner-up in the last Senior Amateur Championship.

The Association's next annual meeting will be held on Saturday, January 25, 1958, in New York.