



Space Age

When the Soviet Union revealed that its first shot at the moon had missed by about 5,000 miles, Jack Mara of the Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, N. Y., commented:

"Just like one of my putts!"

Golf Writers' Awards

Charles R. Coe, of Oklahoma City, the Amateur Champion, was given the Gold Tee at the seventh annual dinner of the Metropolitan Golf Writers' Association and responded before the customary assemblage of 600 at this feature of the winter golf season in New York.

The Gold Tee is given annually to the person deemed to have done the most for the sport during the year.

Previous winners of the Gold Tee award have been Eugene Grace, of Bethlehem, Pa., Robert T. "Bob" Jones, of Atlanta, Billy Joe Patton, of Morganton, N. C., E. Harvie Ward, Jr., of San Francisco, the late John Jay Hopkins and Sam Snead, of White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

Charles Boswell, former Alabama football player who lost his sight in the Battle of the Bulge, was given the Ben Hogan Trophy for handicapped golfers. Boswell, one of the most popular men in sports, has won the national blind golfers' championship ten times, including the past season.

Previous winners of the Hogan Trophy have been the late Mrs. Mildred "Babe" Zaharias, Ed Furgol, President Eisenhower, Clinton F. Russell and Dale R. Bouriseau.

"I have read with great interest the story of Mr. Charles Boswell," President Eisenhower said in a congratulatory telegram. "It is a superb testimony to the unconquerable spirit of a brave man and a strong encouragement to everyone who has tried to become proficient in the game of golf." The award was inspiringly presented by Earl (Red) Blaik, retiring Army football coach and part-time golf fan.

Golf celebrities came from far and wide, and among others at the head table were Harry Bradshaw and Christy O'Connor, who won the Canada Cup for Ireland last fall; Tommy Bolt, the Open Champion, who came from California; Dow Finsterwald, of Jupiter, Fla., the IGA Champion; Cary Middlecoff, of Hollywood, Fla.; Robert T. Jones, Jr., of Atlanta, Ga., captain of the United States World Amateur Team; John D. Ames, of Chicago, president of the USGA; Harold Sargent, of Atlanta, president of the PGA; Thomas C. Robbins, of Pinehurst, N. C.; Mrs. Harrison F. Flippin, of Ardmore, Pa.; Dick Chapman, of Pinehurst, N. C.; Sen. Harrison Williams, Jr., of New Jersey; and champions of the Metropolitan New York area. Lincoln A. Werden, of the New York Times, was toastmaster.

Women's Amateur

The starting field in the Women's Amateur Championship at the Congressional Country Club, Washington, D. C., this year will be limited to 128 players. For the 1958 Championship there were 195 entries.

The Championship will remain entirely

at match play. It will consist of seven rounds, instead of eight as in 1958. Two rounds will be played the third day and one round on each of the five other days, all at 18 holes except for the 36-hole final.

Heretofore the only limiting factor on the number of entries has been a requirement of a USGA handicap not exceeding six strokes.

Starting this year, the field will consist of the 128 entrants who have the lowest USGA handicaps, up to a limit of six. Should there not be enough places for all applicants in the highest handicap class, a blind draw by the USGA will determine the acceptable entrants. A list of alternates will be established by lot to whom any later vacancies in the field will be offered.

The Women's Amateur Champion is Miss Anne Quast, of Marysville, Wash., a senior at Stanford University.

Vote in Favor

In support of the USGA Golf Handicap System, the Hon. Neal D. Fitzgerald, chairman of the handicap committee of the Detroit District Golf Association, had this to say in his annual report:

"The past year marked the beginning of a conflict in handicapping procedures between the USGA and a Chicago-Los Angeles combination. The two districts mentioned believe it is necessary to adopt what they call Equitable Stroke Control to arrive at a fair handicap. This is nothing more than a limitation on the number of strokes over par on any one hole that may be counted for handicapping purposes. The limitation depends on the player's handicap. A scratch golfer, for instance, may never exceed one over par on any hole. The USGA does not agree.

"The Detroit District has elected to follow the USGA.

"First of all, we are convinced that the USGA system is completely adequate for normal club play. Handicapping is not now, nor ever will be, an exact science.

"Secondly, we believe that a more complicated system would be impractical, much too difficult to administer. For example, every handicap chairman at each club would have to check every score-card to see that the very bad holes were scored

properly. It is difficult enough to get scores in, much less scorecards.

"Thirdly, we know that the Chicago District and presumably the Southern California District have paid handicap chairmen who devote their entire time to directing their more complicated systems. We cannot afford this.

"Furthermore, we feel that the establishment of a uniform national system of handicapping is rightfully the prerogative of the national body. Any group that disagrees with the system adopted, may and should, in our opinion, attempt to persuade the USGA committee to make changes by pointing out the advantages. Failing this, they should bow to the will of the controlling authority, rather than adopt their own individual system. Otherwise the ultimate objective, which is to have one single system covering the whole country, must fail. We think this objective is highly desirable and should not be frustrated by a few dissident groups."

Mexican Dates

The periods for Mexico's principal men's championships have been changed. The Mexican Amateur, usually played in the autumn, will now be held February 24-March 1, 1959, at the Mexico City Country Club. The Mexican Open will be played in the autumn, probably November 5-8, at the Chapultepec Golf Club, Mexico City.

New Zealand Visitors

The members of the New Zealand World Amateur Team visited the Cypress Point Club and the Pebble Beach links, in California, on their way back to New Zealand from St. Andrews, Scotland, where they finished fourth. Robert Hanna, of the Northern California Golf Association, who accompanied them to Pebble Beach, now considers that Bob Charles must be the greatest left-hander in golf. He shot as easy a 68 as has ever been seen at Cypress Point. They all hit the famed sixteenth green, incidentally.

Charles was even 4s through the thirteenth at Pebble Beach, took 6 on the fourteenth and then gave everyone a thrill on the eighteenth. As it happened, there were hundreds of people at the Lodge for a sports car showing and many of them watched the groups as they

finished. Charles hit two fine shots down eighteen and then pounded a No. 9 iron one foot from the hole. The pin was leaning forward and toward the ocean. The ball landed in the bottom of the cup on the first bounce and came right back out to hang on the lip. The almost-eagle gave him 73.

"It was a wonderful experience to meet and play golf with these fellows and to hear of their experiences in Scotland," Hanna concluded.

Future Championships

The USGA has accepted three additional invitations for Championships as follows:

1960 Women's Amateur Championship: Tulsa Country Club, Tulsa, Okla., Aug. 22-27.

1960 Girls' Junior Championship: The Oaks Country Club, Tulsa, Okla., Aug. 15-19.

1961 Women's Amateur Championship: Tacoma Country and Golf Club, Tacoma, Wash., Aug. 21-26.

Dates for the 1960 Men's Amateur Championship have been fixed as Sept. 12-17. As previously announced, the Championship is scheduled for the St. Louis Country Club, Clayton, Mo.

It has also been previously announced that the:

1960 Open Championship will be held at the Cherry Hills Country Club, Denver, Colo., June 16-18.

1960 Amateur Public Links Championship will be played in Honolulu, T. H.

1960 Junior Amateur Championship will be held at the Milburn Golf and Country Club, Overland Park, Kan.

1960 World Amateur Team Championship will be played at the Merion Golf Club, Ardmore, Pa., Sept. 28-Oct. 1.

It's Come to This!

Dow Finsterwald had 50 tournament rounds in the 60s last year . . . Jay Hebert was under par in 76 rounds . . . Finsterwald, Don January and Fred Hawkins all had rounds which included ten birdies . . . There were fourteen holes in one in competition . . . Jim Ferree, Gene Littler, Cary Middlecoff, Tom Reed (an amateur) and Ed Wysowski played

SPORTSMAN'S CORNER

"Roy Benjamin wins championship of Fairview Country Club, Elmsford, N. Y., for sixth time," was the recording of the feat last summer. No details, just the simple fact that Benjamin had played his usual fine golf.

But the victory took on special significance in November when Benjamin underwent an eye operation. The startling fact is that he had played so well in spite of cataracts which left him with no vision in one eye and only slight vision in the other—and that he had asked no sympathy or special consideration on this account.

In the championship he could not see the ball clearly when he addressed it, could not see the flagstick from more than a few feet away, could not follow the flight of the ball. Without depth perception, he could not gauge putts and had to be pointed towards the hole by his caddie.

Nevertheless, he played only slightly below his usual game and was in the 70s regularly. His courageous determination was something rare.

One eye has now been operated on and the other will be done in the spring or summer.

That's Roy Benjamin, a champion in every sense of the expression.

nine holes in 29 . . . Jim Ferree scored a 61 for eighteen holes . . . Ben Hogan, Littler and John McMullin all went thirty-six holes in 129 . . . Hogan, Middlecoff and Sam Snead had scores of 197 for fifty-four holes . . . Mike Souchak did seventy-two holes in 263, which was twenty-three under par . . . They are human, too . . . Al Balding had consecutive rounds of 67-84; Arnold Palmer once shot 65-77 and Don Fairfield ran off 71-69-68-80!

Western Affairs

Leadership of two of the oldest golf associations continues to rest in Chicago with the reelection of Harold A. Moore as president of the Western Golf Association and of John D. Ames as president of the USGA. Mr. Moore also has been elected a new member of the USGA Executive Committee.

Progress reported during the WGA's sixtieth annual meeting included:

A record of 373 Evans Scholars now in college, including 322 at the seven mid-western universities where the foundation has chapter houses.

A record income of more than \$260,000 to the scholarship fund, received from approximately 30,000 contributors.

Release of a new caddie-training film "Your Caddie, Sir," narrated by Bing Crosby.

Elected with Moore as 1959 officers were: Vice Presidents, Cameron Eddy, Chicago, Frank H. Hoy, Milwaukee, James M. Royer, Chicago, George K. Whyte, St. Louis, Walter W. Cruttenden, Chicago and William F. Souder, Jr., Chicago; Secretary, Ralph A. L. Bogan, Jr., Chicago; Treasurer, Norman G. Copland, Evanston, Ill.; General Counsel, Lynford Lardner, Jr., Milwaukee.

Entries for British Amateur

The British naturally like to have their Amateur Championship cup stay at home, but they are enlarging the opportunities of Americans through their generosity in exemptions from Regional Qualifying Rounds. Thirteen Americans will be automatically eligible for the Championship proper this year.

The exemptions will go to the nine members of the Walker Cup Team and four other American entrants whom the Royal and Ancient Golf Club will select on past performances.

American entries must be submitted through the USGA. Players who wish to be considered for exemption must also furnish their competitive records for the last three years. Forms of entry are available from the USGA. Entries must be sent in time to allow for handling and for transmission to St. Andrews, Scotland, where the closing deadline is April 17. The handicap limit is five strokes.

Regional Qualifying, at 36 holes, will be played May 9 at 15 courses, as follows: Scotland—St. Andrews (New Course), Troon, Luffness; England—Seaton Carew, Lindrick, Formby, Sutton Coldfield, Broadstone (Dorset), Aldeburgh, Sandy Lodge, Royal Cinque Ports, Wentworth; Wales—Southerndown; Ireland—Royal Portrush, Royal Dublin.

N. C. Selway, Chairman of the R & A

Championship Committee, points out that competitors may choose their qualifying locations. For Americans who enter Regional Qualifying, he outlines an attractive possible itinerary:

May 9—Amateur Championship Regional Qualifying at St. Andrews (New Course), or Troon (20 minutes from Prestwick Airport), or Luffness (adjoining Muirfield).

May 15-16—Watch Walker Cup Match at Muirfield, near Edinburgh.

May 21-22—Annual St. George's Vase 36-hole event at Sandwich, England.

May 23-24—Annual 36-hole event at Prince's and Royal Cinque Ports, Deal.

May 25-30—British Amateur Championship, Royal St. George's Golf Club, Sandwich, Kent, England.

Necrology

It is with deep regret that we record the deaths of:

Jerome P. Bowes, Chicago, Ill., donor of The Americas Cup, a member of the USGA Bob Jones Award Committee, a former president of the Western Golf Association and a trustee of the Evans Scholars Foundation.

Joseph Esherick, Philadelphia, Pa., former president of the Golf Association of Philadelphia.

Mrs. Pauline Mackay Johnson, Nantucket, Mass., the 1905 Women's Amateur Champion.

Bert Prather, Atlanta, Ga., golf writer for the Atlanta Constitution.

James D. Preston, Washington, D. C., member of the USGA Public Links Committee from 1929 through 1932 and nationally known as supervisor of the United States Senate press gallery and aide to the Senate librarian.

Hon. Michael Scott, Channel Islands, winner of the British Amateur in 1933 at the age of 55, also winner of the Australian and French Championships and member of the 1924 and captain of the 1934 British Walker Cup Teams.

Mrs. Willard P. Sullivan, Ashland Va., member of the USGA Women's Committee from 1932-1938 and chairman in 1937.

Mrs. Caroline Painter Wilson, Cincinnati, Ohio, the 1911 and 1912 Women's Western Amateur Champion.