

# GOLF EXECUTIVES EXCHANGE THOUGHTS IN CONFERENCES

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**T**here were no bells. The marriage of common interests joining the United States Golf Association with district and state associations had taken place long ago. But many of the regional organizations had not known one another, and so it was a new day in golf when they got together in three Conferences for Golf Association Executives sponsored by the USGA last month.

The meetings were the first of their sort. They arose from a suggestion by James H. Potts, Secretary of the Western Pennsylvania Golf Association, who had lamented the fact that he didn't know just what was being accomplished by other organizations like his.

The response at the three sites—Washington, Chicago and San Francisco—was so gratifying that similar conferences under USGA auspices are contemplated annually in other parts of the country. The meetings attracted 160 representatives of 57 golf organizations:—57 men's and women's district and state associations, the Royal Canadian Golf Association, four sections of the Professional Golfers' Association of America, national officers of the PGA, and the USGA.

The purpose of the meetings was to facilitate exchange of ideas. Participation in discussion was the keynote. Subject matter included the Rules of Golf, association affairs, tournaments, club affairs, handicapping and course rating, and amateur status; there were numerous sub-divisions. Each topic had a moderator, who was an officer of a regional association or of the USGA.

The participants were dedicated workers in organized golf. Many came long distances to the one-day meetings. Many started as strangers to the others, but they all soon realized their unity in the common bond of love of the game. They shared ideas and experiences freely. Many doubts were resolved and problems solved. The Conferences thus served the dual purposes of, first, bringing new



George Phelps, left, president of the Florida Golf Association discusses mutual problem with James H. Potts secretary of the Western Pennsylvania Golf Association at Washington session of conference. Mr. Potts originated fundamental idea of the conferences. (Photos by Joseph Gambatese)

thoughts to bear in various sections and, second, strengthening the ties of organized golf.

Moderators of the various sessions were:

- John M. Winters, Jr., USGA President
- Edward E. Marshall, President, G. A. of Philadelphia
- Stacy W. Osgood, President, Chicago District G. A.
- William V. Power, President, Northern California G. A.
- C. McD. England, President, West Virginia G. A.
- Stewart J. McIntosh, President, Minnesota G. A.
- Carl A. Jonson, Chairman Tournament Committee, Pacific Northwest G. A.
- Bertrand L. Kohlmann, President, Metropolitan G. A., New York
- Bert R. Shurly, Jr., President, G. A. of Michigan
- Richard C. Campbell, III, President, Colorado G. A.
- Wm. Ward Foshay, Chairman, USGA Rules of Golf Committee

Herman M. Freyberg, Chairman,  
USGA Handicap Procedure Com-  
mittee

Harold A. Moore, Member, USGA  
Executive Committee

Edwin R. Foley, Member, USGA  
Executive Committee

Joseph C. Dey, Jr., USGA Executive  
Director, who served as Chairman  
of the meetings.

P. J. Boatwright, Jr., USGA As-  
sistant Director

Each golf association conference at Washington, Chicago and San Francisco was preceded by a USGA Green Section Educational Program on "A Business Approach to Golf Course Maintenance.

### Rules of Golf

The Rules of Golf provided lively discussion. The moderators—Mr. Foshay at Washington, Mr. Winters at Chicago and Mr. Dey at San Francisco—recounted background of the USGA trial rules of 1960-61, pointed out the values gained from the experimentation, and emphasized the need for uniformity in connection with the USGA's return to full application of the world-wide code this year. The participants were in general agreement that the need for uniformity is of paramount importance.

The moderators reported that the USGA Rules of Golf Committee has already drafted a number of proposed amendments for discussion with the British in the quadrennial Rules conference in May, 1963. The proposals are tentative and have not yet been considered by the USGA Executive Committee.

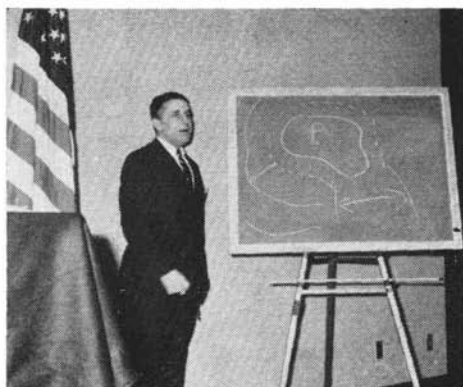
Views were invited on some of the main items under consideration, and opinion was generally favorable to them, as follows:

1. Ball unplayable, option—One-stroke penalty for dropping behind or within two club-lengths of unplayable position (as in 1961 trial rule).

2. Ball out of bounds—Authorization for clubs to adopt a local rule permitting dropping a ball within two club-lengths of the place where the ball last crossed the boundary line, under one-stroke penalty (similar to 1961 optional trial local rule).

3. Provisional ball—Limited to balls lost or out of bounds (as in 1961).

4. Flagstick—Not to be used as backstop when ball is played from putting



Describing various heights of grass outward from the putting surface took Joseph C. Dey, Jr., USGA Executive Director, to the blackboard during conferences of Golf Association Executives. Many were interested in the USGA's standard for varying heights of grass.

green; penalty for striking, whether attended or unattended—loss of hole in match play and two strokes in stroke play.

5. Repair of ball marks on putting green—Prohibition against stepping on ball mark would be eliminated.

6. Stroke play, ball which might assist fellow-competitor—Owner would be allowed to lift or to play first.

7. Stroke play—Penalty for a competitor's ball striking a fellow-competitor's ball only when both balls lie on the putting green.

The moderators stressed that the proposals were tentative and would doubtless undergo revision; also, that other suggested amendments are under consideration.

### Club Affairs

In Washington, those in attendance had an opportunity to refer tax questions to Walter Slowinski, a member of the law firm of Baker, McKenzie, and High-tower. Mr. Slowinski is an expert on taxes as they apply to country clubs and assists the USGA in this field, as well as serving as General Counsel to the Club Managers' Association of America and the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America.

Mr. Slowinski advised the group on provisions in a new tax bill now before

the House of Representatives. He said that if a club were used primarily for the furtherance of the taxpayer's trade or business (that is, if his membership were more than 50% due to business reasons) deductions of club dues and entertainment expense on income tax returns were proposed to be allowed to the extent that those expenses were incurred for the furtherance of the taxpayer's trade or business. He said it must first be established that one belongs to a club primarily for business and, having done that, one need only then to prove how much he actually spent at the club for business purposes.

Mr. Slowinski also advised the group on an Internal Revenue Service ruling that exempts from the 20% club dues tax all dues and assessments which are specifically earmarked for a specific capital improvement. He advised clubs which contemplate setting aside funds for capital improvements to ask the Internal Revenue Service for a ruling in advance, because in some cases where this was not done the clubs were told that they had not complied fully with the requirements and the exemptions were disallowed.

On the matter of clubs permitting an excessive number of public parties to use their facilities, Mr. Slowinski reported that one club which permitted outside parties to use its dining facilities made a profit of \$200,000 over three years on this particular operation. Because of the unduly large number of public parties, the Internal Revenue Service ruled that the club was not tax-exempt, and therefore it had to pay corporate income tax on the \$200,000. The corporate income tax amounted to \$100,000.

In speaking about efforts to reduce the tax on club dues from 20% to 10%, Mr. Slowinski expressed the opinion that it would be unfair if this were not done. He said the tax on money spent at night clubs had already been reduced to 10%, leaving admissions to horse racing and dog racing as the only money being taxed at 20% besides club dues.

The Golf Association of Michigan, a leader in keeping abreast of problems affecting its member clubs, is investigating a proposal for group fire insurance for its clubs.

California representatives told how



**Walter Slowinski, an expert on the matter of taxes as they apply to country clubs, covered highlights of a proposed new tax bill during the Washington conference. Mr. Slowinski assists the USGA in this field.**

they organized to obtain favorable action on a State referendum limiting assessment of club real estate. This was one of the most remarkable efforts ever made in organized golf.

The discussions touched upon unionization of club employees and a proposal that every club appoint to its Board a tax advisor and perhaps an accountant.

#### **Association Affairs**

There was considerable swapping of ideas on tournament procedures, rules of eligibility for association membership, and means of raising revenue.

The New Jersey Association, for example, has one paid part-time employee whose sole responsibility is to conduct tournaments. All other work is voluntary. Through the efforts of many, the Association is able to maintain 21 boys on scholarships at Rutgers University. Many other associations have caddie scholarship programs.

Some associations leave the responsibility of issuing handicaps to clubs; others bill clubs for handicap cards. Handicap card prices range from \$1 to \$10 per year; however, the maximum

figure also covers payment of entry fees in association-sponsored events.

There was considerable discussion of services to member clubs, including a recent "Golf Club Operations" survey of club financial matters in the New York area by the Metropolitan Golf Association. The Northern California Association is considering employment of a staff expert on club operations and management.

The Southern California Association proposes to construct a headquarters building for golf associations in its district . . . Junior and Senior programs were thoroughly considered . . . The value of a frequent periodical published by an association for its member clubs was stressed . . . It was proposed that associations try to develop a way to help clubs indoctrinate new members into the etiquette of golf.

#### Handicapping and Course Rating

Electronic computation of handicaps was discussed at all three meetings.

At Washington, Herman Freyberg, Chairman of the USGA Handicap Procedure Committee, told of the efforts of many people in developing the USGA Golf Handicap System, under which a handicap is computed from the best 10 scores of the player's last 25 rounds, compared with course rating.

There were questions as to why the USGA System does not embody "stroke controls", an artificial method of reducing a high score for a hole to a specified number of strokes over par for handicap purposes. Mr. Freyberg pointed out that there are built-in controls in the USGA System, and that use of the lowest 40% of a player's scores (to the 10-out-of-25 system) almost automatically eliminates freak scores. He also pointed out that artificial "stroke controls" tend to complicate handicapping in a way contrary to the USGA policy of having a national system as simple as possible.

On the other hand, the case for "stroke controls" was presented at San Francisco by Thomas G. McMahon, an originator of the idea.

#### Amateur Status

Solid support of the Rules of Amateur Status was apparent in the discussions at all three conferences. Questions were raised as to the rule denying amateur



**Burt R. Shurly, Jr., president of the Golf Association of Michigan, moderated the club affairs portion of the conference in Chicago.**

status to physical education teachers who give golf instruction for compensation. There was, however, little or no sympathy for any change in the fundamental concept of amateurism in golf.

#### Green Section Educational Programs

The USGA Green Section conducts an annual Educational Program in January immediately before the USGA Annual Meeting. This year's sessions on "A Business Approach to Golf Course Maintenance" will be reported in the USGA JOURNAL AND TURF MANAGEMENT, starting with this issue (see page 24).

To bring the benefits of direct discussion to USGA Member Clubs in various parts of the country, the Green Section Staff repeated the New York subject matter in Washington, Chicago and San Francisco on days immediately preceding the Conferences of Golf Association Executives. Every USGA Member Club was invited to send two representatives to each meeting.

The USGA is very grateful to the following who made these programs possible:

- Martin F. McCarthy, Chevy Chase, Md.
- David O. Miller, Bethlehem, Pa.
- James E. Thomas, Arlington, Va.
- Robert Shields, Rockville, Md.
- Sherwood A. Moore, Mamaroneck, N. Y.
- Eberhard R. Steiniger, Clementon, N. J.
- Carl Jehlen, Springfield, N. J.
- Alonzo Martin, Washington

Charles N. Eckstein, Chicago  
Robert M. Williams, Highland Park, Ill.

Paul Dye, Jr., Indianapolis  
John A. Frederiksen, Moline, Ill.  
Roy W. Nelson, Homewood, Ill.  
Dr. Fred M. Adams, Birmingham, Mich.

Ward C. Case, Columbus, Ohio  
Paul W. Neff, Columbus, Ohio  
Marion Mendenhall, Cincinnati  
Allen M. Oakley, Quincy, Ill.  
Robert E. Hanna, San Francisco  
Ellis W. Van Gorder, Stanford, Calif.  
Stanley Pitcher, San Mateo, Calif.  
T. E. Van Gorder, San Rafael, Calif.  
James H. Wilson, Burlingame, Calif.  
Father Tod W. Ewald, Corte Madera, Calif.

Lynn A. Smith, Pasadena, Calif.  
Agronomists of the USGA Green Section Staff:  
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James B. Moncrief, Athens, Ga.  
Charles E. Croley, Highland Park, N. J.

## ANSWERS TO QUICK RULES QUIZ

(Continued from page 5 )

1. There is no such thing in the Rules of Golf. What is commonly called fairway is part of "through the green." Definition 34.
2. No. He is not allowed more than a momentary delay (a matter of seconds) to settle a doubt as to whether his ball is at rest. Rule 35-1h.
3. No. He is not of necessity entitled to see the ball when playing a stroke. Rule 17-2.
4. (a) Yes. A shelter shed is an obstruction. Definition 20 and Rule 31-2. (b) No. Definition 20 and Rule 17-3.
5. No. A club may not be replaced by borrowing from any other person playing on the course. Rule 3.
6. No. A ball has "moved" only if it leaves its position and comes to rest in any other place. Definition 3.
7. Nothing. A claim must be made before any player in the match plays

from the next teeing ground, or, in the case of the last hole of the round, before all players in the match leave the putting green. Rule 11-1.

8. No. His opponent may, if he chooses, require that he replay the stroke, without penalty. Rule 13-1. (In stroke play the rule is different—see Rule 13-2.)
9. No. He may re-drop it without penalty. Rule 22-2c.
10. The opponent is deemed to have holed out at his last stroke. Rule 35-2c.

## HANDICAP DECISION

### PAR-3 COURSES: SCORES MAY NOT BE USED IN COMPUTING USGA HANDICAPS; PAR-3 COURSES, HOW TO RATE: USGA SYSTEM MAY BE USED

USGA Handicap Decision 62-2  
References: Men—Section 4-6b  
Women—Section 15-6b

**Q:** May USGA Handicaps be computed from scores made on par-3 courses if the par-3 courses have been rated in accordance with the USGA Course Rating System?

**A:** No. Scores are not acceptable for USGA Handicaps when made on par-3 courses or other courses where the majority of holes are not par 4s and 5s. Such courses do not normally place a premium on distance or variety of strokes, factors which are important in play on standard courses; hence, it would not be equitable to handicap players on such short courses on the same basis as players on standard courses. A par-3 course does not normally require the use of a full set of clubs. A score on such a course is analogous to a score made in a competition in which the type of clubs is limited; such scores are prohibited in USGA Handicap computations by Section 4-6b of USGA Golf Handicap System for Men. However, scores made on par-3 and similar courses may be used with the USGA Handicap and Course Rating Systems to produce equitable handicaps for use at such courses only. Handicaps so produced may not be termed "USGA Handicaps." USGA Handicaps produced by scores at other courses may be used fairly at short courses if no other types of handicap are permitted.