HIDDEN in the formal wording of the annual report of the USGA executive committee, which was read to delegates at the Association’s 42d annual meeting on Jan. 11 in New York city, were a number of subjects which give evidence that the rulers are keeping open minds to current trends. For instance, tradition was thrown to the winds in the Championship committee’s report when it gave notice that punishment of disqualification might be the lot of slow-play competitors in future USGA championships.

Likewise, the stymie in match play came close to getting the gate, the vote splitting 8 to 5 for retention. If any tournament players of the nation are disappointed at this decision, they at least get satisfaction from the fact that the life of the stymie is still nip and tuck and hence the whole subject will have to be brought up again at some future time.

During the year, the Rules of Golf committee had its usual allotment of decisions to make. Most important was the ruling that the committee in charge of any medal tournament has the right to call off play if the weather is bad. In match play, competitors may take shelter by agreement without disqualification, unless in the opinion of the committee in charge, they unduly delay play.

Championships Improve Gate Net

The Championship committee reported a gross take of $40,736.95 from its tournaments of the year. Disbursements amounted to $17,215.65, leaving net receipts of $23,521.30. This was considerable improvement over 1934, when the gross was $35,457.65, disbursements were $19,216.22, and the net figured only $16,241.43. Largest gains came from the Open, which in 1934 netted $7,979 against $12,492 this year; and from the Women’s event, which rose from a 1934 deficit of $322 to show a 1935 profit of $1,662. This latter reversal of financial form was the result of scheduling tourney matches in the afternoons rather than in the mornings, the custom heretofore.

From the report of the Membership and Reinstatement committee came less pleasant news. In spite of 28 clubs elected to Association membership and 23 member clubs reinstated, total club membership dropped from 839, as of a year ago, to 767, due to 61 club resignations and 62 clubs dropped for non-payment of dues. The Association’s roster is the lowest in ten years, having declined from the all-time top of 1,154 clubs in 1931. Obviously the continued health of the body demands that considerable attention be given this present year to ways and means of educating clubs to the benefits of USGA membership. With dues only $30 per year per club, the job should not prove too difficult, once club officials are made to realize what the USGA has done and can do for the good of the game.

Golf Has Five Law Suits

Morton G. Bogue, general counsel of the association, reported there were but five decisions involving golf reported to him in 1935. Negligence litigation, Bogue reported, appears definitely to be on the wane. The underlying reason is not known; perhaps more golf insurance is being written and the insurance companies are settling these claims out of court.

Most interesting of the year’s cases concerns the apparent refusal of a Coast golf club to permit one of its members to resign his membership. It appeared that the plaintiff became a regular member of the club in 1916 and continued as such until the latter part of 1931 when he paid all dues and assessments against him, endorsed his certificate of membership in blank, and tendered it along with his written resignation to the club. His resignation was refused by the directors, who relied on a by-law which read as follows:

"The resignation of any member shall be made in writing addressed to the Board of Directors. No resignation of a member shall be effective until accepted by the Board of Directors, nor shall the same be accepted while such member is in anywise indebted to the Club nor until he has..."
AT LITTLE COST

... any club can send its greenkeeper to the
NAGA convention, Cleveland, Feb. 4-7, and
gain back many times its investment in the late
greenkeeping information its man will acquire.

assigned and delivered his certificate
of membership. Until the transfer of
the certificate of membership on the
books of the corporation, or until the
date of the expulsion of a member,
the record owner of each membership
shall be and remain liable for all dues,
fees or other charges which have ac-
crued or which may thereafter accrue."
The court concluded that by paying his
dues and turning in his certificate the
plaintiff had done every substantial thing
required by the by-law and that for de-
fendant to hold
him as a perpetual mem-
ber on its mere fancy or caprice would be
obnoxious to the spirit as well as to the
clear meaning of the statute. The court
refused to consider the contention that an
assignment of a new candidate for mem-
bership was required by the by-law. Ac-
cordingly so much of the by-law as per-
mitted the club to deny the right of re-
signation on the ground that it had merely
withheld its consent or declined to make
the necessary book entries was held to be
invalid because unreasonable and ar-
bitrary.

In a New York workmen's com-
pensation case, a caddie was injured by
climbing a tree on the grounds while wait-
ing to be called. He was paid by the mem-
bers who employed him, not by the club,
and that day had not been employed at all.
It was held that the claimant was doing
something for his own amusement, and
hence the accident did not arise out of or
in the course of his employment.

Up in Massachusetts, a caddie stood on
the first tee, one Monday morning, watch-
ing two other caddies who were prepar-
ing to tee-off. One of them took a prac-
tice swing without looking, and struck the
claimant in the head with his club, inflict-
ing injuries to the nose and right eye. It
was shown that caddies were permitted to
use the course on Mondays.

The court pointed out that the claim-
ant's employment did not require him to
be on the first tee and that he was not
engaged in any of the duties for which he
was engaged. Therefore, since he was in-
jured while waiting for an opportunity to
play golf for his own pleasure, the claim
was not allowed.

A total of $19,660.63 will be available
for Green Section activity during 1936.
Fifteen thousand dollars of this is the
1936 allotment and $4,660.63 is unex-
pended balance from 1935. There may be
certain additional funds made available
through donations from those not con-
ected with the Association; $405 was so
donated during 1935.

Gross income of the USGA for 1935
amounted to $47,315.85. Expenses of $34,-
683.40, plus a $82.82 loss on sale of bonds,
leave a net income of $12,549.63 for the
year.

Badminton Boom Going Strong
At Golf Clubs

BADMINTON this winter has taken a
strong hold at golf clubs. Where there
are fairly large rooms with high ceilings
the racquet game with the feather duster
birdies has been getting a lively play from
men and women.

Badminton came into the United States
from Canada. It's a cousin to tennis with
a court 20 ft. by 40 ft. long and a mesh
net 5 ft. high. The shuttlecock, batted back
and forth on the tennis plan, is a piece of
cork one inch in diameter with a circle of
feathers stuck into its top.

One of the attractive features of the
game is that experience is not necessary
to provide a good workout and fairly close
competition although the badminton ex-
erts can make the cork birdie do tricks
with finesse and control that are amazing
to the uninitiated.

With the indoor boost the game has re-
ceived with golf club members this winter
it is certain to get a fine play from club
members on their own lawns or at club
outdoor courts the coming season when the
members want a quick workout.

There is a wide range of cost in bad-
minton equipment. There are complete
outfits ranging in price from $10 to $22.50
and including from 2 to 4 rackets, net,
posts, tape and shuttlecocks. The better
rackets in the Spalding badminton line
cost $10 each.

It looks like badminton equipment is due
for a pretty fair sale at pro-shops next
season, inasmuch as the equipment is an
extra-profit line for the pro and does not
conflict with his golf interest. Spalding
branches will furnish pros with complete
details.