

U.S.G.A. Annual Report

Records Busy Year

COMMITTEE reports submitted at thirty-sixth annual meeting of U. S. G. A., New York, January 11 carried following interesting details:

Rules of Golf—Urged club committees to give careful attention to local rules and that committees in charge of local tournaments carefully prescribe conditions of play, especially halved matches in handicap competition. Rules committee reiterates its position that halved matches should be decided by another 18-hole match with handicaps.

Championship—As qualifying round was only incidental to amateur championship, both Jones and Homans were awarded medalist honors instead of playing off. Same award of medal at women's championship to Virginia Van Wie and Helen Hicks. Total entries in 19 sectional qualifying rounds for national open was 1,000.

Membership—Net gain of 44 member clubs, bringing total to 1,100.

Amateur Status—Over-ruled request of Massachusetts, Metropolitan and Pennsylvania golf associations that U. S. G. A. sanction payment of traveling expenses of Lesley cup teams, stating: "The committee believes that the best interests of the game require strict enforcement of the present amateur rules and not the creation of further exceptions. * * * The proposed amendment and its resulting extension to all forms of team competitions might easily tend towards commercializing the sport and encourage a group of players whose sole activity might be that of playing on golf teams throughout the country with expenses paid. * * * It may be that the present rules governing amateur status do work a hardship on a few players. * * * The committee has sought * * * to base its action on the principles of simple honesty and high sportsmanship."

Implements and the Ball—Withheld approval from new putters representing radical departures. Approved new double wall tubular shaft. Commended establishment of hickory shaft standards. Decided against including "at this time" specification covering resilience of new 1.68 in. dia.

and 1.55 oz. new ball. Reports "the new standard ball is slightly more resilient than the present ball."

Selection of Courses—Awarded amateur to Merion Cricket club (date to be announced); open to Interlachen C. C., July 10-12 (open qualifying courses and dates to be announced); women's to Los Angeles C. C., October 13-18; public links to Jacksonville (Fla.) municipal course, August 5-9. "A number of invitations" received for 1931 and 1932 championships.

Green Section—Special attention paid to control of leaf-spot grass diseases at Arlington. Further work necessary before recommendations may be made. Increase area of velvet bent trials. Worked with universities of Chicago, Minnesota and Wisconsin at no expense to Green section. Chicago work on physiological problems, and Wisconsin and Minnesota on snow-mold. Continued "usual small amount of financial assistance" to state experiment stations in New Jersey, Florida, Nebraska and Kansas. Consolidated reports on the 15 golf course demonstration turf gardens and those at Massachusetts Agricultural college and Leland Stanford university. Promoted extension work by correspondence, visits and garden work at Arlington and Mill Road. Increased appropriation by \$9,420.75.

General—Presented petition to members of Finance committee of Senate and Ways and Means committee of House pointing out injustice of 10 per cent federal tax and asked that it be repealed. Launched lusty and persistent effort to get all golf clubs to do their part in securing repeal of tax.

Treasurer—Receipts, \$99,832.85, of which the two big items were dues, \$32,130.00, and admissions, \$36,636.16 (amateur, 1929, \$12,000.00; open, 1929, \$20,456.00; women's, 1929, \$2,284.75; Walker cup, 1928, \$1,895.41). Receipts from entry fees were \$7,030.00, of which \$5,000.00 was open entry fees.

Disbursements were \$89,742.94, of which the biggest items were Green section, \$36,879.26; administration expenses, \$14,862.70.