

U. S. G. A. Clarifies Rules at 1931 Meeting

DURING 1930 there were 54 additional clubs elected to membership in the U. S. G. A., bringing the total up to 1,154, according to the report of the Executive committee of the association submitted at the organization's annual meeting held in New York Jan. 10.

H. H. Ramsay, chairman of the Rules of Golf committee, and the new president of the association, announced a number of decisions and interpretations clarifying the rules. Among those that probably will be most frequently employed are the following:

Grass covered side walls leading to a bunker are not part of the bunker.

If a ball can not be found in ground under repair, it must be considered a lost ball under Rule 22. Dirt may be cleaned from a ball lifted from ground under repair.

There is no limitation as to the number of strokes a player may play with a provisional ball before arriving at the approximate location of the ball believed to be lost or unplayable.

The player is the sole judge as to when his ball is unplayable.

It is the opinion of the Rules of Golf committee that where handicap matches result in a tie, the tie should be decided by another round of 18 holes.

Reference was made, in the Amateur Status and Conduct committee's report, to the large increase in cases brought before it as a result of the popularity of the capsule golf courses. Cash prizes in such cases were prohibited amateurs.

Disagreement with the Royal and Ancient was reported by the Committee on Implements and the Ball in the case of the "Ruffex" iron marking.

Tribute was paid to the golf ball manufacturers for their co-operation in introducing the new ball. According to Herbert Jacques, chairman of the Implement and Ball committee, the demand for the new ball on June, 1930, was 10%, which grew to 30% in August and in September became 50% of ball sales in the U. S.

To assist in ironing out the qualifying miseries of the Amateur, the announcement was made that hereafter aspiring golfers will qualify for the event in local elimination tests, like the qualifying rounds of the Open.

June 8 was announced as the date of the

National Open qualifying round in the various sections. The Open will be played at Inverness, Toledo, July 2, 3 and 4.

The Green Section report stated that Dr. K. F. Kellerman, associate chief of the bureau of plant industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, will serve as action chairman of the Green Section's Research committee during Dr. Oakley's absence. Dr. Monteith compiled the report for the Green Section committee which is headed by Wynant D. Vanderpool, and referred in detail to the Section's work in research, education and advisory capacities. Reference was made to the Section's contributions of \$1,000 each to turf work done at New Brunswick, N. J., and State College, Pa., and to the activities at the Arlington, Midwest and other turf gardens. There are 24 demonstration turf gardens at various golf clubs. The Green Section employs these strategically located establishments in much of its work.

In announcing its plans for 1931 the Green Section referred to the problems of insect pests and fairway improvement as apparently calling for the big play. Ants and mole crickets were named as the damndest of offenders. Monteith said, in the report, "If some of the cheaper insecticides are found to be as effective against some turf insects as is arsenate of lead, the saving to a single club might easily support research work on insect control for several years."

Elsewhere he outlined the policy in fairway improvement research by saying: "Some of the fairway problems which we or others are not equipped to answer definitely are: best methods of preparing, fertilizing and seeding soils for fairway purposes; fertilizing programs including source of material, time of application, and rotation of various fertilizers; best seed mixtures for various soils and climatic conditions; best use of water; best height to cut; control of weeds (particularly clover); renovation of poor, weedy turf; perpetuation of good Bermuda turf; the place of carpet grass in southern fairways; propagation of centipede grass in the south; and treatment best suited to bring about recovery from emergencies such as the drought of this summer."

The executive committee also reported continuation of the effort to have golf taxes reduced.

The U. S. G. A. share of the gate receipts this year was highest in the game's American history.