

Golfdom

The Business Journal of Golf

FEBRUARY, 1937

Vol. 11 • No. 2

GOLF IS HEALTHY

**USGA, at Annual Meeting, Reports
Sport's Vast Gain During 1936**

DURING the past year, the USGA gained, net, 25 clubs in its membership. Total membership as of Nov. 30, 1936, was 792. The rise in membership was one of the numerous items reported at the forty-third annual meeting of the association, held at New York Jan. 9, which gave basis to the statement of the USGA executive committee; "Golf was unusually healthy in 1936 and gives every promise of continuing so through the coming year."

The reduction of armaments to fourteen clubs, effective January 1, 1938, "to restore to the game some of the individual shot-making skill lost through the introduction of a multiplicity of clubs" and a return to the older idea of conducting the National Amateur championship with the first two days being devoted to medal play, were the two major changes in operations announced at the meeting. Sectional qualifying rounds will be retained. There will be 64 qualifiers for medal play, two match play rounds on each of the third and fourth days of the Amateur and the semi-finals and final at 36 holes match play.

Effect of the fourteen club ruling is uncertain, so far as club manufacturers are concerned. They are sweating no blood in futile worry and in some well-informed quarters are rather relieved because there had been talk about cutting under the 14 limit. Pros see in the restriction a drop in the sale of approaching clubs. Both pros

and manufacturers say the national average of clubs in player use is well under 14, but that the players who are the most active shop customers have from 16 to 19 clubs.

Tournament pros this year will be experimenting to see what 14 clubs they will use as their selection. Prior to each major tournament after January 1, 1938 they intend to play practice rounds and choose their 14 clubs for the event from the practice round findings.

Fifty-one Players Regain "Mr." Rights

Interesting and unusual was the number of players reinstated to amateur standing. Fifty-one men were restored to non-commercial grace. Seven were turned down. Thirty-two applications are pending. Seventy other inquiries were received concerning reinstatement procedure and 76 requests were filed for interpretation of the pro and amateur definitions.

In this matter there shines forth the policy of the USGA which has been responsible for the strength and favor it enjoys "with the consent of the governed." The executive committee in commenting on

the amateur status rulings said: "It is necessary to look upon the intent of the player rather than to emphasize the letter of the law."

Public links players whose clubs belong to the USGA will have to confine their national tournament play either to the Public Links tournament or the National Amateur. The USGA has ruled they can't play in both.

Unusually large during 1936 was the number of inquiries about golf rules. The rulings on golf law and clarification of involved cases draw heavily on the committeemen's time of the USGA. An all-star troupe of veteran golfers, legal notables and commercial experts form the USGA rules of golf committee and their work probably results in the elimination of assault and battery and tart words between golf club members of far greater nuisance cost than the entire sum collected annually in dues by the USGA.

Stymie Up Again

Hearings were held on the stymie controversy. Intriguing arguments were presented on both sides. E. B. Badger, president of the Massachusetts GA suggested a classified national poll on the matter. The suggestion is being considered as the most logical means yet proposed of finding out actually what the score is on the stymie. The stymie controversy is foggy because so many of the rank and file golfers who are strong in protests against the stymie, have played the stymie little or not at all.

Substantial evidence of the value of the Green Section's work was shown in the report of Frank M. Hardt, chairman. Green-chairmen of approximately 2,500 clubs received an index of the Section's 15 years' work in turf research. From this mailing 20 applications for USGA membership directly resulted. Activities of the reorganized Committee on Sectional Affairs in broadcasting news of the Green Section's work also is beginning to have an effect in letting club officials know that through the Green Section service alone a club is ahead considerably more than it pays dues to the USGA.

Cooperative tests on chemical weed control were conducted at more than 100 courses supplementary to the work done at Arlington under the direction of Dr. John Monteith. General recommendations on chemical weed control soon will be published as a result of the Section's work.

There also will be published soon information concerning the interesting and effective use of aniline dyes in controlling turf diseases. During the year, visits were made to golf courses in 22 states and in Canada. H. F. A. North, formerly of the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment station joined Monteith's staff in Washington, taking place left vacant when Ken Welton resigned.

Financially the USGA scored better in 1936 than in 1935, ending the fiscal year Nov. 30, 1936 with a surplus of \$62,886.75.

High lights of the financial statement:

Dues income	\$23,295.00
Tournament income	26,648.24
Green Section expense	13,418.20
Curtis Cup expenses.....	6,998.06
Walker Cup expenses.....	2,063.24
Administrative and general expense	16,200.40

Tournament net income, after deduction of prize money, badges, scoring and other expenses from the entry fees, USGA half of the gallery fees, etc.:

Open	\$13,645.55
Amateur	10,642.91
Women's	1,959.52
Public Links	400.26

How Is Club's Fire Insurance? Here Are Recent Losses

BECAUSE country clubs rarely have an adequate supply of water for fire fighting, clubhouse fires are generally complete if a fire starts. And this fact, in turn, suggests that club officials would do well to check into the amount of insurance now being carried on the club buildings.

Among recent clubhouse fires, with amount of loss, were: VanSchaick Island CC, Cohoes, N. Y., \$10,000; Cedarbrook CC, Cedarbrook, Pa., nominal; Lincoln Memorial CC, Atlanta, \$2,000; Spring Valley G&CC, Huntington, W. Va., \$25,000; Aberdeen CC, Aberdeen, Miss.; Shuttle Meadow CC, New Britain, Conn., \$10,000; Locust Hill CC, Pittsford, N. Y. \$20,000; North Birmingham GC, Birmingham, Ala., \$1,500.

Set St. Augustine Match Play Dates—March 17-21 are the days for the third annual National Amateur-Professional Best-Ball Match Play championship, to be contested again on St. Augustine (Fla.) Links. Dates have been okayed by the PGA. Purse for this new classic has been increased to \$3,000.