

USGA Reports on Golf in '39

Ruling body, in annual statement, tells of committees' activities and plans for the coming season

HAROLD W. PIERCE, Country Club, Brookline, Mass., former treasurer and chairman of the Green Section committee of the USGA, became president of the organization at its annual meeting, held Jan. 6 at Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York. The association's membership as of Nov. 30, 1939, was 816, a fair gain since the low of 1935 when the USGA had 767 members, but considerably below its 1931 high of 1,154.

Solicitation of member clubs through greater publicity on USGA services is planned to be conducted energetically during 1940.

Among interesting notes in the 1939 Executive Committee reports was indication of lively interest in golf rules; 35,000 copies of the Rules booklet being disposed of by the USGA.

The USGA surplus fell off \$1,638.64 during the year. It was reported as of Nov. 30, 1939, as \$82,244.16.

Open and Women's national championships showed a net increase in USGA income over the 1939 tournaments. Murderously hot weather during the 1939 National Amateur knocked it about \$2,300

under the previous year's income. The 1940 deficit on the Public Links was \$150 greater. The Public Links field was 2,401 in the 33 qualifying sections. It's the world's largest major golf competition.

USGA net income from tournaments (entry fees, admissions, program advertising and sales, etc.):

	1939	1938
Open	\$13,877.60	\$10,536.86
Amateur	6,006.38	8,387.82
Women's	2,728.96	2,513.17
Public Links....	272.55 (L)	120.39 (L)
Total	\$22,340.39	\$21,344.46

Executive committee announced retention of the trial stymie rule, and prohibition of testing of greens by scraping with clubs and otherwise.

Highlights of committee reports:

Rules of Golf—Provisional ball, applying to ball in water hazard, to be discussed with R. & A. Attention was again called to the fact that 4-ball matches, where players are in stroke and match competition simultaneously, are not regularly constituted matches.

No cardboard or composition linings to be used in cups.

Urges committees to definitely settle all competitive regulations before any tournament begins.

Championship—Had sirens to notify contestants of discontinuance of play in event of storm. Foreigners wishing to play in US Open or Amateur will be required to qualify sectionally, "although exceptions may be made under certain circumstances."

Announced 1940 calendar. Advised of cancellation of Curtis Cup matches. Reported R. & A. had not officially cancelled Walker Cup matches, scheduled for Town & Country club, St. Paul, Aug. 30 and 31.

Women's—Increased maximum handicap for National from 6 to 8 strokes.

Public Links—Successful use of sectional qualifying to be continued.

Amateur Status—Minimum age limit for violation of amateur status now is 18 years in all cases. "Border-line" cases of amateurism to be strictly interpreted.

Recommended careful investigation of cash prize "competitions sponsored for commercial publicity." "In many cases acceptance of cash prizes offered in such competitions constitutes a breach of the amateur definition."

Application for reinstatement as amateurs refused 17; granted to 65.

Implements & Ball—In collaboration with Research Foundation of Armour Institute of Technology, committee is attempting "practical performance tests" of balls. At work on draft of specifications covering scoring of iron club faces. Speci-

fications to become effective in 1941.

Membership—During the year 59 clubs were elected or reinstated, compared with 51 in 1938. Reminded that USGA membership is open to "any regularly organized club, regardless of whether it owns or controls the course on which it plays."

Sectional Affairs—Plans nation-wide study of uniform system of handicapping.

Museum—More than 60 sources contributed to the USGA Museum in 1939. Clubs and balls of US and British champions, donated.

General Counsel—Caddie status under Social Security acts and unemployment insurance laws, still varies in different states.

Pros on concession basis only, not subject to Social Security Act; pros who get salary and concessions, are regarded as employees of the club.

Cites US District Court for District of Massachusetts decision holding fees for golf and tennis, as distinguished from dues and assessments, not subject to Internal Revenue Law with reference to tax on dues and admissions.

Notes importance of clubs carrying proper Workmen's Compensation Insurance.

Green Section—Extensive examinations of samples sent in by member clubs. Recognition of value of the Section's advisory service and demand for such service continues to increase. Section unable to make personal inspection of courses in all

U. S. G. A. 1940

OFFICERS

President, Harold W. Pierce, The Country Club, Brookline, Mass.

Vice-Presidents, George W. Blossom, Jr., Onwentsia Club, Lake Forest, Ill.; Morton G. Bogue, National Golf Links of America, Southampton, N. Y.

Secretary, Frank M. Hardt, Merion Cricket Club, Haverford, Pa.

Treasurer, Jess W. Sweetser, Siwanoy CC, Bronxville, N. Y.

Counsel, Charles W. Littlefield, Montclair (N. J.) GC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

John H. Ballinger, Seattle (Wash.) GC; George W. Blossom, Jr.; Morton G. Bogue; Edward L. Cheyney, The Country Club, Cleveland, Ohio; Leslie Cooke, Bob O'Link GC, Highland Park, Ill.; Frank M. Hardt; W. F. Nicholson, Denver (Colo.)

CC; Francis D. Ouimet, Woodland GC, Auburndale, Mass.; Harold W. Pierce; Charles V. Rainwater, Atlanta (Ga.) AC; Jess W. Sweetser; Thomas Telfer, Claremont CC, Oakland, Cal.; Fielding Wallace, Augusta (Ga.) National GC.

Pierce has been a member of the Assn's Executive Committee continuously since Oct. 30, 1933, at which time he was elected Treasurer to fill the vacancy created by the death of Charles H. Sabin. He served as Treasurer until Jan., 1938, when he became a vice-president. He has been chairman of the Championship Committee since 1936. Pierce joined The Country Club, Brookline, in 1918, and has been chairman of its golf committee since Dec., 1926. He has long been a partner in the banking firm of Tucker, Anthony & Co., New York and Boston.

cases requesting such service.

Educational program expanded. Arlington session highly successful. New publication, *Turf Culture*, successfully begun with 3 numbers, with material on weed control, turf grasses and fertilizers.

Newer strains at Arlington receive greenkeepers' approval. Enlargement of experimental work on grasses at Arlington, and on 32 new experimental greens of 19 strains of bent, installed in various

parts of the country.

Work on fertilizers, weed control, disease control and soil improvement at Arlington station summarized as revealing increasingly valuable results.

Intercollegiate Affairs—National Collegiate AA now sponsoring the National Intercollegiate championship, in cooperation with USGA. The 1939 Intercollegiate drew a record field of 181 competitors from 47 colleges.



WE'RE WINNING OUR CRAB GRASS FIGHT

By Mac Taylor

Pro-Greenkeeper, Blue Ridge CC, Palmerton, Pa.

THOSE clubs whose labor budget cannot, and does not, include money for hand-weeding, or those whose greens are so infested with crab grass that hand-weeding is out of the question, are in line for chemical weed control. The use of sodium arsenite is justified when the infestation is so large that hand-weeding will be too expensive and destructive.

There is also this to be said about the use of sodium arsenite. The greenkeeper, his chairman and his members must become reconciled to brown, spotty greens for three to four weeks—brown and spotty but withal, true and dry. Before going into means and methods, I would like to explain how we came to use sodium arsenite at this course. When I came here last March I didn't know how much crab I had in my greens and the 'Jersey bent' got beyond our control. So I asked my chairman for an emergency appropriation to put caddies to work weeding one of our worst greens. I had told him about the arsenite treatment, but I couldn't tell him anything from experience for I had never used it. We were both a bit afraid

of it, so we went to work hand-weeding.

Eight caddies put in 144 man hours and completed only 1,500 square feet of green! That breaks down into 8.8 sq. ft. per hour per man! That gives a rough idea how infested the greens were, for the boys were careful and thorough, getting each individual plant.

It also gives an idea how expensive hand-weeding would be for an entire course. When they got through (we stopped before they did the entire green), that piece of turf looked as though a barrage had hit it.

It was then we decided on sodium arsenite. Whatever the results might be—they couldn't be any worse than the results of hand-weeding.

How Quantity Was Decided

We put the sodium arsenite on wet, using a barrel sprayer, hand-operated; one hose line from the water outlet at the green, another line from the pump to the fan nozzle. To find the amount of solution needed to cover 1,000 sq. ft., we made a test using only water and found that 30 gals. would give adequate coverage at 45 lbs. pressure without using the water line. The efficacy of sodium arsenite depends on a number of elements. Humidity, temperature, permeability of the soil, age of the crab grass plant and dryness of the leaves, all govern. Having nothing to go on except other men's experience, and having conditions at hand peculiar to this course, we pooled the resources of our knowledge and went to work, thus:

We first plotted each green into sec-