

Amateurs, Beware!

Golf solons, at annual meeting, clarify amateur code and warn simon-pures to obey the spirit of amateurism, or take the consequences

AT the 47th annual meeting of the USGA, held Jan. 11, the Executive Committee reported 1940 was a satisfactory year both for golf and the affairs of the association, with few new trends of importance.

Highlight of the meeting was the announcement that regulations pertaining to amateur eligibility have been extensively revised, after careful, long study by the USGA. The spirit of the old simon-pure code is retained, but there are added clarifications.

Amateur standing has always been lost for accepting compensation for instructing the game. The USGA now outlines specific taboos, including either oral or written instruction, demonstrations or pictures, whether to groups or individuals. Exempt are full-time faculty members of recognized institutions of learning who devote only a minor part of their duties to golf instruction, and limit their instruction to the institution's students.

Okay Nominal Prizes Only

Henceforth, amateur tourney prizes of unusual money value or capable of being readily turned into cash are to be frowned on, as are merchandise certificates which do not limit the purpose to which the orders may be put. Especially reprehensible,

in the eyes of the USGA, is the practice followed by some winners of collecting certificates during a season and cashing them in a bunch for wearing apparel, etc., instead of using them for golf equipment or other specified articles.

The code was somewhat relaxed in one respect—hereafter players wishing to regain their amateur standing will need to go through a probationary period of only two years instead of three, as heretofore, before making application to the USGA.

Gain in Income

The USGA's four championships had large entry lists and excellent galleries, with the result that net tournament income for the year was \$28,700 as against \$22,400 in 1939, a gain of better than \$6,000. Income from broadcasting rights at the championships was \$7,500 as against \$5,000 the year before, thus adding \$2,500 more to the income side of the ledger. Dues (\$24,000) and miscellaneous income (\$1,100) were not greatly different in the two years, so that the total income of the USGA was \$61,136.55 in 1940 as against \$52,479.96 in 1939.

On the expense side, the association spent \$26,000 for administrative and general expenses (\$2,700 more than in 1939), \$27,000 for the Green Section (\$2,500 up

Minnesota Greenkeepers Assn. held a merry winter carnival at the Country Club, Minneapolis, Jan. 17. Joe Rush, pres. of the organization, Art Jensen, v-p., Stan Graves, sec., and Victor Larson, treas., headed the gala assembly of greenkeepers and their wives, club officials and other friends who defied the wintry blasts of the north countree in holding the annual midwinter party.

from 1939), and donated an ambulance to the Royal and Ancient GC of St. Andrews, Scotland, which cost \$1,350. The golf ball testing machine, on which the USGA spent \$5,000 in 1939, required an additional \$1,800 for its completion this year. Research work on golf balls and clubs amounted to \$1,500, an item not included in the 1939 statement. Total expenses amounted to \$58,879.91.

Net result of the year's operations was to add \$2,256.64 to the USGA's surplus, to bring it to \$84,500.80.

Election of officers was a routine matter; all 1940 incumbents were returned to office for another term, with Harold W. Pierce (The Country Club, Brookline, Mass.) retained as president. Personnel of the Executive Committee will be the same for 1941 as in 1940.

Interesting excerpts from the various committee reports follow:

Rules of Golf—" . . . golfers generally have taken more interest in the Rules than hitherto . . . during year committee issued 180 formal decisions and opinions and many informal ones . . . 32,000 copies of Rules booklet disposed of . . . committee has decided not to attempt any revision of the Rules until it is possible to consult with the R&A, in the interest of uniformity of play here and abroad."

Championship—" . . . regret war conditions which caused cancellation of Curtis and Walker Cup matches . . . 4,680 players (59 more than in 1939) entered USGA's four championships . . . Public Links had entry of 2,601, largest field in history . . . admission receipts for Open largest since 1930 . . . limiting Amateur field to 150 (instead of 170 as in 1939) permitted whole field to play both rounds of qualifying competition, proved popular and will be continued . . . effective in 1941, all former Open champions will be exempt from qualifying rounds (as is true of Amateur and Public Links), and for 1942 the exemptions for performance in the 1941 event will be reduced to the low 25

and ties (low 30 heretofore) . . . 1941 championship dates: Open, June 5-7, Colonial Club, Ft. Worth, Tex.; Amateur, Aug. 25-30, Omaha (Nebr.) Field Club; Public Links, July 14-19, Indian Canyon GCse, Spokane, Wash.; Women's, Sept. 8-13, The CC, Brookline, Mass.; Intercollegiate, June 23-28, Ohio State Univ. GC, Columbus, Ohio."

Implements and Ball—" . . . manufacturing specifications on scoring or ribbing of iron clubs evolved to become effective Jan. 1, 1942 . . . ball testing machine, built for USGA by Research Foundation of Armour Institute of Technology, has been used to test performance of many dozens of golf balls; results are being carefully compiled and studied, but no report planned for a time . . . eighteen clubs of various types and design submitted to committee during year rejected for non-conformity with traditional design."

Amateur Status and Conduct—" . . . fifty-seven golfers applied for reinstatement to amateur standing during year, of which 16 were denied and 41 accepted."

Membership—" . . . number of member clubs same in 1940 as a year ago, 816 . . . quality of membership has been improved by shortening period for which club may be in arrears for dues . . . in 1940, issued booklet describing USGA's functions and aims and distributed 9,000 copies to clubs (member and non-member), the press, PGA and GSA members, district golf bodies, etc. . . . sent questionnaire to 3,250 non-member clubs asking why those clubs did not belong to USGA."

Sectional Affairs—" . . . increased committee to 51 members; no section of the U.S. is without representation . . . now cooperating with Amateur Status committee in investigating matters involving amateur standing . . . during year, each member sent questionnaire to various associations and member clubs in his district, asking opinions on a uniform system of handicapping for entire country; from data collected, no definite recommendations arrived at, but material collected has been turned over to USGA committee on handicapping for attention."

International Relations—" . . . continuance of war has suspended usual activities of this committee . . . fully equipped ambulance given R&A Golf Club of St.

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Andrews; in acknowledgment, sec'y of R&A announced he had arranged for the ambulance to be assigned to the St. Andrews First Aid Zone."

Museum—"... thirty donors further improved the Association's museum in 1940... now have interesting exhibit of clubs, balls, literature, medals, documents and other items of historical interest... would be glad to receive still further contributions... cordially invite visitors to the museum, located in USGA's New York office, 73 E. 57th Street."

General Counsel—(See report printed in full, page 48, this issue).

Green Section—"... many member clubs in 23 states visited by members of Green Section staff... usual extensive correspondence conducted... staff members took part in short course programs at state colleges of Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin, as well as the GSA convention and many local greenkeeping organizations and golf associations... third annual Arlington Turf meeting attracted 200 green-chairmen and superintendents... Arlington turf garden now has 736 plots of turf grasses under observation, representing 230 strains... experiments being continued on fairway fertilization, soil improvement, chemical control of weeds, control of earth worms, sod webworms and other pests."

**Explanation of Hartford's
Unique Tourney Available**

HARTFORD (Conn.) district "progressive" golf tournament which has been played for 7 consecutive years, changed its routine in its seventh presentation. Number of courses was reduced to 5, starting with 4 holes at Goodwin Park and finishing the 18 with 4 holes at the Hartford CC where the annual dinner was held.

It's an interesting event for any district in which there are several clubs fairly close together. Details of the Hartford tournament may be secured from Rupert Rothwell, Municipal Bldg., Hartford, as long as additional mimeographed instruction sheets for the tournament last. Better send along 6 cents in stamps; no use in putting a good guy to all the expense and trouble to give you the complete information.

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