

the USGA constitution including at least 6 "selected from present or past officers of governing boards of different state, district or sectional golf associations in the U.S."

Nominating committee consisted of J. Frederic Byers, Edward P. Allis, Paul Farrans, John W. Hughes and Heywood H. Whaples. The 1948 nominating committee will consist of A. M. Reid, William O. Blaney, Keith Conaway, James L. Garard and E. E. Lowrey.

### USGA MAY MAKE AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP ALL MATCH PLAY

The USGA is considering a proposal to change the plan for the Amateur championship by making it entirely at match play.

This would eliminate the 36-hole qualifying competition on the first two days. Instead, there would be one 18-hole match play round on each of those days, bringing the field to 64 players. Thereafter, the championship would proceed according to the plan now used, with two 18-hole match rounds on the third day, two 18-hole match rounds on the fourth day, 36-hole semi-finals on the fifth day, and a 36-hole final on the last day.

Players eligible would, as heretofore, be determined by 36-hole stroke play sectional qualifying rounds throughout the country, with former champions exempt.

Before action is taken on the proposal by the USGA Executive Committee, Francis Ouimet, Chairman of the Championship committee, intends to poll the 149 players in the 1948 Amateur championship for their opinions.

If the championship proper were entirely at match play, it would be possible to accommodate as many as 210 competitors. Under the present system, 150 is considered the maximum number who can be conveniently accommodated.

Five of the association's 46 Amateur Championships held thus far have been entirely at match play; those of 1895, 1903, 1934, 1935, and 1936.

### JACK BLACK, ELYRIA PRO, PASSES

—Jack Black, for 17 years pro at Elyria (O.) CC died late in November. Jack was one of the thinning ranks of veteran Scots pros who endeared themselves to American golfers by the cheerful, expert and diligent service they gave to the building of golf in the U. S. In editorial tribute to Jack the Elyria Chronicle-Telegram said, "Literally hundreds of caddies had come under his supervision and through such contacts he had been an influence for good on the lives of many persons." The editorial quoted Neely Powers, pres., Elyria CC:

"To hundreds of men and women in Elyria, and many away from home, the death of Jack Black means the loss of a whimsical

friend, a mentor, a real teacher of the art of golf. Golf isn't easy; the man you expect to play well just doesn't and the woman you expect to be a dub just isn't. The difference is largely a matter of the professional, the teacher.

"Jack Black was more than a golf professional; he was an institution. For 35 years he taught, implored, shot scathing criticism from a pair of twinkling eyes, teased and lifted from their very bootstraps hundreds of youngsters who are now adults and who love to reminisce about the way Jack Black taught them.

"Jack Black was an individual who simply was not aware that any such a thing as difference in birth or class existed. This complete democracy was best illustrated by the remark of a member of the Country Club who said, 'I would rather be cussed by Jack Black than praised by most people.'

"Jack Black belonged to that strong and 'burry voiced' clan of Scotchmen who came over about 36 years ago and whose craftsmanship has left its permanent mark on the finest golf clubs in the United States. Many of the Cleveland area and Eastern clubs were staffed in their golf professional ranks by these men.

"Jack Black never lost the burr of a Scotchman. Sometimes it rasped and raised to a roar at some repetition of golf idiocy of which all are capable; at other times it would purr like a kitten, but when it did, one had better be careful and watch for a whimsical trap.

"One day Jack was asked how it was that so many of them came from the same little towns in Scotland and were such good golfers. His story was illustrative of the man. He would say, 'Why mon, we lived in a one street town and we had one golf ball; the houses were close on both sides; we had to hit the ball straight or we didn't have any golf ball, and we didn't play any more golf.'

"He never lost a friend and the caddies adored him.

"There will be a niche reserved for men of Jack's kind. Those strong compatriots of his, those long, gaunt, reserved and laconic Scotchmen will gather together in Valhalla where the fairways are narrow and green, the traps deep and overhung, the streams cool and gurgling, the rough deep and tough and they will hit them far and straight, and comment dryly that this is the life eternal where there are no dubs, no green-committee chairmen, where par is normal play and where champions foregather for strong living and good play."

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## SUPPLIES and EQUIPMENT?

Reliable sources are ready to serve you. See page 61.

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