

USGA Moves to Raise Funds For Permanent Quarters

By JOHN M. BRENNAN

After being installed as president of the USGA at its annual meeting, Jan. 28, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York, James D. Standish, Jr. of Detroit revealed a plan to establish USGA headquarters in a building of its own, preferably in mid-Manhattan.

Standish said a number of locations are under consideration and that a drive for funds will be started in the near future. Daniel A. Freeman, Jr. of New York, retiring treasurer, was named chairman of the nation-wide committee to invite contributions.

The present USGA quarters are inadequate for the augmented office force, museum and library. As a result, the Executive Committee decided to launch the drive to raise funds to create "Golf House," the name of the new headquarters.

"The association is in serious need of larger quarters," Standish read from a prepared statement to the largest meeting of delegates in the history of the USGA. "We need larger quarters to carry on regular work, which has expanded considerably since the war, but also to house properly the USGA museum and library. These were started in 1936 but have outgrown their quarters in the present small New York office. As a result, many fine items and books cannot be exhibited but must be stored and the entire collection cannot be cared for as it deserves.

"The USGA Executive Committee considers it in the best interests of golf that there be a permanent exhibit under USGA auspices of items of historical value—clubs, balls, photographs, etchings, documents and so forth. It is equally desirable that the USGA's fine golf library, including the greenkeeping lore of the Green section, be available for easy reference by golfers generally. Inasmuch as the USGA's resources are not adequate to purchase new headquarters, golf-lovers are being invited to help found Golf House."

Actually, the moguls of the bunkered world hope to create a shrine somewhat similar to baseball's "Hall of Fame" at Cooperstown, N.Y. No estimate as to the amount of money necessary to build, or

purchase, Golf House, was given by Standish, or committee members.

Interest in play by the Rules, Standish revealed, was never wider. The number of formal decisions issued by the USGA during the past year reached 262 to establish a record. He indicated the ideals of amateurism were broadly supported and several cases of questionable status were cleared up, some players forfeiting their simon-pure standing. Appreciation and observance of the Rules regarding golf balls and clubs never seemed better, the president declared.

Standish cited many interesting points in USGA progress during 1949. These are detailed in USGA committee reports in this issue of GOLFDOM. It was revealed that USGA operations produced an excess of income over expenses for the first time in three years. It was revealed that for 1947 and 1948, the USGA sustained an aggregate net loss of \$24,095 caused mainly by financing trips abroad of the 1947 Walker Cup and the 1948 Curtis Cup teams.

These losses, the Executive Committee pointed out, have more than been balanced by excess income of \$24,155 during 1949.

Rules Changes Considered

Isaac Grainger of Montclair, N.J., newly elected vice-president and chairman of the Rules of Golf Committee, declared that work of clarifying and simplifying the rules is being continued.

"Some changes in the rules are being considered for 1950," asserted Grainger, "and these will be published shortly." The chairman's report to the delegates revealed the breach between the Royal and Ancient Golf Club and the USGA is wider than ever.

Grainger explained that the Rules Committee must adopt a "wait-and-see" attitude regarding the British changes in the code. "I think the game itself has stood the test of time," averred Grainger. "It's like the baseball player who didn't touch third base, but almost did. It would be the popular thing to say he did. The British have probably done the popular thing in the liberalizing of penalties, but there is no doubt that what they have

done has been disturbing to us. Let us stay on the sidelines and get the benefit of their study, for they are trying out their rules for a two-year period."

James W. Walker, chairman of the amateur status and conduct committee, pointed out, reinstatement procedure has been liberalized to permit exceptions, in specific cases, in favor of players whose violations were of secondary nature or merely technical even though exceeding five years. Of 55 applications for reinstatement, 48 were granted last year.

Walker's committee frowns upon the allowing of expense money to amateurs and is strongly opposed to the granting of scholarships through subsidization programs in colleges. Walker drew a comparison between organized gambling and friendly wagers or informal club sweepstakes.

The USGA, in the near future, is considering taking some steps to limit the compression of a golf ball, John D. Ames of Chicago, chairman of the implements and ball committee, revealed.

"The committee has seriously considered recommending the addition of one more factor to the specifications for the golf ball," said Ames. "It is compression. Although a decision may not be made for some time, the matter is receiving consideration, in the hope that some figure may be arrived at for compression, resulting from tests made on equipment

that will be satisfactory to all manufacturers."

Question also came up, Ames said, concerning possible approval of embodying a radioactive substance in the golf ball. While this is an interesting question, the matter has not arrived at anywhere near a controversial stage and no action has been taken.

In his championship committee report, Richard S. Tufts of Pinehurst, N.C., cautioned slow players to speed up play. He said the size of fields will have to be reduced, if slow players continue to limit course capacity.

Inducted with President Standish were Totten P. Heffelfinger of Minneapolis, vice-president, Grainger, vice-president; Tufts, secretary and Ames, treasurer. Fraser M. Horn of Southampton, L.I., was named general counsel.

The chairmen of the 1950 committees named by President Standish include: Rules of Golf, Heffelfinger; championship, Ames; junior, Tufts; amateur status, Walker; membership, Lewis A. Latham, San Francisco, Calif.; implements and ball, Charles B. Grace, Bridgeport, Pa.; sectional affairs, Charles L. Pierson, Brookline, Mass.; public links, Heffelfinger; green section, Tufts; public relations, Ames; international relations, Charles W. Littlefield; handicap, William O. Blainey; museum, Walker, and women's, Miss Frances E. Stebbins, Bos-

1950 Tournament Schedule

FEBRUARY

- 2-5 Tucson (Ariz.) Open Inv., El Rio G&CC
- 9-12 Texas Open, Brackenridge Park GC and Ft. Sam Houston GC, San Antonio.
- 13-18 National Championship of Golf Club Champions, St. Augustine (Fla.) Links.
- 16-19 Rio Grande Valley Open Invitation, Harlingen (Tex.) Municipal GC.
- 21-26 Mixed Foursome, Open, Dubs-dread CC, Orlando, Fla.
- 23-26 Houston (Tex.) Open Inv., Pine Forest CC.

MARCH

- 2-5 St. Petersburg (Fla.) Open Inv., Lakewood CC.
- 7 La Gorce CC, Pro-Amateur Inv., Miami Beach, Fla.
- 9-12 Miami Beach (Fla.) Open Inv., Normandy Isle and Bay Shore GC.

- 13-15 Seminole CC, Pro-Amateur Inv., Palm Beach, Fla.
- 16-19 11th Annual Women's Titleholders Open, Augusta (Ga.) CC.
- 17-20 Jacksonville (Fla.) Open Inv., Municipal GC.
- 22 Aiken (S.C.) Pro-Amateur Inv., Palmetto GC.
- 23-26 Greensboro (N.C.) Open Inv., Sedgfield CC.
- 30-Apr. 2 Wilmington (N.C.) Open Inv., Cape Fear CC.

APRIL

- 6-9 Masters' Augusta (Ga.) National GC.
- 17-22 50th Annual North and South Invitation Amateur Championship.
- 24-29 48th North and South Invitation Championship for Women.