

# Briefs of Committee Reports at USGA Annual Meeting

High spots of annual report of USGA 1949 committees, released at annual meeting, Jan. 28, 1950:

## EXECUTIVE—

**Fielding Wallace, retiring pres.:**

Instituting Girls' junior championship, bringing total of USGA annual championships to six.

Membership at record high of 1,395. In four years a net increase of 644.

First year of sectional qualifying rounds for Women's championship.

For the six championships 5,511 entrants. For five events have qualifying rounds, 156 sectional qualifying competitions.

Excess of income over expenses for first year in three years. Excess in 1949: \$24,155.

Now appropriating annually for international matches abroad so expense of such affairs will draw from reserve instead of hitting hard in year of the foreign travel.

Appointment of John B. English as asst. executive sec.

## RULES OF GOLF—

**Isaac B. Grainger, chmn.:**

Made largest number of decisions on rules of golf during any one year: 262.

Continued study of possible conflicts of rules, arrangement and of language. 1950 Edition of the rules probably will reflect results of these studies.

"Some disappointment from the adoption by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, of a new set of Rules, somewhat liberal in contrast to our own." Hope for "uniformity in principle if not in language" when USGA and R&A have contemplated joint meeting in spring, 1951.

## CHAMPIONSHIP—

**Richard S. Tufts, chmn.:**

Gallery attendance greater than since days of Bob Jones.

Every winner and every runner-up in USGA male championships except Public Links came from small town.

Increased entry fee from \$5 to \$7 in Open, Amateur and Women's championships; first time in USGA history change was made in entry fees.

Set aside a reserve to care for any deficiency in income budgeted for championships and washed out by bad weather.

Fund of \$4000 established in 1949 toward expenses of future international matches.

Increasing tendency toward slow play necessitated a reduction in number of places in sectional qualifying rounds for the Open. "Careful play is commendable but nothing is gained from pernicious habit of dallying over a shot before its execution," is the polite way Dick Tufts puts the snail nuisance in his report. He adds, "Many a potential champion will never reach the site of the championship if players continue to limit the size of the field by unnecessary slow play."

Set up special committee to conduct boy's junior amateur championship in future.

This year 50th USGA Open, Amateur and Women's.

Asked for entries early in this year's championships. Many entries received in NY USGA headquarters too late in previous years.

## IMPLEMENTS AND BALL—

**John D. Ames, chmn.:**

Fewer inquiries than "in many a year" regarding legality of implements. Indicates much wider understanding of specifications.

Bought torsion balance for accurately weighing balls.

Set up ball testing machine at Heintz Mfg. Co., Philadelphia. Testing of balls for speed per second, size and weight to be resumed in spring, 1950. In position to make tests on any ball submitted, for nominal sum.

Considering recommending the addition of compression to golf ball specifications.

No change to be made in "sandwedge" specifications.

Approval given convex bulges from top to bottom of golf clubs.

## AMATEUR STATUS AND CONDUCT—

**James W. Walker, chmn.:**

Adopted new provision "to clarify amateur code and to cooperate with PGA"—A player now forfeits amateur status by "taking any action which clearly indicates the intention of becoming a professional golfer."

"The rules of Amateur Status as now promulgated are considered sufficiently flexible to cover all aspects of the contro-

versial subject of amateurism vs. professionalism."

"We strongly feel that gambling should be kept well within bounds to avoid ultimate commercialization of amateur golf."

Requests frequently received for exceptions to rule of amateur accepting expenses but requests "must be uniformly denied."

Reinstatement procedure liberal. Of 55 applications for reinstatement, 48 were granted.

#### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE—

Daniel A. Freeman, Jr., chmn.:

Membership of 1,395 represents increase of 115 over 1948, previous high. Members Nov. 30, 1949:

##### Regular Membership

18 holes or more .....	967
Less than 18 holes .....	358
Total regular .....	1,325

##### Associate Membership

18 holes or more .....	45
Less than 18 holes .....	27
Total Associate .....	70

#### SECTIONAL AFFAIRS—

William C. Hunt, chmn.:

Held first of meetings to be regular feature during National Amateur.

Conducted membership campaign and campaign for USGA Journal.

Assisted in conduct of sectional qualifying rounds, in rules observance and in providing local viewpoints on amateur status cases.

#### WOMEN'S COMMITTEE—

Miss Frances E. Stebbins, chmn.:

33 entrants in first girls' junior championship for Mrs. Edwin H. Vares, Jr., perpetual trophy.

Women's for first time entirely at match play, due to 16 sectional qualifying sessions at 36 holes over two days.

1950 Curtis Cup match will be at 36 holes, for first time. Change from 18 holes proposed by Ladies' Golf Union which sponsors the British team.

#### PUBLIC LINKS COMMITTEE—

Totton P. Heffelfinger, chmn.:

Entry fee increased by 50 cents to \$3.50 of which \$1 is remitted to USGA and rest retained sectionally to finance players' expenses within USGA limits.

California players again pre-eminent in the Public Links. Three of four Publinox champions since war have been Californians.

#### HANDICAP COMMITTEE—

William O. Blaney, chmn.:

Considering changes in 1947 edition of the USGA Golf Handicap system. Among those proposed is "issuance of provisional handicaps to players with fewer than 50 posted scores." Also, "adding recommen-

dations to help associations when first using our course rating methods."

Hopes to be able to publish changes in system "before the 1950 playing season becomes too active."

#### GREEN SECTION—

James D. Standish, Jr., chmn.:

"Steady and gratifying growth in co-operative work all over the country." During fiscal year \$6,602 was contributed to co-operative research through the Green Section.

National program of drainage and aeration has paid handsome dividends in better turf. "Next attempt will be to awaken consciousness for water conservation in every phase of turf management."

Green Section staff traveled 54,000 miles in attending more than 50 turf conferences in 23 states.

In 1950 it probably will be necessary to request travel refunds from sponsoring organizations for attendance at educational functions.

"Turf Management for Golf Courses" edited by Prof. H. B. Musser, completed.

Cooperative testing of grass strains at experiment stations.

Research grants to experiment stations being discontinued as facilities become available for turf research fellowships.

Studies begun on mineral nutrition of turf grasses.

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE—

John D. Ames, chmn.:

Pushed USGA Journal paid circulation to 5,332.

#### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE—

Charles W. Littlefield, chmn.:

British Walker Cup team visit.

#### MUSEUM COMMITTEE—

C. Pardee Erdman, chmn.:

Acknowledged contributions from 27 donors.

#### TREASURER—Daniel A. Freeman, Jr.:

Total income .....	\$92,077
Dues income .....	41,510
Open net .....	28,450
Amateur net .....	16,799
Women's net .....	2,847
Public Links net .....	986
Boys' Junior net .....	391
Girls' Junior net (loss) .....	229
No admission income at Public Links, boys' or girls'.	

Walker Cup admissions \$4,172; expenses \$3,160.

Total administrative, publication and general expenses—\$58,321 (\$130 less than previous year).

Total Green Section expenses—\$32,968 (\$2,159 less than previous year).