

USGA Annual Report Shows Highest Membership; 1,448

Highlights of USGA annual report released at the association's annual meeting, Jan. 27:

More than 3,700 golfers, clubs and associations have contributed \$68,000 toward \$100,000 needed for paying for Golf House, USGA new headquarters.

Gross gate receipts at 1950 National Open set record, with USGA share being \$29,701. Men's amateur income to USGA of \$12,224 was about \$4,500 under 1949. Women's amateur income to USGA of \$5,121 was about \$2,300 ahead of previous year. Publinx income of \$1,476 up about \$400. Junior boys and girls tournament lost small amounts. "Golden Anniversary" Open prize money increased to \$15,000 with \$4000 first, \$2,500 second and every 72-hole score collecting.

Association excess of income over expense for year was \$8,012. Sum of \$3,000 was appropriated for Walker Cup matches at Birkdale, Eng., June 8 and 9.

USGA membership at new high of 1,448 clubs; gain of 53 in a year.

Play by twos instead of threes in final 36 holes of National Open reduced time of play.

No significant changes in 1951 Rules book, but some slight changes in language.

Changes in rules governing form and make of golf club now permit convexity on vertical as well as horizontal plane of club faces (concavity of club faces on either plane still is prohibited), and clarified prohibition of grips molded to the hands or with furrows.

Green Section's Busiest Year

Green Section had its busiest and most successful year, making excellent use of the net \$34,570 expense. By cooperation with 22 state experimental stations and its own development work at Beltsville, Md., the

Green Section made available to USGA member clubs vast and valuable service. Decentralization program started in 1945 by Dr. Fred Grau, Green Section director, has the Green Section and Grau and his staff extending this field work as far as personnel and time permit.

Turf Research Review for 1951 detailing turf research projects and personnel being completed. Publication of the USGA-sponsored "Turf Management", an authoritative text book by H. B. Musser with an editorial board appointed by USGA was completed in 1950.

Dr. Marvin H. Ferguson assumed full charge of turf research for the Green Section staff and Charles Wilson went on full time office, experimental plots and extension work. Chmn. Richard S. Tufts, in making the report emphasized the Green Section's advice that clubs establish nurseries of improved turf grasses.

Women's committee announced that there will be no sectional qualification for Women's National, but 18 hole qualifying, the low 64 to qualify and a numerical draw for match play pairing.

Handicap committee reported that only about a third of the nation's 150 golf associations replied to a questionnaire concerning a generally satisfactory handicapping system. Of associations using or recommending some handicapping system the USGA system is preferred by two-thirds. The committee suggests uniform course rating throughout the country.

Tax Ruling Noted

The USGA General Counsel expressed the belief that public courses are required to collect a federal admissions tax, according to Supreme court decision in Wilmette Park District vs. Campbell, 338 U.S. 411. The USGA General Counsel report added: "On the other hand, it is felt that,

USGA NAMES WALKER CUP TEAM

Personnel of the U.S. 1951 Walker Cup team was announced at the USGA annual meeting. Willie Turnesa had previously been named captain. Other members are: Sam Urzetta, Frank Stranahan, Dick Chapman, Charley Coe, Harold Paddock, Jr., Jimmy McHale, Bill Campbell, Robert W. Knowles, Jr.

Alternates are: Al Mengert, Harvie Ward, Frank Holscher, Wm. (Dynamite) Goodloe and Dow Finsterwald.

The team will sail for Britain April 29, compete for the Walker Cup at Birkdale May 11 and 12 and stay over to compete in the British Amateur at Royal Porthcawl GC, Cardiff, Wales, May 21-26.