

USGA Raps PGA for Keeping 'Soft Rules' in Tournament Play

Open Purse to be Increased; Handicap Decision Deferred

By HERB GRAFFIS

The United States Golf Assn. at its 68th annual meeting inducted into office an administration headed by John M. Winters, Jr., of Southern Hills CC, Tulsa. Winters several times has been a contender in the USGA Seniors championship.

The annual report of the USGA Executive committee, presented at the meeting in the Biltmore hotel, New York on Jan. 27, showed numerous reasons why the USGA is rated by authoritative sports writers and by persons with extensive experience in sports the best governed sports organization, amateur or professional, in the U. S.

Highlights of the USGA Executive committee annual report:

To USGA annual national championships has been added a 9th, the Senior Women's. Time and place for the first championship to be played this year, is to be set. The USGA championships in 1961 had 9,480 entrants, an increase of 3.9 per cent over 1960's record high. For five championships a record 230 sectional qualifying rounds were played. Amateur and Junior Amateur had record entries.

Rules of Golf: Experiments with easing the out-of-bounds penalty in 1960 were disappointing. The 1961 revisions were a little more popular in U. S. Possible changes in rules on repair of ball marks, use of flagstick as backstop and striking another ball within 20 yds. from hole. The USGA rapped "distressing deviation" in Rules of Golf instituted by the PGA

tournament committee. It regards as "most disappointing" the PGA decision to continue with softer rules for tour events in 1962. These deviations are for a group which includes about one per 10,000 U.S. golfers. Otherwise prospects for worldwide uniformity in Rules of Golf, to be agreed on by USGA and R&A, look good.

Championship: The purse of \$68,300 was the largest in Open history. It is to be raised this year. Eligibility for Open is to be softened for 1962 with 10 leading touring money-winners for the 12 months preceding the close of entries for the Open to be exempt from qualifying.

Amateur Status: Acceptance of scholarships or grants-in-aid won as prizes before 18th birthday are prohibited. It is okay for an amateur to participate in commercially-sponsored TV programs as long as he or she isn't tied in with a program commercial. It is not okay for physical education teachers to teach golf if they want to remain amateurs. USGA deviation from the R&A Amateur Status rule continues. The latter approves amateur status of "Teachers of physical training or other subjects whose duties include instruction in games to pupils of a recognized educational establishment." The USGA maintains that PE teachers who include golf in physical education of school boys and girls encroach upon the "professionals' legitimate field."

Implements and Ball: Although tests

indicate clubface roughness doesn't increase backspin, the average backspin is "much greater with a rough-face club." Hence, regulations will be continued. Tests to determine resilience of golf balls won't result in any change in ball regulations except after a review of "tentative rule" with ball manufacturers, if a change is suggested.

Handicap: Investigation of possibility of USGA calculating and issuing handicaps based on USGA system is "inconclusive." It is questionable whether "enough clubs or players would be willing to pay for such service." This, at least, defers the alarm of sectional associations that USGA might reduce an important source of their income by competing in the handicap card business. The new USGA handicap record form, making low scores more conspicuous, was adopted.

Membership: This reached a new high for 16th consecutive year. A total of 2,548 clubs now belong to the USGA.

Green Section: Sponsored a new edition of Musser's "Turf Management." At annual meeting presented to Prof. Lawrence S. Dickinson second annual green section award for his invaluable work in establishing at University of Mass., Amherst, the first course in turf management, and for pioneering in course maintenance cost study and turf research application. The green section's national research coordinator and Mid-continent director, Marvin H. Ferguson, is preparing a booklet on maintenance problems affected by course design and construction. The green section visiting service to subscribers increased in 1961 to 1,268. The service has 823 courses enrolled.

Women: Three former USGA Girls' Junior champions were in the 1961 USGA Women's amateur field. Baltusrol, where 1961 USGA Women's Open was won by Mickey Wright, was host to its 10th USGA championship. A new system of course rating has many courses re-rated for women's par.

Public Links: Honolulu won the Harding trophy. USGA committee says "Michigan Public Links GA could well serve as a model for all state public links associations."

Girls' Junior: New award of pin to girls who have played in five or more USGA Girls' Junior championships given to nine who played in 1961 championships at Broadmoor GC, Seattle.

Seniors: A total of 477 competed in

qualifying rounds in 31 sections for 116 of the 120 places available at the seventh annual USGA Seniors; four didn't have to qualify for the championship played at Southern Hills CC, Tulsa.

Bob Jones Award: This award was made at the 1962 meeting to Horton Smith who, due to illness, was unable to accept in person. Jimmy Thomson accepted for Smith.

General Counsel: Continued effort to get Federal tax on club dues and initiation fees reduced from 20 to 10 per cent.

Treasurer: Although the USGA anticipated a deficit there was net income of \$29,164. Unappropriated surplus at end of 1961 fiscal year was \$381,083. Income for year was \$330,225 of which net income from tournaments was \$43,728 (after deducting pro rate of administrative and general expenses.) Open net was \$84,437; Amateur was \$18,918; and Women's Amateur was \$11,027.

Rutgers Holds 3-Day Turf Meeting at Forsgate CC

Rutgers University staged a three-day turf meeting late in January at Forsgate CC, Jamesburg, N. J., with 125 members of the New Jersey GCSA attending. Ralph



William Riley, R. P. Korbobo, Ralph E. Engel, Stephen Bachelder and H. W. Indyk (l to r) at Forsgate CC meeting.

E. Engel, agronomist with the school's college of agriculture, was the program coordinator. Fundamentals of turf management, development of new techniques in the field and research progress were the main topics of discussion.

Persons who spoke at the three-day session included William Riley, pres. of the N. J. GCSA; R. P. Korbobo, Rutgers extension specialist in landscape design; Stephen Bachelder, research specialist in the college's plant pathology dept.; and H. W. Indyk, extension specialist in turf management at Rutgers.