

# U.S.G.A. Annual Report

## Records Busy Year

COMMITTEE reports submitted at thirty-sixth annual meeting of U. S. G. A., New York, January 11 carried following interesting details:

*Rules of Golf*—Urged club committees to give careful attention to local rules and that committees in charge of local tournaments carefully prescribe conditions of play, especially halved matches in handicap competition. Rules committee reiterates its position that halved matches should be decided by another 18-hole match with handicaps.

*Championship*—As qualifying round was only incidental to amateur championship, both Jones and Homans were awarded medalist honors instead of playing off. Same award of medal at women's championship to Virginia Van Wie and Helen Hicks. Total entries in 19 sectional qualifying rounds for national open was 1,000.

*Membership*—Net gain of 44 member clubs, bringing total to 1,100.

*Amateur Status*—Over-ruled request of Massachusetts, Metropolitan and Pennsylvania golf associations that U. S. G. A. sanction payment of traveling expenses of Lesley cup teams, stating: "The committee believes that the best interests of the game require strict enforcement of the present amateur rules and not the creation of further exceptions. \* \* \* The proposed amendment and its resulting extension to all forms of team competitions might easily tend towards commercializing the sport and encourage a group of players whose sole activity might be that of playing on golf teams throughout the country with expenses paid. \* \* \* It may be that the present rules governing amateur status do work a hardship on a few players. \* \* \* The committee has sought \* \* \* to base its action on the principles of simple honesty and high sportsmanship."

*Implements and the Ball*—Withheld approval from new putters representing radical departures. Approved new double wall tubular shaft. Commended establishment of hickory shaft standards. Decided against including "at this time" specification covering resilience of new 1.68 in. dia.

and 1.55 oz. new ball. Reports "the new standard ball is slightly more resilient than the present ball."

*Selection of Courses*—Awarded amateur to Merion Cricket club (date to be announced); open to Interlachen C. C., July 10-12 (open qualifying courses and dates to be announced); women's to Los Angeles C. C., October 13-18; public links to Jacksonville (Fla.) municipal course, August 5-9. "A number of invitations" received for 1931 and 1932 championships.

*Green Section*—Special attention paid to control of leaf-spot grass diseases at Arlington. Further work necessary before recommendations may be made. Increase area of velvet bent trials. Worked with universities of Chicago, Minnesota and Wisconsin at no expense to Green section. Chicago work on physiological problems, and Wisconsin and Minnesota on snow-mold. Continued "usual small amount of financial assistance" to state experiment stations in New Jersey, Florida, Nebraska and Kansas. Consolidated reports on the 15 golf course demonstration turf gardens and those at Massachusetts Agricultural college and Leland Stanford university. Promoted extension work by correspondence, visits and garden work at Arlington and Mill Road. Increased appropriation by \$9,420.75.

*General*—Presented petition to members of Finance committee of Senate and Ways and Means committee of House pointing out injustice of 10 per cent federal tax and asked that it be repealed. Launched lusty and persistent effort to get all golf clubs to do their part in securing repeal of tax.

*Treasurer*—Receipts, \$99,832.85, of which the two big items were dues, \$32,130.00, and admissions, \$36,636.16 (amateur, 1929, \$12,000.00; open, 1929, \$20,456.00; women's, 1929, \$2,284.75; Walker cup, 1928, \$1,895.41). Receipts from entry fees were \$7,030.00, of which \$5,000.00 was open entry fees.

Disbursements were \$89,742.94, of which the biggest items were Green section, \$36,879.26; administration expenses, \$14,862.70.

# Green Section Meet Reveals and Team

By T. H. RIGGS-MILLER

THE annual meeting of the U. S. G. A. Green Section, January 10, at Biltmore Hotel, New York City, was presided over by H. Y. Barrow, former president of the Metropolitan Golf association. First of the speakers was Wynant D. Vanderpool, chairman of the U. S. G. A. Green section, who, in reading the annual report, explained that the meeting had been reduced to a single session for Friday afternoon instead of three sessions as heretofore. The reason given was that the field meetings during the year made the former length of annual meeting unnecessary.

Other speakers were Dr. K. F. Kellerman, associate chief of the bureau of Plant Industry; Prof. F. H. Hillman, of the Seed laboratory of the U. S. department of agriculture; C. S. Lee, green-chairman of the Jekyl Island G. C., Brunswick, Ga.; Dr. T. P. Hinman, from the Druids Hill C. C., Atlanta, Ga., and Dr. Monteith, of the Green section.

Dr. Kellerman spoke of the recent fertilizer experiments on tobacco, and how a series of investigations along the same line might be carried out on turf grass plants. Professor Hillman's subject was the different phases of bent grass seed.

Mr. Lee told of the ravages of the mole cricket on sandy soils of Georgia. From what could be gathered, once these pests infest your golf course the best thing to do is to move somewhere else, as has been done at Jekyl Island.

Dr. Hinman, the next speaker, also is from Georgia. However, in the section from which he comes there is no trouble with the mole cricket. Yet there is something equally bad to contend with, and that is nut grass. The Doctor gives the same advice as Mr. Lee to anyone who is contemplating laying out a course on ground infested with nut grass, "Don't."

Dr. Hinman went on to give a very interesting talk on methods adopted by a number of golf courses in the bermuda grass region of the South. He explained

that bermuda grass turns brown or dies with the first spell of cold weather, although the putting qualities of the greens are not destroyed immediately. It does become stubby towards the middle of winter, and if play be persisted in, the come-back of the grass in the spring would be retarded.

## Two Sets of Greens

For many years sand greens were used in Atlanta. Then came the gradual development of grass. Like many other Southern courses, they shaved down the bermuda grass to the roots and sowed rye and red top, which would give fair putting greens until it was pushed out by the bermuda in the spring. Atlantans play golf twelve months a year, so the system of using temporary greens for an indefinite period each year was found to be unsatisfactory. Therefore, they have devised a scheme of having one very large green divided in halves or two separate greens entirely—the latter being voted the best method.

The procedure then is to prepare winter greens about October by sowing rye grass. This is ready for play about the first of December. A very satisfactory putting surface is maintained for a month or six weeks, then poa annua takes possession and forms extraordinarily good greens until about June, when the bermuda pushes it out again. By this time the bermuda greens, which have been entirely covered with straw or cotton-seed hulls (for the double purpose of keeping the grass at an even temperature and preventing the germination of poa annua) are ready for play. There are a number of bermuda species, some of which make greens as perfect as the fine Northern grasses.

At the conclusion of the meeting Dr. Monteith gave a resume of the green section work for the year. Experimental stations have been started north, southeast

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# Need of Understanding work

## THE SECTION'S VIEWPOINT

WITH the earnest desire to help in removing the misunderstanding that continues to exist between some of the greenkeepers and the Green section, GOLFDOM has been able to get comment from the other side of the case on the greenkeeper's presentation of the section's meeting and operating policy.

The statement is unofficial, although it was made to GOLFDOM by a man well acquainted with the Green section's policies and operations so any prevailing misunderstanding could be cleared up. Lack of time prevented an effort to get an official statement. GOLFDOM asks Riggs-Miller to cover the annual meeting from the greenkeepers' viewpoint, and takes this opportunity to thank him for bringing out into the open some criticism that hitherto has been sort of a complaining back-stage murmur.

To our way of thinking it is high time that there be a firm basis of clear understanding and hearty co-operation between all the greenkeepers and the Green section. Beyond any doubt both factors have the same aim and hope of maintenance improvement, so why not every outward, as well as every inward, evidence of teamwork?

Pretty little tombstones mark a lot of spots where rest the remains of young mortals who kissed themselves into family misunderstandings in the hope that the world would be sweeter with all living in harmony, but nevertheless—well, maybe Barnum had us in mind.

Now, for the Green section side:

The Green section meetings this year were attended to a far greater extent than the combined attendance of the three previous years and invitations extended to members of the section's staff for addresses before greenkeepers' meetings have been more numerous this year than ever before. This initial evidence does not indicate that greenkeepers hold any appreciable amount of antagonism against the section. What Riggs-Miller

says about the extent of the section staff's traveling may have some merit but the greater part of the travel is in response to greenkeeper's request. Mr. Dahl and Mr. Harrison, representing half of the section's staff, are not available for such out-of-town calls for service.

About the statement on research policy. Good research workers in any line take nothing for granted. One does not learn anything new if he starts with the hypothesis that everything is known on the subject. It seems that this criticism is self-contradictory for if, as Riggs-Miller says, "fundamentals were established two decades ago," why the urge for more experimental work?

The financial aid of the government, without which the Green section could not function, was a major factor in locating the station at Arlington. Mr. Leach, at the Greenkeepers' convention in Buffalo, told something of the financial restrictions on Green section operations and gave the greenkeepers a fair idea of the cost of turf research work, which is far beyond the average estimate.

If one is to study flood control he goes to a region where flood problems are acute, not to a desert. Likewise, turf problems must be studied where they are most acute. And they are acute in the Washington zone.

With respect to the criticism of red fescue for putting greens it should be remembered that the Green section never claimed red fescue could not produce the good turf under certain specialized conditions. The Green section never has sponsored a law forbidding its use and as free-born American citizens the greenkeepers certainly are entitled to use that grass, if they so desire.

Green section demonstration plots are in charge of good greenkeepers for whose experience, performance and professional integrity the section has the highest respect. The organization is not political, and for that reason is intent upon finding out what turf wants rather than what individuals want. That is a fact

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# *Punch* in the shot *Punch* in the sales!

**T**HIS amazing new line of Wilson Pro's Own clubs and the Wilson Pro's Own business-building letter campaign make a combination that **EVERY** Pro who plans to make 1930 a record breaking year positively should investigate...

**T**HE Pro's Own Campaign consists of a series of direct mail pieces that will develop business for the professional with his club members. It gives him one of the tried and proven instruments of modern advertising which he can put to work for his own advantage. Write for particulars.



**...right now!**

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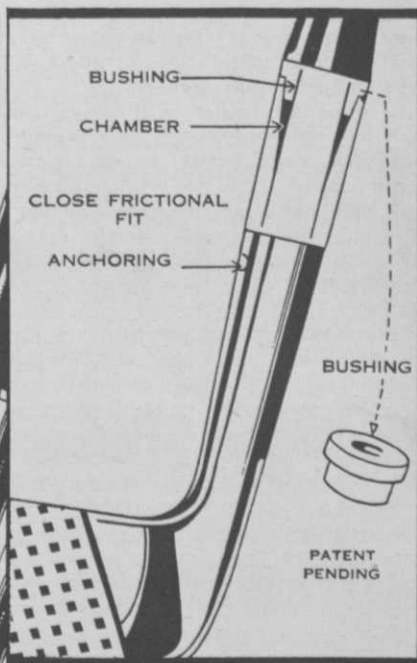
## HOSEL FOR STEEL SHAFTS

One of the greatest improvements ever made in golf equipment—complete insulation against shock in steel-shafted irons and yet no curtailment of desired torsion.

Bushing of specially prepared balata compound removes every particle of sting that usually deadens the fineness of touch.

Another feature of this development is the anchoring of shaft to club head. This precludes any possibility of club head becoming loose.

Now you can have all the style and appearance that goes with steel shafts, plus the sole remaining virtue claimed for hickory.



The Wilson Pro line of clubs bearing your own name exclusively protects one of your greatest assets  
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## GOLF EQUIPMENT

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When you mention GOLFDOM the advertiser knows you mean business



# Atkins Boys Are Pro Star Service Team

By JAWN HELLER

DOWN amidst the rolling golfing country of Piedmont, Carolina, at the Sedgefield Country Club, which is a feature of the popular Sedgefield resort, near Greensboro, N. C., they have a rather unusual and interesting arrangement as regards their professionals.

It is not altogether in the fact that the club has two full-fledged professionals, or rather co-professionals, of equal standing and responsibility, in addition to assistants and shop personnel, that the unusualness of the arrangement lies. Of greater interest in the situation, perhaps, is that the Sedgefield co-professionals are brothers, both above and "under their skins," as well as brothers in vocation. Also, though not entirely pertinent to the point of the discussion, like one of Kipling's rather colorful characters, their name in Atkins—not Tommy, if you please, but Herman and Ramon, respectively.

In installing the Atkins brothers in their professional shop, the Sedgefield Country Club wished to try out a particular experiment, an experiment which can be said to have worked out a hundred per cent satisfactorily. What the club sought was a professional partnership that, first of all, would be made up of professionals in the real sense of the word, that is, bang-up instructors and clubmakers, and at the same time a combination that could satisfactorily attend to the business end of the shop and be on the job at all times to see that the shop was running smoothly.

Too often a good professional has lost caste in the good graces of the board of directors, not as the result of any outright flagrancy upon his part, but merely because, unlike the geni of the fairy books,

he could not be about umpteen different places at the same time. A good assistant is invaluable, but he does not fill the bill when, for instance, the pro himself is wanted to give Mrs. Smith a lesson, play a round with Bill Jones, explain about John Brown's broken shaft, show Mr. Whoosis that new matched set, see that O. U. Grouch's score is applied to his handicap rating, or any one of almost innumerable demands which he is often expected to attend to all at one and the same identical moment. Unfortunately for the career and reputation of many a good man, it just simply "can't be did."

## Split the Work

Now, here is where the Atkins brothers have provided a most happy combination at the Sedgefield club. Partners and both fully qualified professionals, one of them is always in the shop to keep the wheels moving and the machinery running smoothly while the other may be accomplishing similar things on the outside.

The Atkins brothers have been holding down the co-professional position at the Sedgefield club for a year, and during this time the excellent results of such an arrangement have become very evident, with benefits both to themselves and the club as a whole. One phase of the arrangement worthy of notice is the good results obtained in lessons and instruction. Nat-

urally good instructors, the opportunity to concentrate to the fullest while giving a lesson, without worrying, subconsciously or otherwise, about what may be going on in the shop has enabled the Atkins brothers to retain a name for themselves as teachers of the Ancient and Honorable game. This, of course, works both ways, and goes a long



On the left, Herman; the right, Ramon. The Atkins brothers who rate four stars as Sedgefield's pros.

# THEY'RE CHANGING TO SURE-GRIPS

**"SURE-GRIPS"** give you a new reason for selling golf clubs—and your customers a new reason for buying them. "Sure-Grips" are not "just another golf club"—they're definitely a means to better playing, due to their exclusive patented construction features.

Their special "non-skid" grip means more accurate shooting, greater distance, and better direction—because an easy natural grip is sufficient to control the grip. They end the "tightening up" that leads to hooks and slices. "Sure-Grips" will mean "new sales" for you—not just replacement business.



**SEND FOR ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲  
THE "SURE-GRIP"  
STORY AND ▲ ▲ ▲  
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**B**ESIDES the new grip this line has every high quality feature—selected hickory or steel shafts—braided thread winding—well-known imported and domestic heads. Write for complete information and for details of our complete selling plan.

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### THE MODERN GOLF CLUB

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We are Exclusive  
**U. S. AGENTS**  
for the  
World Famous  
**HENDRY  
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an adequate stock  
in all weights will  
be carried in  
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able for ship-  
ment.



Sedgefield's pro shop is an inviting place to loaf and talk golf—AND TO BUY!

way toward making better players and increased interest among the club's golfing membership.

Another angle to the situation is that of the satisfied customer. A satisfied customer is worth as much to the golf shop as he is to any other line of business, and an arrangement which can allow for an efficient oversight of the club-making and club-cleaning departments, attention to shop atmosphere, and maintenance of an attractive merchandizing plant, coupled with a modern filing and business system, is one that is certain to bring results.

### Shop Specially Designed

In this connection it may be pointed out that the equipment and arrangement of the shop, and the business management policy adhered to, may be favorably compared to any golf shop anywhere. The shop is fortunate in that it was completely designed by an architect for this purpose, thus making for greatest attractiveness and the minimum of waste space. The office and display room are separate from the work room. Following a policy of keeping goods of quality only, these are shown to advantage in six display cases, including wall glass cases, built-in display stands for clubs, and several floor display stands. On the wall is a large glass enclosed bulletin board. A large inviting fireplace, library table containing a number of golf and general periodicals, office desk

and files, and attractive wall and mantel ornaments complete the display room interior.

In the work room, which opens from the display and office room, are racks for about 300 bags against one wall. The racks are numbered with metal tags, as are all golf bags, and there is also a stand to receive sets to be cleaned. The list for the regular "club cleaning" service is of the Kardex type, and contains removable slides for name plates so that it can be kept up to date at all times. On the opposite side of the room from the club racks are the work benches and club cleaning machines.

Three sets of books in conjunction with modern filing systems enable the professionals to keep an accurate check on their business. A card index system is used to check all stock, inventory being taken at a definite period and recorded on these cards. Additional stock purchased is entered in its proper place, and each week all stock sold during the past week is recorded. The card system provides places for "inventory," "goods purchased" and "goods sold," which enables a check of stock easily at any time.

The club member charging goods signs a form, which at the end of the day is filed, and regularly these forms are taken out and entered on a loose leaf ledger. At the same time they are checked to show that they have been entered, and refilled in



# It is the only STEEL shaft with TORSION

*It absorbs the finger-sting on every shot*

It is a steel shafted club. Swing it. You will wonder why there is no hand shock when club head meets the ball, not the slightest bit of jar or sting. You will find it difficult to believe that it actually is a steel shaft.

Real torsion, the *natural* shock absorber, is the only vital feature that steel shafts heretofore have lacked. Today you can get clubs of your favorite make, with Bristol *Torsion* Steel Shafts. A big improvement over the old-fashioned torsionless steel shafts. Feel a club with the new Bristol *Torsion*

Steel Shaft. Try one on the fairway, while the air is brisk and the ground is hard. Expect the sweetest-feeling shots you ever hit.

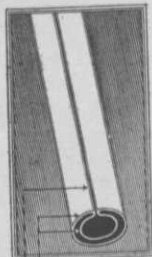
Bristol does *not* make clubs. Bristol makes only the shafts. Club-makers fit their quality clubs with Bristol Torsion Steel Shafts.

Drop us a post card for the current issue of Bristolite, our newsy golf publication. The Horton Manufacturing Company, 182 Horton Street, Bristol, Connecticut.

**BRISTOL**  
*Torsion*  
**STEEL SHAFTS**  
ALAN LARD - PATENT PENDING

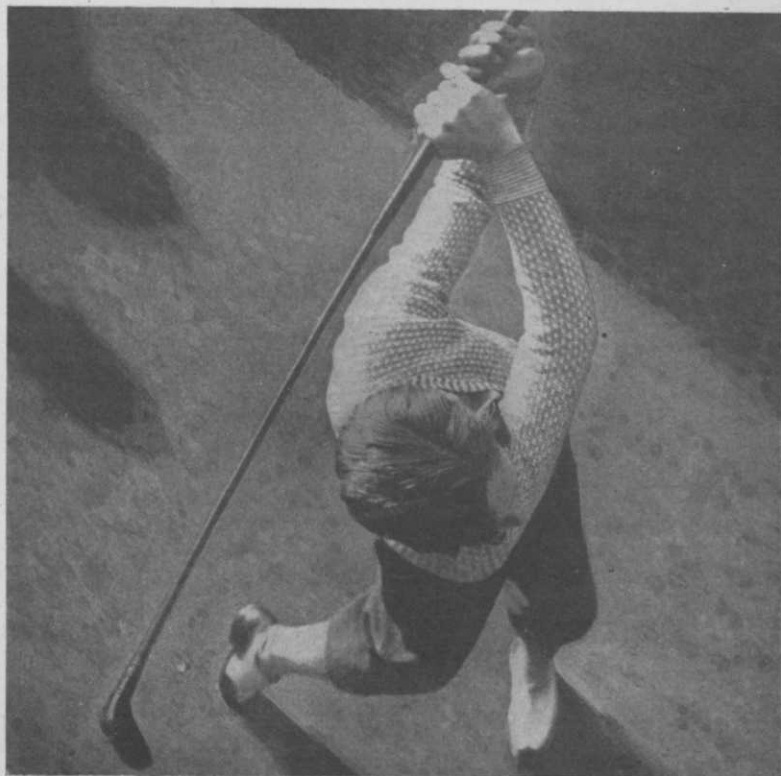


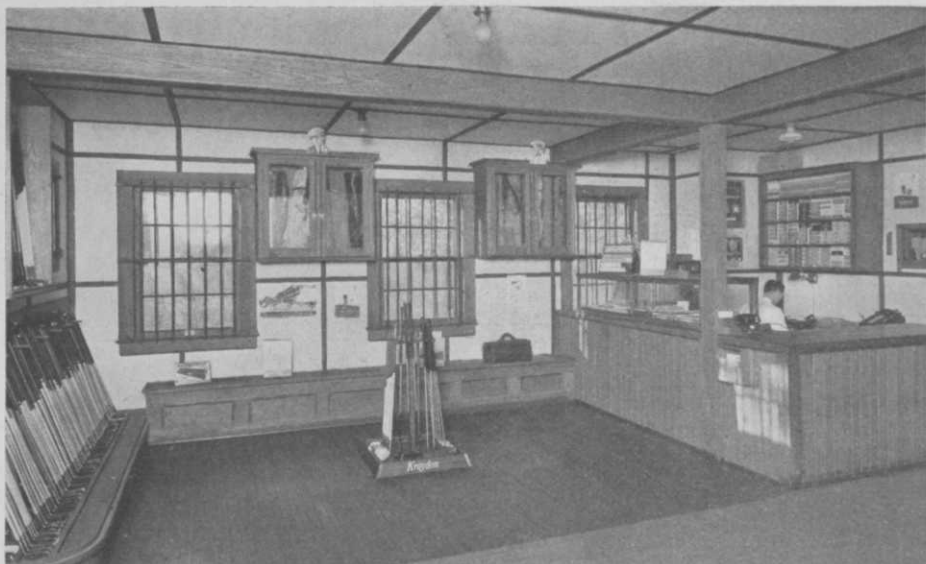
When you buy a golf club, iron or wood, look for the Bristol Torsion trade mark and the open torsion seam on the shaft. It is this seam that makes torsion possible. Double steel walls give greater strength and power without increasing the weight.



**TRY THIS TEST**  
Grasp the grip tightly in the left hand twist the club head to the right. Feel the slight torsion twist and immediate rebound in the Bristol *Torsion* Steel Shaft, just as in fine hickory... Impossible in all other steel shafts.

*There is no stoly hand-shock if it is a Torsion Steel Shaft.*





Here's another view of the trim and business-like shop of the Atkins boys at Sedgefield.

another cabinet, from which they are taken and destroyed when the account is paid. In signing for anything there can be no later complaint as to the correctness of the charge.

A day book is used for every transaction, cash or charge, as a double check and a permanent record. Another fine system is the "daily record of business," from which can be seen what departments are gaining or losing and the remedy supplied. The daily record carries the following items: balls, new clubs, lessons, repairs, tees, bags, apparel, old clubs, miscellaneous, club rental, care of clubs and shafts.

### Know Where They Stand

From these systems a very accurate percentage of

profits is determined, and the gross and net business of the shop become a matter of knowledge and not guess work. These systems are not complicated, but quite simple, and only require about a half hour at the end of each day to operate. The office is equipped with every modern machine that could be used to advantage.

At regular intervals the entire membership of the club are mailed circular letters or special literature, which keeps them in touch with the professional's shop and any new developments. This personal touch has been found invaluable in helping boost sales and making friends.

That is the story — the story of how the Sedgefield Country club has tried and



The entrance to the golf shop at Sedgefield with the Atkins brothers, Albert Gossett, veteran caddie-master, and the shop assistant, on the porch.