FEBRUARY, 1935

A TOUGH COVERED BALL FOR 1935

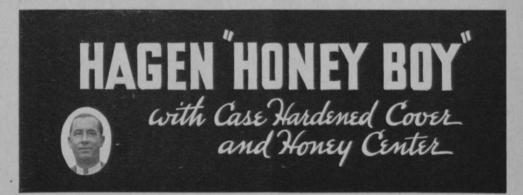
Honey Bor

The Hagen Honey Boy is the answer to the requests of thousands of golfers for a tough-covered honey center ball. 1935 is going to be a tough-cover year and so this Honey Boy, with casehardened cover over the sensationally-performing honey center, will, we predict, lead the field in sales advance.

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THE L. A. YOUNG GOLF COMPANY, DETROIT, MICH.



But what if I had not been prepared? I relate this just as it happened to show how events can change over night.

"Matters went along smoothly for the next two years and a short time ago another question was put to me just as suddenly. "Can you and will you take over the management of the clubhouse?" I accepted immediately. Not because I had past experience, but because I have been around clubs for nearly 25 years and I have learned a great deal about how a club should be run. So now I am general manager of the works.

"What an ideal set-up for the pro who is building for the future! He is paid to manage the club, superintend the course and at the same time, has his own pro business.

Flaw in Club Scheme.

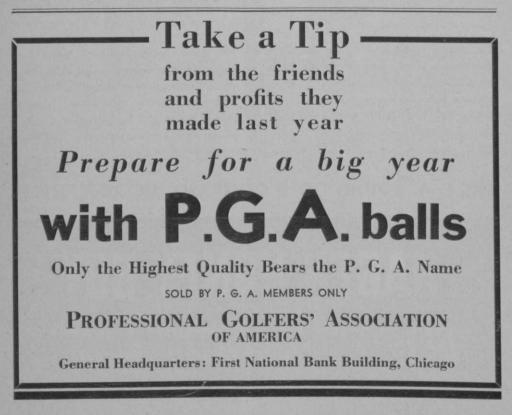
"I have seen a number of clubs mismanaged, not because the heads of their departments were inefficient, but because of so many committeemen in each department trying to outdo the other, and buckpassing from one to the other. Then to make matters worse, new officers are elected each year before the old ones have learned much about their jobs. So it goes each year. The clubs are fast getting over this and are beginning to realize that they must keep their officers in longer and instead of having three independent men such as manager, greenkeeper, and professional, to have one head to manage all and make him responsible for everything that's done.

"Personally I think it's the big opportunity for the pro who is capable of advancing, can see the handwriting on the wall, and can see a little further ahead than hitting a golf ball all the rest of his life.

"I know that quite a number of the semipublic courses are run this way, but I have reference to the larger private clubs, they are the ones that are coming to it and really will be the jobs worth having.

"I feel proud over my chance, because it's with a club that's one of the first courses built in this country over 40 years ago. Its members are all from the oldest families here and it's rather exclusive. That's why I say that other less experienced clubs will gradually come to general management and the pros should be prepared. I hesitate to think what would have become of me had I been compelled to confess that I couldn't handle the job my officials offered to me."

This newly appointed general manager refuses to have himself named in this article because he hesitates to run the risk



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of having other professionals, managers or greenkeepers think he is trying to pose as a seer or a superior person hunted out by opportunity.

Right now he is studying the hotel and restaurant books, talking with men in that field, looking for entertainment ideas for his members and doing a patient and persistent job of getting a close-up view of proper house operation so he will grow at a pace even with his new responsibilities.

DOPED IT WRONG Pro Vote for Field Split Beat B Players Down in Prize Money

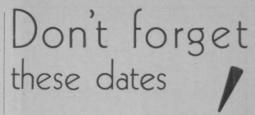
THE SIX to one vote by which the pros voted for the split field method of operating the Miami-Biltmore tournament, the major prize event of the winter circuit, turned out to be another demonstration of the wisdom and profit of thinking thoroughly before acting.

The split field plan was a hunch of the Miami-Biltmore people for getting more pros acquainted with the great Miami establishment. It did produce the largest field the tournament ever has had. However it would not have been adopted had the pros questioned on the split new deal ruled against the suggestion.

Pros who have complained that the tournament players get all the gold, glory and breaks hoped that a division of the field into class A for the first 30 in the National Open and the first 64 scores in the PGA championship, and class B for the remainder of the entrants, would give the B boys a better chance for dough.

But when you see that of the first 39 scores 24 were players in class B, there dawns the suspicion that the B boys voted themselves out of some dough. Class A was four players shy of enough to take care of the divisions of the rich class-A prize total. Entry fees of class-B players at \$15 per player came within \$1,000 of the amount of class-B prizes.

Among the 43 prize winners of class-B there were only about nine who might be considered outsiders among the moneywinners at tournaments. Only two of these won more than \$36.25. The last man in class-A with 336 got \$3.75 more (on the official award basis) than the last men in class-B with 312—a 24-stroke better score. However, the class-A players, by unanimous agreement among themselves, resplit



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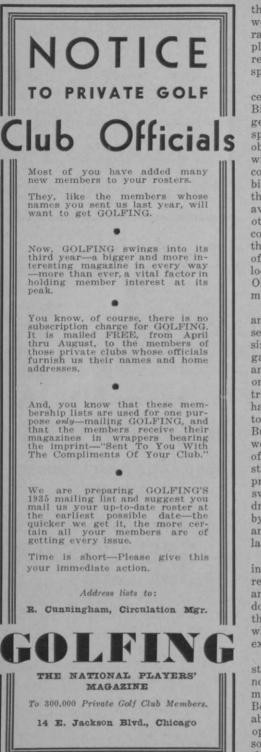
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the prize money in their class so there would be easier jumps between the prizes, rather than the jump from \$2,500 for first place to \$250 for fifth, which the A boys regarded as a bit too violent for the cash split in tournaments.

So far as the pro family circle is concerned, two features developed out of the Biltmore tournament, in addition to the generally unsatisfactory experiment of splitting the field and prize money. It was obvious that the Biltmore course with a wind blowing is one of the toughest courses in the country for scoring. The big shots can dump plenty of strokes on that course; still it's a fair one for the average or high handicap golfer. The other standout dope on the tournament is confirmation of many experts' expression that Olin Dutra is the ranking shotmaker of the country now. Veteran pros in the locker-room were all of the opinion that Olin's shotmaking and putting abilities merited his triumph.

Only possible peril to Dutra's continuance of peak standing that the fellows can see is that of the printed stories emphasizing some physical misery, which in a game calling for steady, psychological balance, as does golf, is liable to sell the star on the idea of ailing instead of concentrating on his shotmaking. Olin was handed a laugh in some stories on this tournament. A bridge over which he, Bill Burke and Al Watrous and their gallery were walking, collapsed and dumped some of the customers into a shallow, weedy stream. By the time the incident got into print Olin had been in a raging torrent, swimming to shore with women and children survivors on his broad back, battered by the heavy debris of the busted bridge and coming out like Frank Merriwell in the last chapter.

It makes great color stuff to read about in the newspapers so long as the hero can read it and giggle to his palsey walseys and comment, "baloney," which Olin can do. And it's hard for a writer to duck this sort of stuff, since he can't be everywhere at once and must depend to some extent on lurid reports.

Pro thought, by both the tournament stars and those who get into prize money now and then, after the Biltmore tournament finished was that the pros have in Bob Harlow the man who knows more about successful, satisfactory tournament operation than anyone else in the country; so it's not a bad idea to let him handle the job for which he is paid by the pros.

JAP TEAM COMING

Tom Miyamoto Will Lead Team of Six Jap Professionals in Summer Tourneys

MERICAN sports diplomacy scores another birdie for genial international relations. The Japan Golf association is to send a team of the six top Japanese pros and an English-speaking manager to the United States. Tommy Miyamoto, who is pleasantly remembered here from his tour a few years ago, will head the invaders.

Tom is a good player and a great student. He learned a lot from personal obcervation and motion pictures of the American stars but always was bumping into some persistent trouble at a hole or two in his tournament appearances. Not having studied any pictures of Yank stars taking their third shots out of the sand trap, lack of knowledge in this detail used to whip the fine little Japanese boy.

Yulaka Kamuma, secretary of the Japan GA, notified Bob Harlow recently that the team would be sent in time for appearance in the National Open and would play in various cities under the auspices of the PGA.

John A. Hillerich of Hillerich and Bradsby helped set the deal for the PGA while he was in Japan with the touring Yankee baseball players. The ball players led by Babe Ruth drew tremendous crowds in Japan. The Jap golfers won't draw any baseball gates in this country but they are certain to do great financially and stir up considerable golf interest.

PGA officials and members are to be congratulated on this latest smart and unique idea of the PGA tournament bureau manager, Harlow. It's a cinch bet that this tour engineered and conducted by the PGA will make many golfers conscious of the association's lively work in promoting golf interest.

Club Says No Resignations Allowed After January 1

T IS VERY important in budgeting to know what the membership for the coming year will total, in order to estimate the income from dues for the ensuing fiscal year. At Knollwood CC (White Plains, N. Y.) if a member has not resigned prior to January 1, the start of the club's fiscal year, he is not allowed to resign but must pay a full year's dues.



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MacGregor's advertising plans assure a nation-wide demand for this new ball. You will have a lot of calls for it. And every pro who sells it is assured a full margin of profit by MacGregor's 1935 program. The Crawford, McGregor & Canby Company, Dayton, Ohio.

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RE-HANDICAP YOUR COURSE

USGA Tells Clubs to Give Strokes on Par-4 Holes First

I N THE report of the Executive committee of the USGA at its January 5 meeting, cognizance is taken for the first time of the widely varying systems under which U. S. clubs allocate handicap strokes. The Rules of Golf committee takes the matter in hand by recommending that the difficulty of a hole, rather than its length, be the governing factor in arranging the stroke order. Says the committee:

"Proper handicapping is a matter of general interest with respect to which uniform practices are desirable. Accordingly, the following recommendation is made: namely, in allocating handicap strokes in their proper order to the 18 holes of a golf course, the first stroke should be taken on the hole where it is most likely to be of use to the one receiving it.

"The theory of this system is that on a long par-5 hole the high handicap player is more likely than in the play of a par-4 hole to lose the hole by two or more strokes, in which case his handicap stroke is of no use. On the short holes he is more apt than in the case of a par-4 hole to win without his handicap, and so again lose the benefit of his stroke. The same consideration should apply, as far as possible, in allocating strokes to the remaining holes.

"Two further factors which may prevent the complete application of the foregoing recommendation should be taken into account:

"They should be so allocated as to in all probability be usable by the player receiving the handicap. To illustrate by an extreme case—it would be of no assistance ordinarily to a competitor to receive his first handicap stroke on the eighteenth hole.

"It is desirable to allocate the first stroke to the first nine, the second stroke to the second nine, and continue alternating in this manner until the order of

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taking strokes is established for the full 18 holes."

Par-4 Holes Get First Strokes

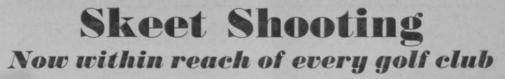
The only interpretation that can be made of the above recommendation — so called by the USGA because handicapping procedure is outside the Rules of Golf is that hereafter the USGA believes strokes should be first allocated to the par-4 holes of a course. The recommendation does not indicate whether par-3 holes or par-5 holes rank next, but since in either case one competitor would give the other 13 strokes on a par-70 layout and 11 strokes on a par-72 layout before anything but a par-4 hole would figure in the picture, it is probably not important. Few handicap matches find competitors so unevenly paired off.

Fully 90 percent of the courses of the country have up to now arranged their handicap strokes strictly on the basis of distance. The longest hole is stroke 1, the next longest stroke 2 and so on down to the shortest hole, which rates stroke 18. Generally, odd strokes are on the first nine, even strokes on the second. In the past few years some clubs have recognized that a 500-yard hole without hazards of any sort is easier for all classes of golfers than is a tightly trapped 410-yard hole, and have accordingly modified the handicap order so that a shorter, tougher hole ranks ahead of a longer, easier one, but rarely has a club gone as far as the USGA suggests and put strokes on all the 4-par holes before giving a single one to the par-5's.

It is still too early to say just what repercussions will sound in the golfing world as the result of this rather radical reform in handicapping methods, but you can bet there will be plenty of moans from the class-A golfers. For many years these sharpshooters have insisted that they rarely stand a chance in handicap events, even

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though some smart statisticians have published table after table to prove that the great bulk of club prizes in handicap events are gathered in by the 10-strokeand-under men. Now that the obvious advantage on the par-5 holes has been taken from these men, be prepared for a parade of wails.

Other howls are due from club handicapping committees, who will find themselves perfectly agreeable to the change recommended by the USGA but without the slightest idea of how to go about making the switch. "Which par-4 should be stroke 1" is a subject for debate that can very well carry a committee session into the small hours of the morning.

An Easy Way to Allot Strokes

Actually, there is no particular need for these handicap committees to work themselves into a lather over this thing. The USGA recommendation plainly states that the first stroke should be awarded neither on the easiest hole (where the poorer golfer stands the best chance of winning) or on the hardest hole (where the poorer golfer stands the best chance of losing), but rather on the hole most nearly average in difficulty. If this principle applies when comparing par-5 holes with 4's, and 3's with 4's, then it also applies when comparing one par-4 hole with another, and the work of allocating the holes of a course in proper sequence becomes simply a little problem in arithmetic, as follows:

Collect a couple of hundred score cards from your members, games actually shot in the regular course of play. Determine the total strokes these players needed to negotiate the first hole. Do the same thing with each of the remaining 17 holes. When you are done (and it's a good day's work by the way) your results will come out something like this table, which is assumed to be based on 200 rounds:

Hole	Par	Strokes	Hole	Par	Strokes
1	4	1084	10	4	1044
2	4	1132	11	4	1156
3	3	812	12	3	840
4	5	1312	13	4	1208
5	4	1167	14	3	872
6	3	797	15	5	1356
7	4	1216	16	4	989
8	4	1109	17	4	1148
9	4	1170	18	4	1167

From here in, everything is easy. Consider first only the par-4 holes, since these are to get the first handicap strokes. On the first nine they rank in difficulty as follows, the most difficult (because the most strokes were taken on it) being listed first: 7th-1216 strokes, 9th-1170, 5th-1167, 2nd-1132, 8th-1109, and 1st-1084. The USGA says pick the average of these, and get it as near the start of the match as practical, so your handicap No. 1 will go to the 2nd hole, which stands mid-way in difficulty among the par-4's of the first nine, and is early in the round. Handicap No. 3 (remember the even strokes are to be given to the second nine) should be awarded to the 5th hole, No. 5 to the 8th, No. 7 to the 9th, No. 9 to the 1st, and No. 11 to the 7th. The same system should be followed on the second nine. allocating strokes 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 to the proper holes.

The degree of difficulty of the par-5's and the par-3's are equally apparent in the table and the same general method of ranking should be followed with them as with the par-4 holes. The USGA does not specify whether the 5's should rank above the 3's or vice-versa, but past custom would suggest that the former is advisable, with the 5-par of the first 9 receiving handicap stroke 13 and the 5par of the second 9 stroke 14, and the four par-3 holes getting strokes 15, 16, 17 and 18.

USGA Sets Dates for Tourney Qualifying Rounds

S ECTIONAL qualifying rounds for the USGA Open championship will be played May 13 and for the Amateur championship August 20. Rounds will be at 36 holes medal play. In each instance the number of qualifying centers will be the same as for last year's rounds—22 for the Open and 24 for the Amateur. Location of the qualifying points will be announced later.

The Open is scheduled June 6-8 at Oakmont CC, Oakmont, Pa. (near Pittsburgh); the Amateur, Sept. 9-14 at The Country Club, Cleveland. Entries for the Open will close April 24 and for the Amateur August 7 at the office of the USGA, 110 East 42nd St., New York, N. Y.

THE BOOKS and records of a club are not simply places to store information; they are a fertile source from which vital information may be drawn for use in planning the future operations and policies of the organization.