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MAKING *the* SWING

By
HERB GRAFFIS



THE GOLF NEWS IN BRIEF

American pros who saw Walker Cup matches rated Ronnie White as top man of the British team in sound form. . . Pro opinion was that if more British pros could get over and study American form for use in their teaching British amateur golf would benefit. . . British side showed pretty fair ability at scrambling but lacked American finesse in using wedge out of traps by greens. . . Older British players, especially Bruen with his club twirling at top of backswing, differed radically from Americans in style.

Gallery was disappointed that Laddie Lucas, left-handed British captain, kept himself out of doubles and singles play. . . Fine young man, that Lucas, and nobody questioned his judgment overruling what probably was his personal itch to play. . . Galleries at Winged Foot for Walker Cup matches were fairly large considering that fans didn't expect close competition. . . Many expressed wish that British would provide tighter matches—even victories—to make the affair stiffer competitive test for Yanks. . . General opinion was that with two world wars followed by "austerity" regime retarding development of British amateur talent the British side did well.

The affair was entirely pleasant with American players and galleryites saying they never met a finer bunch of fellows. . . British team made good use of chance to indulge in the novelty of drinking orange juice and getting a square meal. . . Most thrilling to the gallery were playing of stymies. . . Pros who have the ability to play stymies expertly, rule the stymie out of the PGA championship. . . The stymie always is a great entertaining shot to the gallery, if not to the player.

Winged Foot, like the majority of other courses, normally in fine condition, had suffered from damndest weather within memory of greenkeepers. . . Recommenda-

tions for elimination of clover on greens proved to be too strong. . . Clover went out, leaving some bare spots. . . Astute placement of cups by Dick Tufts of USGA, offset practically all interference with good putting. . . Wandering around the matches for two days we saw only one instance where a bad spot had the slightest effect on a putt and that was on a long lag to the cup.

Cmdr. Carson of the Royal and Ancient was with the British team. . . A grand red-headed ex-sailor who made a lot of friends. . . Cmdr. Carson told how the cup happened to be standardized at $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches diameter. . . Players used to dig their hands into the hole to haul out sand for the tee. . . Near close of a day's play the hole was big and deep. . . To maintain uniform size of the hole some tile from the R&A clubhouse was used for lining the holes. . . Width of a normal fist was about $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches so tile nearest that size was handy and used. . . If the tile had been larger think how our putting might have improved.

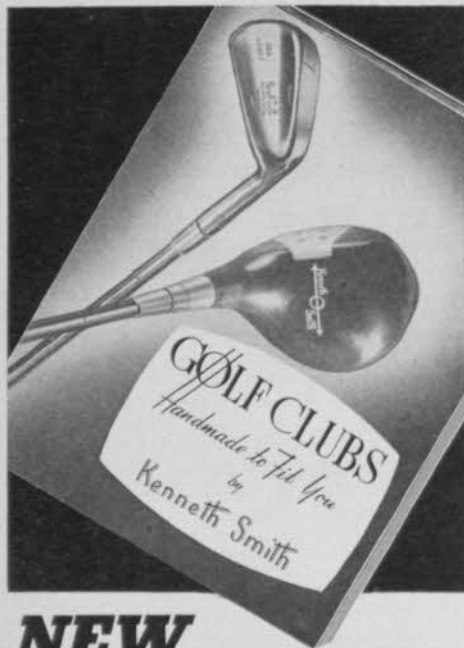
Byron Nelson looked over the Walker Cup matches during a gap between exhibition dates. . . Nelson's been spending more time on his ranch lately and scoring nicely in farm profit. . . Jim Standish, recently elected pres., Michigan Seniors, arranging a match in 1950 at Kent CC, Grand Rapids, between Michigan and Illinois 10-team senior amateur teams. . . Bob King, 11250 Playa St., Culver City, Calif., who has to play on crutches, on good schedule of trick shot and playing dates.

PGA hoping for big crowds at pro team matches at Belmont CC (Boston dist.) to help financing problem of Ryder Cup team. . . PGA kitty is thin. . . Association operating expenses increased without corresponding increase in dues. . . Conditions call for Ryder Cup trip being on tight budget. . . Curtis Cup women's international team financing also will be helped by 5% cut off top of gate receipts at Belmont.

Pro shop business in NY metropolitan area estimated by pros and salesmen as averaging 20-25% under last year's record. . . Business is spotty, with some pros being ahead of last year. . . Heavy advertising of cut-price golf merchandise by NY stores makes NY met district pro competition from stores tougher than in any other territory.

Neal Lang, widely known among pro and amateur golfers, now gen. mgr., Park Sheraton hotel, NYC. . . Neal was promotion mgr., Park Central (now Park Sheraton) about a dozen years ago and advanced rapidly to become one of the hotel management stars. . . Met PGA to hold its meetings at Park Sheraton.

Unique situation in tournament ticket sales at Bellerive CC (St. Louis dist.) for



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this year's Western Amateur. . . Month before the Sept. 19-25 event all season tickets were sold, covering guarantee for Western's Evans Caddy Scholarship Fund and tournament expenses with ample margin for contingencies. . . Some members haven't wanted to allow sale of daily tickets, saying galleries will be large enough with season ticket holders.

Manteca (Calif.) Bulletin editorially says, "Judging by previous letters in the Stockton (Calif.) Record, the action of Stockton's city council in voting a new municipal golf course will not be well received by a great many taxpayers. Our advice to these diehards would be buy a set of sticks and join the crowd as soon as possible. And besides, they might have a lot of fun." . . . Survey of players at Stockton many course showed that 22% of players were mechanical craftsmen in construction and other industries, 19.8% were clerical workers, 16.1% were salesmen and 9.5% were in professions.

Perry Maxwell to build and operate 18-hole public course for Oklahoma City, Okla., at Lake Hefner. . . Navy Air Base at Millington (Memphis, Tenn.), has new 9-hole par 35 course. . . From newspaper clippings we guess this to be the biggest year golf's ever seen in trade organization and civic club tournaments. . . Boston

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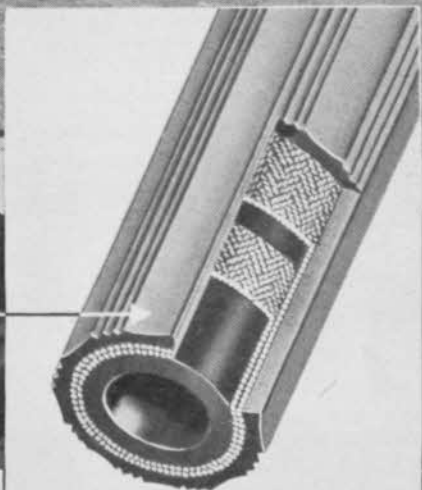
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newspapermen at Walker Cup matches said that despite long hot, dry spell Boston district play has been heavier than ever this year. . . Oldsmobile has a 500 member golf league in its factory at Lansing, Mich.

John Shorey writing first class illustrated series of golf instruction pieces for Berwick (Pa.) Enterprise. . . Two writers of lively, informative newspaper golf columns are women: Maureen Orcutt on NY Times and Beth Hightower on Sacramento (Calif.) Union. . . Patty Berg of Wilson and Louise Suggs of MacGregor have been on women's and girls' exhibition and demonstration schedules that would break down the health and spirits of most male pros. . . Jean Giambone writing a bright column on women's golf in Rochester (NY) Times Union.

No complaints by British golf writers at Walker Cup matches about Bobby Locke's suspension by PGA of America. . . In refined phrases and the Oxford accent visiting scribes rated Locke as letting nothing interfere with grabbing the biggest piece of currency within immediate view. . . Henry McLemore, former sports columnist now doing syndicated travel pieces, writing to his American papers from South Africa, told of PGA's lockout of Locke being no grievous surprise to sportsmen in Locke's homeland.

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Locke has defenders and apologists in the United States. . . They maintain that the South African wasn't given a chance to tell his side of the case before judgment was passed. . . Howard F. Neilson, sec., Pine Lake CC, Pontiac, Mich., expressed their attitude in a letter to the PGA which, in part, read: . . . "Your recent action (in barring Locke) is even more despicable when one realizes Locke was not even granted the courtesy of a hearing or trial, wherein he could defend the charges as levied against him. The charges and the entire proceedings represent a travesty of justice and the epitome of poor taste."

PGA releases statement from Cary Middlecoff in which he "clarifies" statement attributed to him concerning membership requirements of PGA. . . The Doc says he has no complaint to make about his status but thinks PGA membership requirements are "outmoded." . . . No official statement made by PGA concerning modernizing eligibility qualifications. . . Golf writers again express judgment that serious flaw in PGA publicity policy is that of letting itself be so much on defensive instead of looking ahead and solving obvious problems before they become embarrassing.

Peter Pan Woodland course opened at Big Bear, Calif. . . Charles Curtis in his Los Angeles Times "Golfgraphs" column



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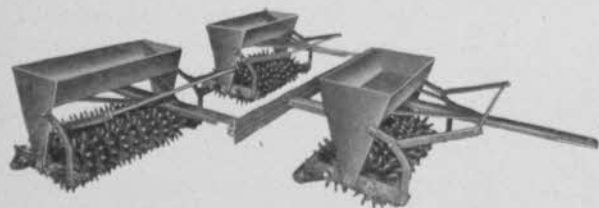
7280 Melrose Ave.
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

says, "If all local pros were as conscientious as Paul Scott (of Griffith Park) in supplying news we probably wouldn't have room for it all." . . . Congratulations to Willie Turnesa on the arrival of the fifth daughter in his family.

Indian Hills G&CC (KC dist.) in \$250,000 expansion program. . . Ralston (Neb.) GC reopened. . . Kentucky PGA members put on golf clinics at Louisville many courses. . . Austin (Tex.) Northside many course (formerly Austin CC) opened to public with Felix George as pro-mgr. . . Syracuse (Ks.) GC opened. . . It's a sand green 9-hole layout with farmer members doing construction and maintenance. . . Bill Dover now mgr., Rock Wood CC, Fairmount, Mo.

Construction begun on Evansville, Ind., new many course. . . Wm. Diddle, Indianapolis, is architect. . . Charles E. Day Engineering Co. building the course. . . Tag day among plans considered by Springfield (Ill.) Junior Chamber of Commerce for financing new many course. . . Alameda (Calif.) considering building another 18 hole public course adjoining its present 18 hole plant. . . Mesa (Ariz.) G&CC to build new clubhouse. . . Bud Weiser in Allentown (Pa.) Call is campaigning for construction of a many course by the city. . . Allentown (92,904 pop. 1940 census) is reputed to be largest U.S. city without a public course.

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