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# THROUGH THE GREEN

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## Entering the Open —and Opening the Entries

THIS is the season when the little staff in USGA headquarters in New York begins to feel more than an ordinary kinship with the folks who receive income tax returns. For this is the season when we receive entry applications for the Open Championship, and, like tax returns, many of them arrive at the eleventh hour.

We normally expect between 1,100 and 1,400 entries for the Open. Close to 50% arrive in the last two days. Unfortunately, some arrive after the books are shut.

The late and near-late are always in a dither. Some of them make extraordinary efforts.

There was, for example, the time when a certain professional (who shall go nameless here, but who is a headliner today) dispatched an application from a New York hotel, located about a drive and a brassie from the USGA office. He sped it on its way via air mail special delivery postage. (This was in the days before helicopters.)

Another time, a gentleman from Brooklyn sent in a bank cashier's check as his entry fee (the entrant's name not appearing on the check), and that was all. No entry blank. No message. No name or return address on the outside of the envelope. Just an innocent bank cashier's check for \$5.

Things looked bad for awhile. Finally, the office sleuth looked *under* the flap of the envelope, and there, in writing about 1/32 of an inch high, was a name and address.

There was another unhappy moment when a telegram arrived with this delightful message:

ENTER ME OPEN  
—JIM

On the other hand, there is the eager beaver who sends in two or three entries, at different times. The duplications can't be discovered until all entries are sorted into Qualifying Sections.

Some of our friends have the mistaken notion that the date of postmark is the controlling date. For instance, this year's Open applications close at 5 P.M. on Monday, May 17; we have every confidence that some one whose entry has to be declined will later write us that he himself, personally, mailed the application at the main post office at Sloping Valley at 4:15 P.M. on May 17—plenty of time! Our answer to that is if Sloping Valley were a few thousand miles away, we might not receive the entry until the Sectional Qualifying Rounds had all been played. (Besides, who wants to try to decode postmarks?)

In short, the closing time for applications means the time by which they must be *received in the USGA office*.

That is Step 1 in getting an entry before the Committee. The others are just about as hard:

Step 2—Have the application made out in full on a USGA blank. Nothing else will do. Telephone calls and telegrams won't do.

Step 3—Enclose the entry fee.

Anybody doing those three things right will have taken a big step toward dethroning Lew Worsham.

## Abe Mitchell's Putter

The late Abe Mitchell was one of Britain's longest hitters. He was several times a member of Ryder Cup Teams and, before turning professional, was runner-up for the 1912 British Amateur Championship.

In 1921, during an American tour, he used a McDougal putter with an aluminum head. After one of his last games on the tour he presented the club to Mrs. J. Bernd Rose, who lives in Sewickley, Pa. Mrs. Rose in turn used it in winning four Women's Western Pennsylvania Golf Association Championships.

Mrs. Rose has now generously donated the putter to the USGA Golf Museum.

### Burrowing Animals

The Rules of Golf this year mention holes made by burrowing animals for the first time—see Rule 7(6).

It is only a question of time before it will appear in print as borrowing animals—and there it is!

The only remaining question, then, is what golf widow will be first to borrow the term for her burrowing husband.

### Kolef . . . Kolf . . . Golf

Charles C. Auchincloss, of New York, has presented the USGA Museum with an interesting engraving entitled "Natives of Holland, with their Diversions During the Winter Season," made in 1780. One of the diversions shown is the old Dutch game of kolef, or kolf.

It happens that the Museum has three clubs and two balls used for playing the game. The clubs are very heavy, average 50 inches long, and have thick, pointed iron heads which are  $6\frac{3}{4}$  inches long. The balls are leather covered and have a diameter of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches. They were obtained from The Hague in 1939.

The chain of circumstances stretches further. In 1939 the Museum acquired a book published in 1742 describing Rembrandt's etchings. Our interest in it is a description of kolef, which was played on a kind of mall from 40 to 60 feet long and 9 or 10 feet wide.

The Dutch sport was, of course, greatly different from golf as we know it. But there is at least an etymological affinity, if you know what we mean.

### R. and A. Gifts

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, host for last year's Walker Cup Match, has sent Club neckties to the ten players who represented the USGA in the Match.

### Americans Abroad

William P. Turnesa, of New York, is going over to Sandwich, England, to defend the British Amateur Championship he won last year when he was abroad with the Walker Cup Team. The British Amateur begins May 24.

Six other Americans have entered—Robert Sweeny, Jr., of New York and



*International News Photo*

**William P. Turnesa**

London, a former Champion; Frank Stranahan, Toledo; S/Sgt. Charles T. Jennings, Haddonfield, N. J.; Christopher Dunphy, New York; Edward E. Lowery, San Francisco, and Udo M. Reinach, New York.

Sweeny and Dunphy have also entered the British Open, to be played at Muirfield, Scotland, June 30 and July 1-2, with qualifying rounds June 28-29.

### Do's and Don'ts

A club in the Southwest has a score card containing the following:

"Pay dues by 10th of month or cease playing."

"Caddy fees: 35c for 9 holes; 60c for 18 holes."

There are a number of admonitions under the heading "A Few Do's and Don'ts." Under "Do," one is advised about methods of playing, etiquette, and encouraging youngsters. Under the other heading appear the following:

#### "DON'T—

"—Play unless you have paid dues.

"—Fail to count all strokes.

"—Forget that a two-foot putt is as valuable as a 200-yard drive.

"—Fail to throw a rock off each fairway."

The altitude of the course is given as 4,688 feet.

The Club has never joined the USGA.

### Minnesota Cooperation

Directors of the Minnesota Golf Association have "unanimously decided that the United States Golf Association rules be adopted in toto."