

LOCAL GOLF EVENTS TO BE PLACED SOON

M. G. A. Will Award 1920 Championships This Week—Echoes of U. S. G. A. Meeting.

Although the selections for the three national golf championship tournaments were announced yesterday, the "pickings" for the 1920 season are by no means over. There are several other important title fixtures hanging within reach of country clubs which are perennial seekers for the big golfing events. None of the four Metropolitan championships has been awarded, and only one of the classics of the Western Golf Association has been determined.

A phrase in the by-laws of the Metropolitan Golf Association allowed the opportunity for careful, sensible decision regarding the local championships. Whereas the U. S. G. A. was obliged to award the events by ballot at its annual meeting Friday, the M. G. A. referred the work to a committee. This committee will meet this week, at the call of President C. J. Sullivan, and will naturally steer clear of the courses and dates of the national fixtures, thereby avoiding any conflict whatsoever.

An announcement from the M. G. A. will come this week on the awards of the Metropolitan open, amateur and junior championships. These have come to be regarded in the East as next in importance to the national tournaments, especially since Hagen's only two titles for 1920 are the national open and Metropolitan open. Almost any club with a full length eighteen-hole course is eligible.

The Metropolitan women will not make their selection for the championship course and dates until their annual meeting Jan. 29 at the Hotel Biltmore. Similarly, little is certain regarding their choice, except that New Jersey courses will not be considered because the 1919 event was held over the river, at Arcola.

In the West, only the women's Western championship has been named and this will be held at Oak Park, Chicago, during the week of Aug. 23. The Western Golf Association will hold its annual meeting on Saturday in Chicago when the Western open and amateur tournaments will be shuffled out.

In the near future new regulations are expected to be announced governing the Lesley Cup matches, the annual inter-club sectional classic for New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts golfers. At the annual meeting of the United States Golf Association at the Waldorf-Astoria Friday it developed that a six months' residence in a district will be necessary before a golfer can compete on a team. Last season Max Marston's transfer of allegiance from the New York Metropolitan section to Philadelphia before the Lesley Cup matches in October at Southampton, L. I., prompted considerable criticism among local golfers, and the Massachusetts contingent had a similar experience with Paul Tewkesbury.

Although no announcement has been made definitely, it is being tacitly understood that the Lesley Cup will be contested in 1920 over the links of the Merion Cricket Club in Philadelphia. The Quaker area has not held the matches since 1915, the event going to Brookline, Mass., in 1916, and to New York last season, following a two-year lapse on account of the war.

In connection with Max Marston's affiliation with Philadelphia was the announcement yesterday that this former New Yorker and present holder of the New Jersey State championship had resigned from membership in the Baltusrol Golf Club. Marston plans to confine all golf allegiance in the future to the Pine Valley and Merion Clubs of Philadelphia, and he is intending to default when the New Jersey title is contested the coming season. Marston's complete removal from the Metropolitan golf district means the loss of one of the strongest members of the local amateur group.

Professional golfers throughout the country are watching with eager eye announcement from Baltusrol that a new pro instructor has been appointed to succeed George Low, who resigned in December. Many Baltusrol members and outsiders interested in the growing Jersey club favor the selection of Jim Barnes, who is anxious to leave Sunset Hills in St. Louis and fill a berth in the Metropolitan section.

At the U. S. G. A. meeting, however, it was whispered rather proudly that Baltusrol is "feeling out" no less a golfing leader than George Duncan of England with a view to engaging him, and that Abe Mitchell, another of the great English pros, is a second choice. It is both interesting and significant that of Britain's leaders who plan an invasion of the United States this year in search of the national open title Duncan and Mitchell are more certain than Braid, Vardon or Taylor of coming. In fact, it is understood by the Professional Golfers Association of America that Duncan and Mitchell have every expectation of trying for the big title on this side and are formulating their plans accordingly. Another possibility for Baltusrol, according to several club members, is George Fotheringham, the free-lance pro who quit instructing several seasons ago and who is now a golf ball salesman.

Unless there is an entirely different complexion on the delegation to the annual meeting of the U. S. G. A. next January, the 1921 national amateur championship will be awarded with unanimous consent to Lochmoor, in Detroit. Golfing plums fall only once a year, and their rarity prompts the applying clubs to early action. Lochmoor set its ball rolling Friday night, when J. C. Sweeney, President of the Lochmoor Club, loudly and strongly entered a bid for next year's amateur tournament.

Sweeney made an immediate hit with the delegates, not so much because of his gracious invitation, but because of his promises. He was quizzed in detail about the "nineteenth hole" at Lochmoor, and his explanations were surprisingly satisfactory. He said it always had been and still is a popular spot at the Lochmoor Club. In reply, several delegates promised unqualified support with their votes if he could report the same state of affairs next year.

Another club which is getting polished for a title tournament is Yahnundaisis at Utica. Sherill Sherman, the delegate from up-State, said that another hundred acres of ground had been acquired and that extensive improvements were planned on the course and clubhouse facilities. Yahnundaisis has never held a championship, but the gathering of many leading pros last September for an open tournament was the beginning of a series of preliminaries leading up to an invitation within a few years for one of the national events. There has never been a championship awarded to the up-State wilds of New York, and Yahnundaisis would seem to deserve recognition soon.

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