

# PLAN FOURTH TEAM IN LESLEY CUP GOLF

## Entry of a Connecticut-Rhode Island Association in Matches Is Suggested.

Team matches in golf are going to figure in the season's schedule this Summer more than ever before. Throughout the country the sectional associations are giving more thought to this phase of competition, for it is more and more recognized that team matches hold together the interests of a larger number of golfers than the individual tournaments. A team of twelve, or fifteen gives that number of players opportunity to appear as winners, whereas the single title holder by reason of his victory crowds out his unsuccessful rivals from a share in the glory.

The most important of all team matches, held annually for the Lesley Cup, has taken on several new angles of interest during the Winter. A new residence eligibility rule has been adopted whereby a player must have been a bona fide resident of his district for at least six months prior to the matches. And now comes the suggestion from Connecticut that, instead of Massachusetts, New York City and Pennsylvania exclusively, another and fourth team be included in the competition, to be composed of golfers from Connecticut and Rhode Island.

The proposal is excellent, but whether the donor of the Lesley Cup or the three associations will welcome the plan is another matter. Linksmen from Rhode Island have heretofore attached themselves generally to the Massachusetts district, and the Nutmeg States, at least those between Greenwich and Bridgeport, have gone as members of the metropolitan district. In fact, it was the expanded size of the metropolitan area which brought about the decision last year to allow Pennsylvanians instead of Philadelphians to compete as a single team.

### Rhode Islanders Approve.

At the recent annual meeting of the Connecticut State Golf Association the suggestion was made that application for entry into the Lesley Cup matches be considered and that the Rhode Island contingent be invited to join in the movement. Rhode Island has often considered such a movement and it is expected its golfers will view the proposal with favor.

A four-cornered fight in team matches for the Lesley Cup would mean nothing less than the team championship of the East. New Jersey joins with New York annually in the make-up of the metropolitan team and no important golfing district would be missing if the rivalry were opened to the two new States.

The increase of team golf is noticed throughout the country, and the familiar fixtures which have gained place in the season's schedule will be continued, such as the International senior matches with the Canadians and the Griscom Cup events for the women. Here in New York a movement has been launched by Oswald Kirkbride to team matches between New York and New Jersey clubs this year, and the Metropolitan women have gone still a step further. They have decided to divide the district into three parts, New Jersey, Long Island and Westchester, and to have team matches. In this separation the Staten Islanders will be allotted to Westchester.

A brand new question of eligibility in last year's Lesley Cup matches has been raised in a letter written by Max R. Marston to W. L. Thompson, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Golf Association. The former Baltusrollian cites the case of Grant A. Peacock.

### Rules Brought Into Question.

Marston states that an agreement between the Philadelphia and Metropolitan Associations was made whereby he (Marston) should represent Pennsylvania and Peacock should play on the New York team. Marston writes in part as follows: "Mr. Peacock played on the New York team, and there was never any question raised by either Boston or Philadelphia about Mr. Peacock's playing, although at the time Mr. Peacock was not a member of any metropolitan club, which, I think, is contrary to the rules of the association. I am not in any way criticising Mr. Peacock for playing with the New York team, but am merely stating this incident as an example of the Metropolitan Association not abiding by the rules."

To this allegation The American Golfer takes emphatic exception. After pointing out that Marston represented the Baltusrol Club in the Metropolitan amateur tournament, in the New Jersey State championship, in many local invitation tournaments, and in the national amateur championship, and did not take actual residence in Philadelphia until a few days before the Lesley Cup matches, the magazine holds that the best traditions of the game should have led Marston to refrain from playing at the National links. Regarding Peacock's eligibility, it is disclosed that, after graduating from Princeton, he took up residence in the metropolitan district, and that he became a playing member of the Garden City Golf Club, whereas he was merely a non-resident member of Oakmont, in Pennsylvania.