

# MAXWELL WILL PLAY IN INTERCLUB GOLF

## Local Links Star to Swing Clubs for Whitemarsh Valley in 1920—Rules Unchanged This Season

BY PERRY LEWIS

For the first time in his brilliant career on the links, Norman Maxwell, of Overbrook and Whitemarsh, will compete in the Interclub competition this season. Maxwell, who is rated as one of the most finished players in Philadelphia, will add his strength to the Whitemarsh Valley team, which should prove a factor in the contests this year—not only because of the fact that Maxwell will be among those present, but because he will have as his colleagues a group of fancy golfers which will probably include Walter Reynolds.

In order to compete in the Interclub competition, Maxwell must eliminate himself from the Suburban Team Cup series, in which he was a star for several seasons as a member of the winning Woodbury team. This is necessary because of a rule of the local association prohibiting a man from playing for more than one club.

The qualifying round of the Interclub affair is played simultaneously with the Patterson Memorial event, on May 31, at the Philadelphia Cricket Club. Maxwell has always been at his best on this course, having won the Patterson tourney last year, defeating Harold Sands, of Merion, in the play-off. Later in the season Maxwell humbled George Hoffner, local champion, in the final of the St. Martin's Cup event on the same course. Verily, Maxwell is a hard man to top at the Cricket Club, and that goes for any other old club.

All that has ever stood in Maxwell's path to the heights has been a lack of the poundage necessary to great staying power. Throughout the winter he has striven to add to his weight, but without any great success. On Sunday he played 36 holes and lost three pounds, which in a man of Maxwell's physique is a serious loss.

The successes scored by the Whitemarsh Club in Interclub circles in other years could be written on the back of a postage stamp with a mop. This season, however, it must be reckoned with such players as Maxwell, Reynolds, L. F. Deming, C. H. Wheeler, Jr., Fred Knight, Herb Newton, S. T. Buck, W. J. M. Dyer, T. H. Halton, C. H. Marshall, H. L. Newtown and half a dozen others.

And even with such an array neither Whitemarsh nor any other organization will be over-up in the matter of talent, for the going promises to be exceedingly rugged. Merion, of course, will qualify and probably the Cricket Club and Huntingdon Valley. The fourth place will likely be fought for by the Country Club, North Hills and Whitemarsh. Last season North Hills carried off the place and made a splendid showing in the later matches.

North Hills will even be stronger this year than last with Eddie Styles and W. U. Dewees added to the team. Furthermore, there has been a marked improvement in the play of those who upheld the colors of North Hills last season. J. Wood Platt, for instance, is a far better links performer right now than at any other time in his career, his victory over Francis Quinet in the National being just the right tonic to give him confidence in himself.

However, in order to get in North Hills must beat out Whitemarsh, which is going to be hard to do this year. Indications are that it will be a merry battle with even the chosen clubs feeling very much easier May 31, after they have safely qualified.

With the meeting of the golf solons in New York last week to discuss the code with the committee which will go to England to confer with our British cousins, there has been more talk of golf rules among golfers than there has been of golf. The laity has absorbed the idea that somehow the stymie is to be slaughtered, the lost ball rule changed and a lot of other things done in time for next Saturday's foursome.

Nothing like it. The rules as they now stand will govern every tournament played this year at home and abroad. There is much to be done before any changes in the code can be wrought, and the thing is likely to be drawn out about as long as the Peace negotiations. The committees who will meet in England have no power to act. They can make recommendations, draw up a pact or something which must then be submitted to the Ancient and Honorable Society of Scotland for ratification. After that the United States Golf Association must ratify—and after that golfers will probably go along and play the game just about the same as they always have.

Howard F. Whitney, late president of the U. S. G. A., explained most of this to the delegates in attendance, at the meeting last Friday, after which everyone felt as discouraged as a surgeon who had prepared to operate only to find that some misguided person had spirited away the patient.

The ex-president was all saturated with a desire to make a lot of things clear. In reply to a broadside of criticism leveled at the U. S. G. A. for alleged failure to get together a representative team to compete with a British team this summer, he explained that the association was slightly handicapped by the fact that Great Britain had not issued any invitation for an international contest.

He pointed out that to date the international programme is limited to the Olympic event at Antwerp, July 12, and the regular British title events. It is true that the gentlemen of the visiting committee have been invited to Rye for a day of golf followed by dinner, but the makings of an international match are not there. This is simply in the nature of entertainment for the distinguished committeemen, whose academic knowledge of the game in most cases is more profound than their execution of shots on the links.

The Merion Cricket Club has surely provided a golf orgy for next fall. In addition to the 72 holes invitation event on September 29 and 30, to be followed by the Lesley Cup matches on October 1 and 2, there will be a special 18 hole event, either proceeding or immediately following the latter. This tourney will be for Lesley Cup players, past and present.