

GOLF PROGRAMME FOR 1921 BEING DEVELOPED RAPIDLY

Eighteen-Hole Qualifying Round Will Prove Severe Test for Contestants in National Amateur Championship at St. Louis

BY PERRY LEWIS

WITH each passing week the golf programme for 1921 takes several steps forward in its development. On Wednesday last the Executive Committee of the United States Golf Association presented dates for the high lights of the year—Amateur, Open, Women's and International meetings—and appended a new plan for conducting the first-named event. Since then golfers everywhere have been digesting the information, and to say that everyone is happy would be an exaggeration.

It is but fair to state that the Executive Committee of the U. S. G. A. has little to do with the fixing of dates for either the Women's or the Open, except to announce them. In the case of the former the matter is left to the Women's Association, and the Professional Golfers' Association have much to say about when and where the Open shall be played.

Insofar as the Amateur is concerned no better dates could have been selected than September 17 to 24, inclusive. The classic will be held at St. Louis, and everyone knows that an earlier date, say in August, would have been no time to hold a tournament of any kind in St. Louis.

Those who had in charge the selection of dates for the Open were forced to make the event dovetail in with the British championships, in order that it will be possible for the great players of both countries to compete in both tournaments. Otherwise we would reproach the gentlemen with being salubrious. The Maryland sun of mid-July is exceedingly likely to make the going torrid, particularly for entries from the northern belt.

The action of the women in selecting October 3 to 8 for their classic is hard to understand. The tournament, which will be held at the Hollywood Golf Club, Deal, New Jersey, will conflict with the World's Baseball Series, just as it did in 1919 and 1920, and, therefore, will receive scant attention from the sporting world at large.

As has been pointed out in these columns several times, no sporting event can hope to compete with the baseball classic and get away with it. For years the women have wondered why their title struggle received scant attention, despite the fact that the real reason is so obvious and so easily corrected.

The committee in charge has arranged to give the leading amateurs of the country a nerve test of more than the usual severity in the championship event scheduled for the St. Louis Country Club, by limiting the qualifying round to eighteen holes. A qualifying round in a major event, particularly in a national championship, is no part of a drowsy and peaceful romp for even the best of them. Everybody is glad when it is over, even those who fail to survive the test, for it means the end of a painful period of suspense.

The more a great athletic event is shortened the greater the nerve strain on the contestants. For instance, when Hoppe, champion Billiardist, stipulates that he will play Hildebrand, the challenger, only 1000 points for the title, he is taking a shot in the dark at the Belgian's nerve and competitive soul. By the same token, when a qualifying round at golf is fixed at 18 holes instead of the usual 36 it means that the nerve strain on the contestants is more than doubled.

Some such action was necessary on the part of the committee for the reason that only one 18-hole course is available at the entertaining club. There will be a field of over 200—entirely too many players to put over any course twice in the same day with any comfort. There were two alternatives, viz: to add one more day to the tournament, making eight playing days, or to play a second eighteen holes on the second day of the tournament and qualify a field of 32 instead of 64. It was not deemed advisable to add another day to the event nor to carry the qualifying round over night.

In consequence the field will play eighteen holes on Saturday, September 17, and every man entered will be out there knowing that if he has one very bad hole he will be blotted right out of the action. Therefore, there are likely to be many holes, for this is golf. The fact that 64 instead of 32 will qualify will soothe the jumping nerves to a certain extent, but with a field of over 200 it won't effect a cure.

There is this virtue in the new plan, and it is not to be discounted. It will

and one more round of match play, or 32 matches to the tournament. On Monday, September 19, after a rest over Sunday, the 64 survivors will start match play for the championship—play that will leave one man to be crowned king the following Saturday at dusk.

This is as it should be for the amateur championship is essentially a match play tournament and anything that submerges the medal play element to increase the match play phase is good. Last year, at the Engineers' Club, only six playing days were required and a 36-hole qualifying round was put over, but in that case the North Shore Country Club course was utilized and furthermore only 32 qualified.

In 1919 at the Oakmont Country Club, Pittsburgh, only one eighteen hole course was available and seven playing days were used up. A preliminary qualifying round was held on the first day, however, and the match play field was limited to 32.

Therefore, the new plan looks like the best solution to the problem, despite the nerve strain which an 18-hole qualifying round will put on the contestants.

The possibility of the Philadelphia Open Championship being held on the links of the famous Pine Valley Country Club, which at first seemed a probability, has excited much comment in local links circles and no little interest among the leading professionals of the country. While it is the consensus that the holding of the event on the wonder-course would guarantee the greatest entry in the history of the fixture, there is a feeling that the course will not be ready to entertain this year.

It is certain the Pine Valley has its eye on the 1922 amateur, and if there is a chance of setting back the development of the course by holding the Philadelphia open there the coming season, that event will certainly be handed over to the Torresdale Club, selected as the alternate at the annual meeting of the Golf Association of Philadelphia. Those who have the best interests of the game at heart would certainly subscribe to such a decision, for a national amateur championship on such a super-course as Pine Valley would furnish a golf feast unsurpassed in the history of the game in America.

With the big national events definitely fixed, the various district associations may now get down to the business of arranging their schedules and the individual clubs their invitation tournaments. Already the Country Club of Atlantic City at Northfield has selected May 19, 20 and 21 for its annual spring tournament. Lakewood has settled upon an earlier May date, so there will be no conflict in this direction.

Rumor has it that the Lesley Cup matches this year will be played in the Myopia links, although there is a whisper that Brookline will also be in the field for the meeting. Another big event still waiting for a date is the Professional Golfers Association Championship. The "pro" tournament cannot be held this year until after the Open, for the reason that the field will be made up of the top 31 in the U. S. G. A. championship. It is likely that the P. G. A. officials will want to follow the national as closely as possible or let the event go over until fall.

In selecting the Columbia Country Club for the 1921 open championship, the U. S. G. A. made no mistake, as those who have played over it will attest. Here is one of the finest courses in the East, and especially adapted for tournament play. No less a critic than Ted Ray, present holder of the title, played over the course last summer and pronounced it one of the best he had seen in America. Here follows the details of the holes:

First Hole—366 yards—par 4. This is an elbow hole. There is a trap to the left of the green as well as mounds. In front of the green about 75 yards away is a grass strip. One can reach the green here with a good drive and a full iron.
Second Hole—320 yards—par 4. This is a blind tee shot with the green downhill about 300 yards away. There is a ditch in front of the green and against it. To the right of the tee about 100 yards distant is a trap. The green is set up on a small plateau and can be reached with a good drive and a mangle pitch shot.
Third Hole—370 yards—par 4. On the right of the fairway 150 yards distant from the tee on this hole there is a trap and above it a mound. Beyond the mound there is a ditch, however, causes no interference if one is straight on his drive. The second shot here is a mangle pitch shot.
Fourth Hole—285 yards—par 3. This is a one-shot hole. There is a mound on the left of the green and there are mounds on

the right of the green. In addition there are mounds in the fairway about fifty yards from the green to catch all sliced shots. Also there is a trap to the left of the green.
Fifth Hole—565 yards—par 5. This fifth is a new hole. Here you drive to the top of a hill but I want to tell you it takes a one tee shot to reach the summit. On the left 150 yards from the tee is a mound, and about 125 yards from the tee there are traps and mounds on the fairway and 200 yards from the tee there will be a trap extending clear across the fairway. 200 yards in width. It will take two good shots and a full mangle to reach the green.

Sixth Hole—472 yards—par 4. On the left all the way down the length of the fairway is out of bounds. Inside the fence is the rough. About 100 yards from the tee and slightly to the left of the fairway there are traps and mounds and on the right about 125 yards from the tee there are traps and rough. You play your second shot through a valley to a slight hill. About 300 yards from the tee in the fairway there is a trap. The green slopes gently and on the right there are mounds. On the left a little short of the green there is a trap. This is a good, rolling green. It takes two full shots to get on the green. The hole is a good one. A lot of bounds extends all the way down on the left, with rough inside. It takes a good drive and a mangle pitch shot to reach the hole. The hole is surrounded by traps and on the right there is considerable rough.

Eighth Hole—345 yards—par 3. The eighth is a one-shot hole. There are traps on the right of the green and right against the green on the left there is a trap as well as mounds.

Ninth Hole—394 yards—par 4. It takes a good drive and a well-placed iron shot to get to the green. On the left 100 yards from the tee in the fairway there is a trap. On the left there are traps 125 yards from the tee. On the right there is a trap. On the right which is about 175 yards from the tee and another 200 yards away on the right of a slight shot. Short of the green on the left there are mounds and a trap short of the green on the right. There is rough both on the left and right sides of the green.

Tenth Hole—411 yards—par 4. It takes two full shots to reach the green here. A good drive and a mangle pitch shot to a slight hill, and it requires a good drive to carry this. Getting over the hill you run into a valley. About 220 yards from the tee there is a trap and another small hill 240 yards from the tee there are more traps. There is a trap to the right of the green and mounds to the right.

Eleventh Hole—413 yards—par 4. Another hole requiring two shots. Here you drive off a hill over a ditch, which is only 145 yards from the tee. On the right there is a trap and there is a trap on the left. There is another about 20 yards beyond this. On the right there are traps and mounds to the right. Beyond there is a slight grade. On the right 50 yards short of the green there is a trap and on the left 300 yards from the tee there is also a trap. A good par four if you make it.

Twelfth Hole—457 yards—par 5. This is a blind tee shot and here you must carry a ditch which lies in the fairway about 250 yards distant on your second shot. About 20 yards short of the green there is a trap on the left and against the green on the right there is a trap. In back of the green there are mounds.

Thirteenth Hole—157 yards—par 3. This is another one-shot hole. You must carry a swamp from the tee and 135 yards distant straight ahead there is a bunker. To the left of the green there is a trap and on the right just short of the green there is also a small trap.

Fourteenth Hole—425 yards—par 4. This is a slight dog-leg hole and requires a good drive and a full iron shot to get home. There is a ditch 120 yards from the tee and the fairway here is slightly uphill. About 135 yards from the tee on the right there is a trap and many are sure to get in trouble there, as only a straight drive will get by safely. The second shot is played through a valley and 40 yards short of the green there is also a trap. The green is on a plateau. If one gets either to the right or left of the green or over, he is in trouble.

Fifteenth Hole—268 yards—par 4. This is a dog-leg hole which calls for a drive and pitch to the green. About 50 yards from the tee there is a ditch. On this hole you drive off one hill onto another. About 200 yards from the tee on the left there is a trap. The rough is on the right. The second shot is played through a valley and over a ditch 240 yards from the tee and up to a raised green.

Sixteenth Hole—138 yards—par 3. This is also a one-shot hole, over a ditch which lies in front of the tee. The green, which is raised, lies to the right.

Seventeenth Hole—265 yards—par 4. Here you drive off a hill and over a ditch 170 yards away and onto another hill. If you slice or hook you are in trouble. To the right of the green there are traps.

Eighteenth Hole—410 yards—par 4. A fine hole to finish on. You drive off a hill and probably be put in on this fairway. At present there are traps. A hole is slightly uphill on an undulating green.