

# FACES AND PHASES OF PHILADELPHIA GOLF

*Pine Valley Will Get Its First Tournament Test in June*

By MAX R. MARSTON

**T**HE first real opportunity of testing the Pine Valley course, which is unanimously regarded by professional and amateur golfers as being the best test of golf in this country or abroad, will come in June—when the Philadelphia Amateur Golf Championship will be played there.

Ten years ago this wonderful Pine Valley was an untouched tract of typical Jersey woods. Today, through the untiring efforts and determined interest of George A. Crump, its founder, and since his death through the club itself, which has worked to carry out his ideas, Pine Valley is so nearly perfect that it is now second to none. Although during the past five years efforts have been made to persuade the club to hold either an invitation tournament or an association event, the officials have shown rare judgment in realizing the course was not ready for tournament play. Therefore Pine Valley's first tournament will be anticipated with great interest. Thirty-two players will qualify for the championship division in a thirty-six hole medal play round, and I take the liberty to predict that the score of 185 will qualify in the championship division.

At the annual meeting of the Philadelphia Golf Association the following officers were elected: President, Robert W. Lesley, Merion Cricket Club; vice-president, Howard W. Perrin, Pine Valley Golf Club, and secretary and treasurer, Francis B. Warner, Philadelphia Cricket Club. The executive committee consists of Garfield Scott, Philadelphia Country Club; Edwin S. Pafy, Riverton Country Club; George F. Brown, Huntington Valley Country Club; Henry Strouse, Philmont Country Club; L. F. Deming, Whitmarsh Valley Country Club, and Frederick S. Sherman, Country Club of Atlantic City.

The caddie and green committees have been of great benefit to the clubs in the Philadelphia district during the past year, and Harry J. Hass and George W. Elkins, chairmen of the respective committees, are to be highly congratulated on the way they have handled the situation. So great has become the interest in the annual Philadelphia Junior Championship that a plan was instituted to form a separate juvenile association, consisting of two juniors from each member club—with the responsibility, under guidance of a committee of adults, of arranging the junior events and stimulating interest among the youngsters of the community. It was also decided to change the name of the Ancient and Honorable Tournament to the Senior's Tournament.

There was keen competition among representatives of the various clubs for the principal tournaments of the Philadelphia district, which were awarded as follows: Philadelphia Amateur Championship, Pine Valley Golf Club; Philadelphia Open Championship, Merion Cricket Club; Philadelphia Junior Championship, Torresdale Golf Club; Patterson Memorial Tournament, Philadelphia Cricket Club; Qualifying Round Inter-Club Team Matches, Philadelphia Cricket Club; Senior's Tournament, Old York Road Country Club; Father and Son Tournament, Whitmarsh Valley Country Club, and Dinner Tournament, Philmont and Old York Road Country Club.

A resolution was passed at the Philadelphia Golf Association meeting in favor of a new municipal golf course. The need of a new public golf course in Philadelphia was strikingly represented by the statement that over 80,000 persons played on the Cobb's Creek course last year, which is the only public course there, and by the fact that Chicago has five municipal courses, Indianapolis four, Buffalo three while several other cities smaller than Philadelphia have two. At times the congestion at Cobb's Creek last year was so great that it took from five to six hours before the players were able to start from the first tee. Two sites are under con-

sideration for the new course, one at Tacony and the other at Pennypack Creek—which would give Philadelphia a public course in the northeast and the southern section of the city. It is to be hoped, if the city council approves of building one or two new courses, that clubhouses will be erected which will provide locker room for the members who play regularly over the course. The present club is most inadequate, having only fifty lockers. It is needless to speak of the great benefit such courses would be to many thousands of people. They will take these thousands out in the country and the fresh air and exercise are good for body and soul alike.

At the annual meeting of the Women's Philadelphia Golf Association seven new clubs were admitted to membership, including Gulf Mills, Tredeyffrin, Stenton Country Club, Plymouth Country Club, Country Club of Norristown, Lu Lu Temple Country Club and the Brookside Country Club of Pottstown. The addition of seven new clubs to the membership rendered it necessary to form a new division in the inter-club competition, making four leagues in the series. The new division will be known as the Association Cup League, and will be composed of six clubs—including Wilmington, Gulf Mills, Philmont (second team), Tredeyffrin, Plymouth and the Brookside Country Club of Pottstown. Eight teams will compete for the Wallingford and Sularban Cup and six teams for the Philadelphia Cup. A new system of handicapping similar to the Western Golf Association was approved by the committee.

Mrs. Caleb F. Fox of the Huntington Valley Country Club, who is one of the best known and one of the best liked women in golf today, both on account of her fine golfing ability, and unflinching good sportsmanship, lost in the finals of the Women's tournament at Bellair, Fla., after a close match with Mrs. A. K. Morrow of Pomonock. Mrs. Fox had previously beaten Miss Glenna Collett, who achieved great fame by her splendid golf last year and it looked very much as though she would be an easy winner, but golf, as everyone knows, is a fickle game.

In last month's issue I made mention of the Racquet Club Golf School and, due to an error in printing, it was stated that William Potts was in charge of it. Maurice Tallman has been in charge ever since it started. Recently I visited the school and found it to be the finest in the country. A racquet court, the dimensions of which are 40 x 60 feet, has been turned over to the school, which enables one to get an excellent idea of his shots before the ball hits the net—over fifty feet away. A putting green with undulations has also been laid down, making it similar to a difficult outdoor green.

Philadelphia has suffered a sad loss in the death of William C. Houston on February 6th. Lovingly known as "Uncle Bill" to his host of friends, he was one of the grandest sportsmen who ever walked on the face of the earth. Although he was seventy-one years of age, and had been out of tournament play for some time, he kept up his keen interest and was always able to give the young fellows a run for their money. Well do I remember playing in a foursome with him last summer, when he made the Country Club course in 77. His kindly presence will be sadly missed by young and old alike at the golf matches in the future. He was always the first to arrive and the last to leave whenever there was a match within running distance of his home.

Probably the biggest "little" golf club in the country is the Overbrook Country Club. It has a membership of 822, and a waiting list of close to a hundred. Up to last season the club only had nine holes in its layout, but now the links has been extended to the regulation eighteen.



ROBERT W. LESLEY

Donor of the Lesley Cup who was elected president of the Philadelphia Golf Association for the seventeenth time