

Philadelphia Notes

By J. E. Ford

PHILADELPHIA golf, for the first time in nineteen years, is without the leadership of Robert W. Lesley, of the Merion Cricket Club. The donor of the famous inter-state trophy and president of the United States Senior Golf Association has stepped down as president of the Golf Association of Philadelphia, and has been succeeded by Howard W. Perrin, of the Pine Valley Golf Club, and a former president of the United States Golf Association.

When the nominating committee made up its 1925 ticket it set down Lesley for the presidency as has been the custom for almost, two decades. Lesley, however, felt that his duties as head of the Merion Cricket Club and of the seniors' organization would prevent his giving the necessary time and attention to the affairs of the Philadelphia association and asked to be kept off the ballot.

By permitting Lesley to withdraw,

the Golf Association of Philadelphia loses an executive who has labored always to keep the association in the van of golf advancement. When he became president of the body in 1906 there were seventeen member clubs. When he retired at the annual meeting in January of this year there were forty-three clubs on the roll. During his tenure of office there were held in the city three national championships, two amateur events and one women's.

The Robert W. Lesley cup, donated by Lesley in 1905, is nationally known and the inter-state matches in which New York, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania teams compete each year are classics of the links. They bring together more noted players than any other competition save the national amateur.

The climax of the annual meeting, made a most unusual one by the retirement of Lesley, came when the association presented Lesley with a huge and handsomely engraved loving cup of antique English silver as a token of appreciation.

Lesley's successor as president of the Golf Association of Philadelphia is a man as widely known as Lesley. Howard W. Perrin has at some time during his career filled virtually every office of the U. S. G. A. and was president of that body in 1917. He had been vice-president of the Philadelphia organization for many years and was once amateur champion of the city. His club, Pine Valley, is known wherever the links language is spoken.

George W. Elkins, Jr., of the Huntingdon Valley Country Club, was elected to succeed Perrin as vice-president of the Philadelphia Association. Elkins for some years had been a member of the executive committee. Elkins' place on the committee was filled by Lesley.

Bidding for the tournament fixtures was lively, but the distribution of these

write followed custom. The amateur championship, sought by a half dozen clubs, was awarded to the Merion Cricket Club where Max Marston won the city title two years ago Cedarbrook was awarded the open tournament. Huntingdon Valley asked and received the junior championship while the seniors tournament was awarded Old York Road. The Pater et Filius tourney will be held at Llanerch.

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Max Marston, former national amateur golf champion, is now taking an active part in the administration end of the game. Ah secretary of the Pennsylvania Golf Association he handicaps all golfers in the state. At the meeting of the Philadelphia association, Marston suggested that golfers be given an official handicap by the association upon the payment of 81. When placed in the form of a motion his suggestion was adopted. Lucius F. Deming, of Whitmarsh Valley, was named chairman of the handicap committee and Philadelphia golfers will be officially handicapped during 1925 for the first time in several years.

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The rank and file of golfers in the city are enthused over the prospect of playing over the city's first semi-public course which will be opened early in the summer. The new course will be known as the Marble Hall Links and is located at Barren Hill, Pa., just beyond the northern limits of the city.

Work on Marble Hall has already been completed. Tees, greens and fairways have been fashioned and planted with bent by the vegetative method. The course will be the first in the country on which creeping bent is used anywhere except on greens and tees. A group of Philadelphians, prominent both in business and golf, are interested in the new course and anticipate a successful career for the club.