

# 35 COUNTRIES ORGANIZE WORLD AMATEUR GOLF

BY

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**H**ad each of the gentlemen around the big table spoken in his native tongue there would have been a confused Babel of some 15 languages. As it was, they all spoke the language of Golf, and the fact that they used English as a common medium was secondary.

They all spoke Golf, and they all were animated by the spirit of Golf. Thus it was that, in the brief space of a day and a half, they completely planned a new World Amateur Team Championship and formed The World Amateur Golf Council to conduct it.

In performing those important acts at Washington last month, the 39 gentlemen, representing 35 countries and every continent, made some even more important findings. They re-discovered the fundamental of unity of golfers devoted to common ideals. They saw therein a glimmering of the true unity that is intended for all humankind.

As far as the United States is concerned, this is consonant with the People-to-People program endorsed by President Eisenhower. The influence of our President was indelibly stamped on the Planning Conference at Washington.

For one thing, the World Amateur Championship will be for the Eisenhower Trophy, to be given by a number of Americans interested in golf administration and who will be anonymous.

For another, President Eisenhower very kindly greeted the Conference delegates individually in the Rose Garden of the White House at noon on Friday, May 2. As a devoted golfer, he gave them this advice in their plans for the World Championship:

"I suggest, aside from the four hot-shot golfers that you bring with you, that you take along some high-handicap fellows and let them play at their full handicaps. This way you never have to take back the same man, and besides golf doesn't become so important.

"You see," the President said, "after

a match the scratch fellow remembers one thing . . . and tells all his friends for the rest of his life that he could have won that international match if he hadn't hit the ball into the water on the 16th. But the high handicappers know darn well there's no use telling their families or their friends about their golf, so they will talk more about St. Andrews, and about the wonderful Scotch people, and everybody they met there."

A USGA silver medallion commemorating the Planning Conference was presented to President Eisenhower by John D. Ames, USGA President. Similar medallions in bronze were given to all the delegates at a dinner in their honor at the Columbia Country Club.

#### First Tournament in October

And now the plans are made for the first World Amateur Team Championship. It will be held October 8 through 11 over the Old Course in St. Andrews, Scotland—the ideal location for such an historic occasion.

A poll of the delegates at Washington indicated that between 30 and 35 countries would send teams. This far exceeded the expectations of officials of the USGA and the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, who jointly sponsored the preliminary work.

Unfortunately, no teams are expected from Communist countries because, so far as is known, they do not have amateur golf organizations; it is understood that there are no golf courses in the Soviet Union.

The first Championship will be at 72 holes stroke play. Each team will consist of three or four players. In each 18-hole round the total of the three lowest scores by players of each team will constitute the team score for that round. The total of the three-player team scores for the four rounds will be the team's score for the Championship. The team with lowest 72-hole score will win. A tie will be played off at 18 holes.



Delegates congregate around President Eisenhower as he displays a silver medallion presented to him by USGA President, John D. Ames.



Flags of many nations flanking the table emphasized the international flavor of the Championship conducted in the U.S.

Almost all the delegates favored match play but felt that considerable study was needed to produce a feasible plan, since so many teams are involved. It is probable that match play will be adopted for the second Championship, which is to be played in the United States in 1960. The Championship will be held biennially, rotated among the three following zones in the order stated:

1. European-African Zone—Countries of Europe, Africa and the Middle East.
2. American Zone—Countries of North America, Caribbean America and South America.
3. Australasian Zone—Countries of Asia, Australia, New Zealand and Oceania.

The delegates adopted a detailed set of Articles of The World Amateur Golf Council to regulate the Championship.

The Washington discussions, held May 2 and 3 at the Sheraton Park Hotel, were wonderfully harmonious, and at the end 32 countries subscribed to the Articles; those represented by proxy could not sign at the time. Chairmen of the meet-

ings were Mr. Ames on the first day and Henry H. Turcan, Chairman of the R&A General Committee, the second day.

The twin bases of the Championship will be the USGA-R&A Rules of Golf and Rules of Amateur Status (the standards used throughout the world of golf). Membership in the Council is open to any organization which constitutes the sole central authority for amateur golf in its country and follows the accepted Rules of Amateur Status.

One knotty problem concerned eligibility of players for teams. It arose mainly from the fact that in some countries the leaders in golf are not citizens of those countries but have retained British citizenship. The matter was solved by a provision that players shall be "citizens of the country of Member Organization represented, except that in cases where a Team of citizens would be impracticable, players normally resident in the country may be included."

But it was not all work for the delegates. There was some golf, for three



the walls of the conference room  
 or of the meeting, which was con-  
 most cordiality.



The Joint Chairmen of the World Amateur Golf Council: Henry H. Turcan (left), Chairman of the General Committee of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, and John D. Ames, USGA President.

Washington clubs very kindly gave them guest privileges—Columbia Country Club, Congressional Country Club and Manor Country Club—and some of them later tested the greatness of the Pine Valley Golf Club course in New Jersey. The USGA dinner at Columbia in honor of the delegates was attended by a number of Washington and Baltimore golf officials, USGA former Champions and committeemen; the British Ambassador, Sir Harold Caccia, and our Deputy Under Secretary of State, Robert D. Murphy. The following message came from Robert T. Jones, Jr.:

"I believe you should all feel great satisfaction in having taken a most constructive and far-reaching step in the promotion of cordial, friendly relations in the free world. Golf being a game founded and thriving upon the virtues of courtesy, mutual respect, consideration and understanding, must be an ideal medium for bringing together the opposite corners of our free world. May I assure you and your guests that within the very limited ability of one individual,

I shall always be eager to help in any way I can."

#### Exchange of Ideas

Although the express purpose of the World Amateur Golf Council is to conduct the World Amateur Team Championship, there are bound to be many by-products of value to golf. Two good examples were furnished at Washington: (1) There was a helpful discussion of handicapping, and USGA representatives were asked to explain the new USGA Handicap System; (2) A USGA Green Section agronomist, T.T. Taylor, was called in by request of delegates to answer turfgrass questions. A number of countries in South America have asked the USGA whether a USGA agronomist can visit them for several weeks next winter.

A tremendous debt of gratitude is owed to anonymous American friends of golf who generously provided free airplane transportation to the visiting delegates. The Conference would not have been the same without such a gift.

The idea of the World Championship

## USGA FILM LIBRARY

"On the Green," a 17 minute, full color 16 m.m. presentation filmed at the Mid-Ocean Club, Bermuda, illustrating correct procedures under the Rules of Golf governing situations arising on the putting green.

"Golf's Longest Hour," a 16 m.m. full color production running for 17½ minutes depicting the closing stages of the 1956 Open Championship. Filmed at the beautiful Oak Hill Country Club, Rochester, N.Y., it shows the eventual winner, Cary Middlecoff, set a target at which Ben Hogan, Julius Boros and Ted Kroll strive in vain to beat.

"Play Them As They Lie," a 16 m.m. color production, running for 16½ entertaining minutes in which Johnny Farrell, the Open Champion of 1928, acts as intermediary between Wilbur Mulligan, a beginner of unimpeachable integrity, and Joshua P. Snye, a past master in the art of breaking the Rules. The film was made at the Baltusrol Golf Club, Springfield, N. J., where Farrell is professional.

"Inside Golf House," gives the viewer an opportunity to see the many interesting exhibits in "Golf House," USGA headquarters in New York, and to re-live golf triumphs of the past with many of the game's immortals. The film is a 16 m.m. black and white production and runs 28 minutes.

"The Rules of Golf—Etiquette" also has proved popular. The film stresses the importance of etiquette by portrayal of various violations of the code in the course of a family four-ball match. Ben Hogan appears in several scenes, and Robert T. Jones, Jr., makes the introductory statement. A 16 m.m. color production, the film has a running time of 17½ minutes.

The distribution of all five prints is handled by National Educational Films, Inc., 165 West 46th Street, New York 36, N. Y., which produced the films in cooperation with the USGA. The rental is \$20 per film; \$35 for two; \$50 for three, \$60 for four and \$70 for five, in combination at the same time, including the cost of shipping prints to the renter.

has taken form with remarkable speed. It was presented to the USGA Executive Committee only in January. USGA representatives went to St. Andrews in March and found the R&A wonderfully receptive to the idea of joining hands with the USGA in sponsoring the early plans. And now, only a few weeks later, representatives from all over the world have done us the honor of coming here and have made a reality of the idea.

So there now exists a World Amateur Golf Council whose object is "to foster friendship and sportsmanship among the peoples of the world through the conduct biennially of an Amateur Team Championship for the Eisenhower Trophy."

It was with real feeling that the dele-

gates as their last official act adopted the following resolution and sent a copy to the President:

"Resolved unanimously, that The World Amateur Golf Council expresses to President Eisenhower its most sincere appreciation of the honor he did the Delegates to the Council's organization meeting in receiving them at the White House on May 2, 1958, and begs to assure the President that his cordial remarks will unflinchingly provide the greatest encouragement to golfers throughout the world, 'hot shots' and 'duffers' alike."

The delegates to the Planning Conference were:

Country	Individual
1. Argentina—	Dr. Eduardo H. Maglione
2. Australia—	E.F. Prendergast
3. Austria—	Hugo M. Eckelt
4. Belgium—	Pierre Abbeles
5. Bermuda—	George R. Holmes
6. Bolivia—	Jaime del Castillo I.
7. Brazil—	Jose Brady
8. Canada—	Gordon B. Taylor, James P. Anglia
9. Ceylon—	Annesley de Silva
10. Chile—	German Edwards
11. China—	Chen Yih
12. Colombia—	Harry R. Child
13. Denmark—	(Swedish delegate)
14. Egypt—	Mahmoud Soliman
15. Finland—	P.H. Zilliacus
16. France—	(Italian delegate)
17. Germany—	Willy Schiewind
18. Great Britain—	Henry H. Turcan, N.C. Selway
19. Italy—	Francesco Ruspoli di Morignana
20. Japan—	Shun Nomura
21. Malaya—	William H. Day
22. Mexico—	Raul Valdes V., Rodolfo Patron
23. Netherlands—	Charles E. Veltman
24. New Zealand—	Douglas O. Whyte
25. Norway—	(Swedish delegate)
26. Peru—	Gabriel Tudela
27. Philippines—	Mervyn W. Simpson
28. Portugal—	Dr. Jose de Sousa e Melo
29. South Africa—	Maurice Tom Jackson
30. Sweden—	Sune Malmstrom
31. Switzerland—	Dr. Peter Prager
32. Thailand—	Prayad Buranasiri
33. United States—	John D. Ames, Charles L. Peirson, Richard S. Tufts, Wm. Ward Foshay, Joseph C. Dey, Jr.
34. Uruguay—	Richard B. Hewlett
35. Venezuela—	Enrique Vidal

### WORLD COUNCIL OFFICIALS

#### Joint Chairmen

John D. Ames, United States Golf Association  
Henry H. Turcan, Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews.

#### Secretary

Joseph C. Dey, Jr., United States Golf Association.

#### Administrative Committee

John D. Ames, United States Golf Association  
Dr. Eduardo H. Maglione, Argentine Golf Association  
Shun Nomura, Japan Golf Association  
Charles L. Peirson, United States Golf Association  
E.P. Prendergast, Australian Golf Union  
Francesco Ruspoli di Morignana, Italian Golf Association  
N.C. Selway, Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews.  
Henry H. Turcan, Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews.  
Douglas O. Whyte, New Zealand Golf Association