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FUNDS FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

BY SANDY McNIBLICK

The question of paying expenses for amateurs to compete abroad promises to develop some zippy arguments when the subject is pressed.

The conditions of the Walker Cup championship of the nations provide that the expenses of the teams be paid. This clause in the terms brought a prominent delegate at the U. S. G. A. meeting this January excitedly to his feet in protest. He feared abuses of this "expenses" business at home.

At least one prominent player has come out with the statement that he favors expenses being paid, in international competition. Reference is made to Max Marston, former champion of New Jersey, and national semi-finalist.

Marston was selected to captain the proposed American Olympic golf team last year. He had his troubles and is qualified to speak.

"I don't think international competition will ever be a success," said Marston the other day, "until the expenses of the competitors are paid. That was the main trouble in getting up a strong Olympic team last year. The players referred to the tennis men and the rest of the athletes sent over and didn't see where any distinction was in order against the golfers.

"The players asked are bound to be the young golfers, players who are comparatively new in business, have difficulty in getting the time off, and can't afford for the most part to donate their own hard-earned money to compete abroad for golf glory.

"If expenses had been offered there would have been a different story last year," continued Marston, "and I think the same difficulty is being encountered this year.

"Recently I had a letter from 'Bill' Fownes, captain of the team, who said that he had written to the U. S. G. A. regarding funds but was informed that the national body had not the money to pay expenses."

The national golf body is apparently giving some thought to the matter and Marston has a way of raising funds which he thinks is not only reasonable but which has been neglected.

"Why not charge \$5 admission to the national amateur and open tournaments?" suggests the star Yankee golfer.

Marston points to the feasibility of this from the large amount of money collected by the "tag system" in vogue last year when Vardon and Ray toured the country.

If the U. S. G. A. was permitted to charge \$5 for a season ticket to each of the national championships, a tag good for all matches and play in the two events, several thousand dollars would be collected in revenue which might be turned back into the game to its benefit and the indirect benefit of all the contributors.

"This price would be purely nominal and no burden on anyone to see championship golf" pointed out Marston. "It would keep away all those who come to see the matches just out of curiosity,

attracted by the crowd as much as anything. It would keep out the pests who don't know enough to stand still, keep quiet, or keep out of the bunkers and traps.

"Many clubs hesitate to take a championship just on account of these people who do more damage to the course than the players.

"There never was any trouble about tagging anybody at the exhibition matches last year. Many times just as many people turned out then as would have to be handled at a championship. I would suggest turning as much of the money as necessary into the expenses of the team to go abroad next year. Then I believe we would have a strong and representative team, one that would really show how the game has progressed in this country."

Marston believes that this matter of international competition has far more significance than just a golf match for a championship and that international sport is a real basis for building up friendly and lasting foreign relations.

He has volunteered his time, money, and golf skill this year, as last, to help make any American invasion a success.

INTERNATIONAL POLO

NEW YORK.—America has an even chance to beat England this summer and regain the international polo cup, in the opinion of Derereux Milburn, veteran internationalist and captain of the American team.

Milburn prefers actions to words and wants Americans to wait until June and let the team show the home folks how good it is.

The team captain is also unwilling to make any predictions about the makeup of the quartet that will take the field at Hurlingham next June to play for the cup.

"Each candidate for the team will have a chance to show himself in the tournaments preceding the challenge match and the personnel of the team will be decided on the showing made in those matches," he says.

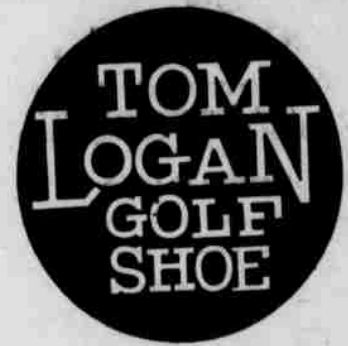
As the squad sails for England early in April, it will be impossible to play any matches here and the men will have to condition themselves in England.

While careful to cover any outward indications of enthusiasm, Milburn admits that the team will make the trip with much more confidence than that which surrounded the visit of Harry Payne Whitney and his squad in 1919.

So little was thought of the chances of an American team at that time that the officials of the polo association hesitated to challenge for the cup, preferring merely to send the team over to participate in various tournaments. At the last minute, however, it was decided to challenge for the cup.

The team consisting of Whitney, Milburn, J. M. Waterbury, J. S. Phipps and E. S. Reynal made a clean sweep of all the tournaments and closed a sensational tour by winning and bringing the cup back to America.

Icelanders do not reckon a person's age by birthdays, but by the number of Christmases that he has seen.



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