

New England Affairs

By A. LINDE FOWLER

It is violating no confidences to say that the U. S. G. A. attitude toward Lesley Cup and Griscom Cup team expenses has made little of a hit with the officials of the Massachusetts Golf Association and the Women's Golf Association of Boston.

What is not clear is that the Canadians, now taken into the Lesley Cup family, making it a four-team test and giving it a pleasant international flavor, pay the railroad expenses of their team members, with the full consent of the Royal and Ancient Society. Why shouldn't the U. S. G. A. grant the same privilege to the three district teams?

It might be well to editorially interpolate the U. S. G. A. point of view and cite some facts, as Golf Illustrated, has felt much as the three Associations involved. The Lesley Cup Matches have been played for almost a quarter of a century between teams representing the Metropolitan, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania Districts. The first matches were played in Garden City in 1905. For over twenty years no question of paying expenses ever arose, but last year it came up. At the last meeting of the U. S. G. A. joint applications were made by the District Association and the Women's Association of Boston, to be allowed to pay the expenses of teams selected by the Associations to play in the Lesley and Griscom Cup matches. The entire Executive Committee, in addition to the Advisory Committee, jointly met and discussed every phase of the effect of permitting the payment of the expenses. It was the opinion of this group of men—capable of acting as a Board of Directors of any corporation, who give their services voluntarily through their love for the game—that it would be unwise. It would let down the bars. The precedent of allowing three District Associations to pay the expenses of a team would open the way for 76 District Associations to pay the expenses of teams they might select to participate in play for any present or future cup! Amateurs, amateurs, 608 of them, could have their expenses paid if each had a team. See the point?

Let's see just what is really involved: This year the Lesley Cup Matches will be held at Winged Foot. This means that the Philadelphia team of eight men will have to come to New York at a cost of \$6.48 each for transportation, and the Boston team will have to outlay \$16.52 each for transportation. The request made by the Associations was for transportation only. It seems too trivial to start a rumpus for. We were for the principle involved—State rights, and all that—until we investigated and looked over that long list of 76 Sectional Associations that would have the right of following the footsteps of the first three. The deeper we got into the matter, the more we are inclined to vote with the twenty-one or more golfers composing the Executive Committee and the Advisory Committee of the U. S. G. A.—Editor.]

Championship dates and courses for the different events under the Massachusetts Golf Association auspices have been assigned. They start with the Massachusetts Open, to be played at the Wollaston Golf Club, Montclair, Mass., May 23 and 24. The Massachusetts Amateur will be played at the Essex County Club, Manchester, Mass., July 11 to 14; the Junior championship at the Unicorn Country Club, Stoneham, Mass., July 18 to 21; the Caddie championship at the Albarque Golf Club, Newtonville,

Mass., August 21, and a new event, the Club Pairs mixed foursome, at the Woodland Golf Club, Auburndale, Mass., June 26 to 30. The Massachusetts Golf Association and Women's Golf Association of Boston, working together, initiated a Mixed Foursome championship several years, but have found that without any limitations upon the makeup of pairs, several combinations were formed each time so strong that some of the interest was killed right from the start. At the same time it was felt that a tournament of this order was fundamentally attractive and in pondering upon an arrangement which might

tend to make the event a matter of less certainty as to the outcome and thereby of more general interest, somebody thought of the idea of club pairs. Needless to say, this plan means not only a deal of interest for the individual pairs but also a material increase of interest for the clubs represented by one or more pairs. It would seem as if the tournament will be more popular now than at any time since it was instituted.

Committees have been appointed and some of them already have begun work on the details of their tasks in connection with the National Amateur championship at the Brae - Bum Country Club next September. Shirley K. Kerns is chairman of the General Committee. One of the most important committees is that handling the arrangements for the Press. Herbert Cole, its chairman, is fully aware of the mass of detail that has to be worked out for the smooth and efficient

functioning of the processes whereby the news is sent forth to the world.



PHILLIPS FINLAY

Whose remarkable driving was first noted by A. Linde Fowler in GOLF ILLUSTRATED, has been amazing new discoverers in Pinehurst

With considerable interest, but no surprise, we have read reports of the extraordinary driving that Phillips Finlay of Harvard did at Pinehurst during the mid-winter tournament. We say "with no surprise" because of having witnessed Finlay's tee-shot feats on a Boston District course in mid-January. The unprecedented streak of mild weather that caused us to advertise, in these columns a month ago, that Southern New England was becoming an ideal winter resort for golfers continued right up to the last week in January and one of those delightful days was taken advantage of by Finlay and Francis Ouimet for a round at the Wollaston Golf Club.

The hits by the Harvard freshman were something prodigious. The seventeenth hole is 520 yards. The regular tee was in use and while the disks were forward, the hole must have measured approximately 500 yards. With a drive that could not have had more than perhaps ten yards of roll, Finlay was home with his drive and a No. 2 iron, the iron all carry.