Byron Nelson RCC Pro 1937-39



Number 13 • July 17, 2015

Reading Eagle, June 19, 1922

COUNTRY CLUB PLANS

TO START WORK ON GOLF COURSE SHORTLY.

charter has been granted Reading the the court to new Country Club and plans are gressing that gressing to such an extent that actual work will be started on the extent Philadelphia location along the near Wamsher's mill, month or more

A contract for the renovation of the old building, close to the pike, will be awarded shortly. Plans are being prepared by Muhlenberg Bros., architects. The survey of the grounds, which is in charge of W. H. Dechant & Sons, is partly completed and, when this work is finished, Mr. Finley, of Wanamaker's store, will be brought here to lay out a golf course.

In the meantime, members of the new organization are discussing the location of the new club house. A site has been tentatively agreed upon and the members are awaiting the approval of club officials and Mr. Finley who will lay out the course.

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Other work that is being pushed rapidly is the survey of the power line and the cleaning of the grounds.

The entire membership of the board of directors of the new country club will travel to Pottsville on Wednesday for the purpose of inspecting the Pottsville Country Club. The latter is two years old and it is hoped this visit will furnish helpful ideas for the local club. The membership of the new country club has reached the 500 mark and it is reported that officials are considering a limit.

Announcement is made of the first corporation meeting to be held on Thursday, June 22, at 8:15 p. m., at the office of L. O. Rothermel. 24 North Fourth street. Subscribers to stock are invited to be present at that meeting.

Roarin' in the '20s

Of this we can be certain: the first reference to Reading Country Club appears in the *Reading Eagle* on June 19, 1922. The article reported that a charter was granted to the new country club on Philadelphia Pike, now known as Route 422, near Wamsher's Mill, previously known as Bishop's Mill. The article noted that Mr. Findlay had been hired to lay out the golf course.

Construction proceeded rapidly. On October 22, the *Eagle* devoted two pages to a progress report that included numerous photos (see pages 4 and 5).

The Findlay's speak. Things get a bit muddled when trying to determine when the golf course opened for play. An article from March 13, 1923, (see page 2) reported on the club's first annual dinner, held at The Berkshire. Fred Findlay, Alex Findlay's brother and the golf course construction manager, was quoted as saying he expected half of the 18-hole course would be open by early June. Later in the same article, Joseph F. Morris, club vice president, stated that 14 holes would be completed and ready for play by May 1. Paul N. Schaefer, club secretary, presented a resolution to have members pay a \$100 initiation plus purchase \$200 in stock. The resolution would be put to a vote at the club's annual meeting on April 10. The 125 members in attendance also heard a presentation from Alexander Findlay, the golf course architect.

Despite these expectations, no record of play in 1923 has been found in the *Reading Eagle*. My method is to search the Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday editions from May to October, the most likely editions that would include reports of local golfing activity. There are numerous articles on events involving Berkshire Country Club golfers, but nothing for RCC. That doesn't mean no golf was played at RCC in 1923. It does, however, seem odd that the golf course would not have opened 1923, given the progress made by October 1922. Indeed, an aerial photo dated 1923 (see page 3) shows a completed front 9 and the 10th hole.

An article from May 24, 1924, (see page 2) states that Memorial Day would mark the opening of the Reading Country Club's new nine-hole golf course. In this instance, new is a relative term; a facility in its second year of operation might still be deemed new. The article does not state that this would mark the first time the course was played by RCC members. Indeed, an article from September 15, 1925, (see page 7) describes the RCC golf course as new.

By 1925, matches involving RCC golfers were a regular feature in the *Reading Eagle*, as can be seen in the examples on pages 6 and 7.

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Reading Eagle, March 16, 1923

HOLDS BANQ RAPID PROGRESS ON NEW **GOLF COURSE**

"Golf is the greatest recreation in the world today, said A. H. Findlay, of Philadelphia, in addressing the members of the Reading Country Club at the first annual dinner at The Berkshire. Mr. Findlay is the father of American golf and planned the 18-hole golf course for the club, the laying out of which his brother, Fred Findlay, has supervised.

The guests were honored with the

The guests were honored with the presence of former Gov. Sproul, who spoke briefly. Vice President Joseph F. Morris was toastmaster.

Special interest centered in the address of Mr. Findlay, who outlined his ideas on golf and the fine points of the game. He stressed the physical mental and moral benefits of the game. "The game is a true revealer of character," he said. "Every man and women in the ordinary walks of life, who cannot afford to become members of the country clubs, should derive these benefits, which should be provided by municipal courses; New York has eight; St. Louis and Omaha have seven courses, and many of the smaller cities throughout the West now enjoy municipal courses. The average man or woman can readily learn the game in five or six lessons."

Mr. Morris presented Fred Findlay, who planned and content of the sund can be supposed and content.

sons."

Mr. Morris presented Fred Findlay, who planned and constructed the course at the new club. He said the organization would possess "A course worthy of the game" and predicted half of the 18-hole course would be completed by the early part of June.

During the speechmaking Mayor Stauffer arrived, with former Gov. Sproul.

Stauffer arrived with former Gov. Sproul.

Mayor Stauffer stated he was signally honored by being able to show the ex-governor and his distinguished associates two important phases of community activity, which included their visit to local industries, where the visitors viewed the productiveness of the community and then to an affair where plans were being made for the recreational progress of the community.

COMPLIMENTED BY GOVERNOR.

COMPLIMENTED BY GOVERNOR.

Mr. Sproul complimented the members on their interest in this form of recreation and stated that the location was a very desirable one.

Mr. Morris informed the members that 14 holes of the course would be ready for playing by May I. The new course will have nine water hazards. It is predicted it will be one of the finest in East Pennsylvania and will attract many golf enthusiasts.

A resolution to have the members of the club pay an initiation fee of \$100, in addition to subscribing to \$200 worth of stock in the club, was presented by the secretary, Paul N. Shaeffer. Action will be taken on this proposal at the annual meeting of the club, April 10.

President L. O. Rothermel, of the club, thanked the 125 members present for their splendid co-operation.

The officers of the club are: L. O. Rothermel, president: Joseph F. Morris, first vice president; Frank Gery, second vice president; Frank Gery, second vice president; Paul N. Schaeffer, secretary, and Nathan Althouse, treasurer.

Those present were:

Mr. and Mrs. John N. Becker, F. F. Seidel, Mr. and Mrs. John N. Becker, B. A. And Alley Mr. and Mrs. John N. Becker, B. And A

house, treasurer.

Those present were:

Mr. and Mrs. John N. Becker, F. F. Seidel.
Mr. and Mrs. John N. Becker, F. F. Seidel.
Mr. and Mrs. George Ermentrout, Mr. and
Mrs. William M. Sharp, Mr. and Mrs. William M. Croll, C. S. Dundore, A. J. Stief, William
Mcter, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Frees, Mr. and
Mrs. Joseph G. Bruestle, Mr. and Mrs. J. Benton Whitman, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Austin,
Charles Wilson Austin.
Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Hunter, Mr. and Mrs.
F. C. Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. Harry P. Laussucq, John M. Seasholtz, Harry C. Geissler, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Weibel. F. H.
Muhlenberg, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Van Denberg, Mr. and Mrs. H. N. Brikinson, Mr. and
Mrs. George Beggs, Miss Kathryn Auman, P.
Mr. and Mrs. H. N. Bell, Mr. and
Mrs. J. J. Knoll, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Titlow.
Miss C O'Donneil, Miss Salie Morris, Mr. and
Mrs. E. J. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Coltridor.
Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Stein, Mr. and Mrs.
E. R. Sayder, Mr. and Mrs. Howard S. Lewis,
Mr. and Mrs. K. B. Abert, Mr. and Mrs.
E. R. Sayder, Mr. and Mrs. Howard S. Lewis,
Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Hert, Samuel Phillipp,
Charles A. Sheidy, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Dethoff, Mr. and Mrs. A. Lincoln Frame, Mr. and
Mrs. J. R. Early, Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Raudenbush, Dorathy M. Raudenbush, S. J. Wagner,
Charles F. Sanders, J. Fred Corbit, Harry
Maurer.
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Eyler, Sylvester
Weis, A. K. Hornsby Charles F. Riess Ryron
Weis, A. K. Hornsby Charles F. Riess Ryron

bush, Dorathy M. Raudenbush, S. J. Wagner, Charles F. Sanders, J. Fred Corbit, Harry Maurer.

Mr. and Mrs. James C. Eyler, Sylvester Wels, A. K. Hornsby, Charles E. Riess, Byron H. Riess, A. L. Lightner, Mr. and Mrs. I. C. Sithens, Mr. and Mrs. P. N. Schaeffer, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Gery, N. S. Althouse,

Mr. and Mrs. L. O. Rothermel, Mr. and Mrs. Keyser Fry, Mr. and Mrs. J. Ffank Kachline, Joseph F. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. W. Keck, Mr. and Mrs. B. S. Meck.

The dinner was in charge of the house committee of the club, comprising: Keyser Frey, chairman; Frank Gery, and Crum Sithens.

Reading Eagle, May 28, 1924

MEMORIAL DAY TO MARK OPENING OF THE READING COUNTRY CLUB LINKS

The Reading Country Club will open its new nine-holes golf course on Memorial Day, with an attractive program of events for both men and women.

In the morning, a driving followed by an approach and putting contest will be the feature, with prizes to the winner and runner-up. In the afternoon a flag tournament, a handicap, affair, nine holes, will attract a large entry list to the course in Exeter township bordering the Phil-adelphia pike.

Great interest in the various events among the Reading Country Club members, assures a large entry. members, assures a large entry, which is very gratifying to the club's Green Committee, Robert Ferguson, chairman which is working hard to make this opening golf event, a success.

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The Golf Chronicles

The story of golf at Reading Country Club and in Berks County

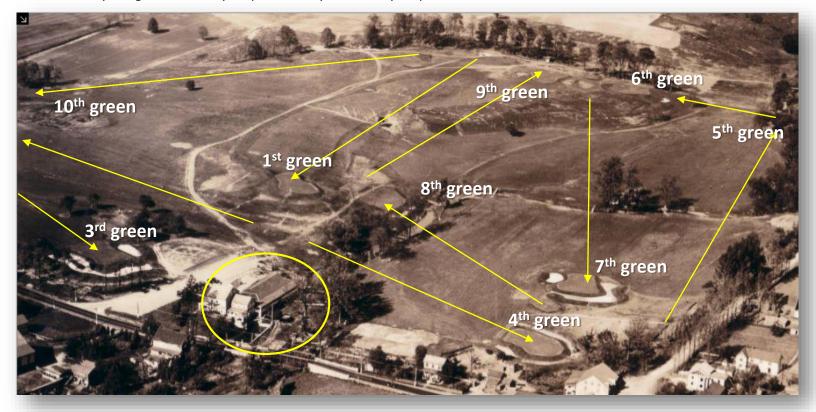
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Ready for play. An aerial photo purported to be from 1923 shows ten holes that appear ready for play. The Bishop's House (inside the yellow circle), which still stands at the club entrance, served as the original club house. An wing was added for locker rooms. See page 4 for a description.

The overlay shows the routing for the 9-hole course, with the current holes noted. The current second green would be just to the left of the photo. The front nine as designed by Alexander Findlay played to a par 35 at 2985 yards. Today's front 9 plays to a par 34. The difference is the 4th hole, which Findlay designed as a 265-yard par 4. Today it is a 200-yard par 3.



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THE READING EAGLE, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1922.

FOR COUNTRY CLUB BELOW BLAC BUILDINGS AND GOLF COURSE PROPOSED







Now It Costs 599



\$300.000 LIQUIDATION SAL

The Golf Chronicles

The story of golf at Reading Country Club and in Berks County

Byron Nelson RCC Pro 1937-39



Number 13 • July 17, 2015





Reading Eagle, September 2, 1924

Number 13 • July 17, 2015

Maurer's card showed the follow-ing shots:

The following is a list of the play-s and their scores out, in and total: Ray Dengler, 57, 49, 106; Ellis

Be sure that your floral decora-tions on the dining table do not in-terfere with the serving or the conversation.

Reading Eagle, April 15, 1925

COUNTRY CLUB ELECTI

IMPROVING THEIR PROPERTY. 413 MEMBERS ON ROLL.

The annual meeting of the holders of the Reading Country Club was held with 125 present. following were elected members of the board of governers for three years: Romanus Esterly, Joseph F. Morris, William H. Albright, J. Crum Sithens, J. J. Knoll, Keller B. Albright. James C. Eyler was elected for one year. A fine platter luncheon was served. Financial reports were submitted. An extension the locker house will be completed this month that will provide 150 additional lockers.

Eleven new bridges with concrete bases are being built over the creek running through the grounds. A number of amendments to the by-laws were adopted. Three new members were elected making the present enrollment 413.

A BIG SUCCESS

ROBERT FERGUSON WINS FIRST OF MANY PRIZES

The lottery tournament, the ture of the Reading Country Club's golf events over the week-end. proved a big success. Three score of the devotees of the ancient Scottish game, teed off during the event.

tish game, teed off during the event.

Four classes, with 20 prizes, and two prizes for the men's low medal score and the women's low medal score, were arranged for the large field, three being for the male golfers while the women constituted the remaining class.

The lottery tournament in golf is practically a drawing after the cards have all been compiled. The classes called for all scores, 18 holes, medal play, between 80 and 190 at class A: 101 to 115 cass B, with 116 and upward as the class C entries.

As the women played but one round, nine holes, their scores were tabulated as one class. As all the scores of one class were placed in a hat, and the drawing followed, it was not the low score in each class that won, but the score drawn in rotation for the number of prizes allotted in each class.

Reading Eagle, July 6, 1925

WEIS TURNS IN LOW SCORE.

WEIS TURNS IN LOW SCORE.

Sylvester Weis, with 44-45—89.
led the field with the law medal score, with John E. Shounder, second, with a card of 45-45—90. Of the women, Mrs. Frank P. Nistle, shooting 4 for nine holes, won the low medal score trophy. Mrs. Sylvester Weis was second with 55.

In the award of the lottery prizes, in class A, with scores of 30 to 100. Robert Ferguson, with 92, won first prize: J. Lewis Lingle, second, with 96. while Howard J. Sheeler drew third; Frank P. Nistle, fourth, and John E. Shounder, fifth, with 98, 92 and 90 scored respectively.

The class B prizes, drawn on scores 101 to 115, had Fred Hertwig first with 111; E. W. Heckel, 112, second: Alexander Brown, third, 103: C. M. Evans, fourth, 113; Edward Darlington, fifth, 104; William Ermentrout, sixth, 103.

CLASS C WINNERS,

CLASS C WINNERS.

CLASS C WINNERS.

Class C, with score of 116 and over, had Oliver Ginn taking first, prize with 118; Andrew J. Levengood, second, with 124; William Drexel, third, and John J. Neubling, fourth, with 131 and 134, respectively, while fifth prize went to C. H. Kendig with 136.

In the women's class, Mrs. Fred Hertwig won first prize with 82; Mrs. T. leager Snyder, second, with 68; Mrs. Sylvester Wels, third, with 55; Mrs. A. J. Levengood, fourth, with a 63 score.

THE SCORES.

THE SCORES.

The scores turned in to the

Greens' Committee prior to the drawing for the prizes, follow:

Women's Class (nine holes, medal play)—Mrs. Frank P. Nistle, 54:
Mrs. Sylvester Weis, 55: Mrs. Paul Keppleman, 59; Mrs. Fred Hertwig, 62: Mrs. Andrew J. Levengood, 63: Mrs. Frank Robinson, 63; Mrs. T. leager, Snyder, 68; Mrs. J. Lewis Lingle, 78; Mrs. N. R. Ramer, 83.

Men's Classes (18 holes, medal play), Class A (80 to 100)—Sylvester Weis, 89; John B. Shounder, 90; Frank P. Nistle, 92: Ray Dengler, 92; A. L. MacDowell, 93: Harry Maurer, 94; Howard Freese, 94; Dr. William Metér, 96; J. Lewis Lingle, 96; Dr. L. T. Raber, 97; Robert Ferguson, 98; Howard J. Sheeler, 98; A. L. Scott, 100.

Class B (101 to 115)—M. T. Smith, 103; Alexander Brown, 103; William Ermentrout, 103; Edward Darilington, 104; N. R. Ramer, 107; R. L. Balley, 107; W. H. Gehren, 109; Howard Faust, 109; Dr. Wayne L. Shearer, 109; Frank Dick, 111; Ray DeTurk 111; Fred Hertwig, 111; William M. Schrader, 112; E. W. Heckel, 112; C. M. Evans, 112; S. C. Sithens, 115; S. J. Wagner, 115; George Ermentrout, 115.

Class C (116 and upward)—Charles Meter, 117; Oliver Ginn, 118; Paul Wentzel, 119; Harry Laussucq, 123; Andrew J. Levengood, 124; A. N. Kline, 125; William Wover, 140.

Creat credit is due the Greens' Committee, Dr. Wayne L. Shearer, chairman; William M. Schrader, Howard Freese, J. Lewis Lingle, Ed-

Mover, 140.
Great credit is due the Greens' Committee, Dr. Wayne L. Shearer, chairman: William M. Schrader, Howard Freese, J. Lewis Lingle, Edward H. Heckel, John G. Nueblins, John A. Gingrich, Harry C. Geissler, Ernest J. Poole, Sr., and Martin D. Hunter, for the success of the

Byron Nelson RCC Pro 1937-39



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Reading Eagle, August 2, 1925

READING C. C. GOLFERS DEFEATED AT POTTS

BROOKSIDE TEAM 1914 POINTS IN MATCH.

The Reading Country Club golf team invaded Pottstown on Saturteam invaded Pottstown on Saturday and lost to the Brookside Country Club by the decisive score of 13 ½ to 4 ½. The match was played in foursomes with the Nassau scoring system in vogue, one point for the first nine holes, one point for the second nine and another for the match. Keppelman and McDowell were the only winners for the Reading contingent, they tallying 2½ points on their Brookside opponents. The same teams will meet in another match over the course of the Reading Country Club on Saturday, Aug. 29. The scores of Saturday's match were as follows:

Brookside C. C. Reading C. C.

Brookside C. C.	Reading C. C.
Fegley.	Weis.
Seringen 8	Maurer autonom 0
Gumbes,	Lingle.
Carroll	Schrader 0
	Ferguson.
Arms	Shounder
McCaslin 34	McDowell 24
Swinehart 34	Dongler 14
	Freend.
Biorb	Pools
Manas	Ramer.
	Robinson bassess 0
Brownback 14	Rhaeler 794

Totals	Totals 414
******	Totals consecut sign

Reading Eagle, September 6, 1925

GOLF AT READING C. G.

SWEEPSTAKE TOURNAMENT ON LABOR DAY PROGRAM.

LABOR DAY PROGRAM.

The greens committee of the Reading Country Club. Dr. Wayne L. Shearer, chairman, announces a men's and women's sweepstake as the feature of the Labor Day program on the new Reading course.

On Saturday, Sept. 12, the Reading Country Club golf team will visit Pottstown, where they meet the representatives of the Brookside Country Club in the fourth of a series of interclub team matches. To date the Brookside golfers have won three straight matches from the Reading Country Club.

Play in the Frank Tyack cup competition will be started Saturday. Sept. 20, when there will be a qualifying round. 18 holes, medal play. The cup is valued at \$150 and must be won three times to be retained as permanent property.

The club membership will be

be won three times to be retained as permanent property.

The club membership will be started in October, when the trophy now held by Ernest J. Poole, jr., last year's champion, will be placed in competition. There will be a qualifying round, medal play, 18 holes, followed by the usual match play.

Reading Eagle, August 30, 1925

Brookside Golfers Defeat Reading Country Club Team

The Brookside Country Club golf team, of Pottstown, triumphed over the representatives of the Reading Country Club by a score 13½ to 10½ in yesterday's inter-club team match played over the nine-hole course of the Reading Country Club located in Exeter township. It was the third of a series of five team matches between these rival teams, and annexing this match gives the Brookside golfers the series with three straight matches to their credit.

Howard Freese, of the Reading Country Club team, was credited with the low score, shooting an 82, out in 40 and home in 42, with R. C. Storb, of Brookside, second, with 41-44-85.

Kenneth Howard, paired with the representatives of the Reading

41-4-85.

Kenneth Howard, paired with Charles Kast, triumphed over Paul O. Keppelman, the Reading "skipper" and Dr. F. A. MacDowell, 2½ to ½, in the first foursome, in which the Brookside golfers had their opponents two down, at the turn.

SHOOT GOOD GOLF.

SHOOT GOOD GOLF.

Shooting good golf, Sylvester Weis and Harry Maurer, Reading, defeated William E. Mills and R. S. Strader, 2 to 2, in the second foursome. Weis shot a 40 going out, while his particular to the second foursome. Weis shot a 40 going out, while his particular to last season's form, shot a 29 on the second nine holes, which explains the defeat of the Mills-Strader combination. Weis shot an 36, out in 40 and home in 46, while Harry Maurer had 49-39-38. For the Brookside pair, R. S. Strader shot 48-50-88 and his partner, Mr. Mills, who seemed off in his long game, took 49-45-94 for the 18 holes.

The third Reading foursome, Ernest J. Poole, jr., the club champlon, paired with Howard Freese, cme through with a win over the Gumbes brothers, Francis and Charles, scoring 3 points to the visitors 0. Howard Freese was at the top of his game, shooting 40-42-32, and was greatly responsible for the defeat of the Gumbes brothers, consistent golfers. Francis Gumbes turned in a card of 47-43-90, while Ernest J. Poole, jr., shot 50-48-93. Charles Gumbes, who seemed off in his approaching and putting, finished with 53-53-106.

Dr. Norman W. Cameron and George Arms, Brookside, defeated

Dr. Norman W. Cameron and George Arms, Brookside, defeated

John W. Shounder and Robert Ferguson, Reading, 2 to 1. Ferguson's 20-foot putt, sunk for a four on the 18th hole, enabled the Reading pair to take the last nine holes. Dr Cameron turned in a card of 44. 4:—87, while Mr. Arms, his partner shot 46, 45—91. For Reading, Bol Ferguson scored 48, 45—91, and John Shounder, 49, 44—92.

In the fifth foursome, Howard Sheeler and Frank W. Robinson wor from I. L. Lachman and D. K Bullens, 2 to 1, the Brookside players, although eight up at the turn were unable to win the last nim holes and the match.

A CLOSE CONTEST.

holes and the match.

A CLOSE CONTEST.

R. C. Storb and R. D. Swinehart
Brookside, were forced to extend
themselves to defeat Ray Dengler
paired with William M. Schrader
2½ to ½ in the sixth foursome. At
the visitors were 1 up at the turn
and were leading until the 18th hole
when Dengler's sinking long 25-foo
putt succeeded in evening the lax
nine holes and gained one-hal
point for his team. Storb's card was
41. 44—35. while Dengler shot 45
44—39 and Swinehart 49, 43—92
Schrader had 34 out in 43 and home
in 44.

Although Wilson S. Rother

in 44.

Although Wilson S. Rotherme and Richard L. Bayley, the Reading Country Club representatives, sho good golf. Rothermel having an 89 out in 45 and home in 44, while his partner had a card of 47, 47—94, the Brookside pair. Jesse Brownback and C. B. Roeller, proved; twee bit too strong and won by a score 3 to 0. Brownback had at 86 and Roeller 87.

Summary:

BROOKSIDE COUNTRY CLUB.

BROOKSIDE COUNTRY CLUB.
Kenneth Howard-Charles Kast.
William E. Mills R. S. Strader
Francis Gumbes-tharles Gombes.
Dr. Norman W. Cameron-George Armss.
I. L. Lachman-O. K. Bullens
R. C. Storb-R. D. Swinehart
Jesse Brownbuck-C. B. Roeller.
Charles Mallison-G. P. Bullard

READING COUNTRY CLUB.
Paul O. Keppelman-Dr. F. A. MacDowell.
Sylvester Wels-Harry Maurer
Sylvester Wels-Harry Maurer

Ernest J. Poole, jr Howard Freese.

John W Shounder-Robert Ferguson

I Howard Needer F. W. Robinson

Ray Dengier William M. Schrader

Wilson S. Rotherinet-Richarl L. Bayler

A. L. Scott-Frank P. Nistle

3

GOLF MATCH AT KIWANIS SESSION

An inter city golf match for the State championship of the Kiwanis Club of Pennsylvania will be a special added feature of the convention program for the Kiwanians of the Keystone State who will be in session in this city, Oct. 5. 6 and 7. This interclub team match, with handsome trophies to the winners in the various classes, will be played Monday, Oct. 5. over the Reading Country Club course, in Exeter township, Paul O. Keppleman, captain of the Reading Kiwanis Club golf team, who is chairman of the tournament committee, will direct the event which will be at 18 holes, medal play.

medal play.

This special added feature, with its many costly and handsome trophies, has aroused great interest among the Kiwanians of Pennsylvania and will have more than 125 members teeing-off on Monday, Oct. 5, in the event scheduled here over the new course of the Reading Country Club. the new course Country Club.

Reading Eagle September 15, 1925