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Twilight League Is Fixture of Plainfield's Golf Season

By GENE HAMPSON

POSSIBLY this isn’t a new idea to some and yet again it may be just that to others. At any rate we will pass it along for consideration and it might be that some will find it a worthwhile project this summer, especially on the public links.

The idea is simply this—an industrial twilight golf league conducted along the same lines as the popular twilight baseball, softball circuits, etc. The plan has been in vogue in Plainfield, N.J. for five seasons and has fitted well into the sports program there with several benefits.

First, the league has attracted extra green-fees to the public course scene of play; second, it has served to make new golfers by striking a somewhat different field; third, it has also served to bring the golfers together, by breaking up their usual foursomes. New friendships tend to increase club and community spirit. And last, it has been a welcome addition to a community athletic schedule of events.

The Plainfield Industrial Twilight Golf League, sponsored by the Plainfield Recreation Commission and governed by a board of directors, operates with eight teams. There is never any difficulty securing teams.

Matches are played on the Commission's own 9-hole course and all matches are of 9-hole duration in view of the fact that they don't start until 6 p.m. and there is insufficient time for an 18-hole match. However, plenty of action and fun can be packed into 9 holes, as the Plainfield golfers will tell you.

Teams are composed of five men. Prior to the season, players submit score cards to determine handicaps, but once play has begun the handicaps quickly are ironed out to the measure of each golfer's ability.

Each player is given two handicaps. One is a match handicap and is based entirely on a player's ability. The second handicap is a medal handicap and is governed
by the player's weekly score. The match handicap is changed once a month or once every two weeks if desired, but the medal handicap changes with each round.

Players are paired up as closely as possible by ability, with each team designating its men as 1-2-3-4-5 and playing them against the opposition's men of the same rating, said rating being decided by handicaps, low to high. Strokes are given or received according to the course card.

Each match counts one point and in addition, to prevent players from wasting strokes when their match is concluded—in order to bolster their handicaps—net medal scores are totalled and the team showing the lowest total with handicap is awarded an extra or sixth point.

The Plainfield League has adopted the plan of having each player chip in 25 cents for each match, in addition to paying his golf fees. For each point won, 30 cents goes to the team, with the remainder of the money placed in a prize fund for the players with the low average score under match play handicap and the low average score under medal play handicap at the end of the season.

Keeping the handicaps is important and not always an enviable position. The Plainfield league is fortunate in having as one of its members a gentleman who just dotes on keeping such statistics, but in other cases the handicaps could be handled by club managers, professionals, tournament chairmen or recreation commission office men.

Municipal course publicity this year is stronger than ever, with public courses going about a real job of selling their attractions as civic assets.

One of the strong mailing pieces is that produced by F. W. Loede and Chas. A. Winans of the Passaic County (N. J.) Park commission. The season's schedule, rates, personnel, facilities, maps and a picture of the course appear in the folder. Pro Myron L. Kniffin is pictured on the address part of the circular which is extensively mailed within Passaic county.

Ask for Prospects—In "Chip Shots," house organ of the Coquillard GC, South Bend, Ind., are 12 dotted lines members are invited to fill in with the names of friends they would like to have join the club. Members are asked to hand their lists to Frank MacDonald, pro at the club and editor of the live little magazine.

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