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Insurance Article Outlines
Coverages For Clubs, Players

In an article, "Royal, Ancient and Insured," that appeared in its July issue, the Journal of American Insurance, monthly publication of the American Mutual Insurance Alliance, Chicago, discussed the many forms of insurance that both clubs and golfers should have.

All clubs, said the magazine, are exposed to common liability losses occurring in businesses. Thus they need coverages of workmen’s compensation, general public liability, products liability if meals are served, and automobile liability.

Where large stocks of expensive golf equipment, bar and food supplies and substantial amounts of cash are kept on the premises, the article continued, protection against perfidy, burglary, holdup and theft are essential.

Property Protection

The many customary property insurance policies for buildings and contents also are indispensable to club owners. Through such policies coverage is provided against fire, vandalism and malicious mischief, sprinkler leakage, glass breakage, boiler and machinery mishaps and business interruption. Even rain insurance, a form of business interruption coverage, can be obtained by clubs holding tournaments.

As for golfers, they may obtain adequate liability protection under their comprehensive personal liability policies or by inclusion of this coverage in their homeowners’ policies. Inland marine forms give broad protection against most unavoidable hazards to golf equipment. Players also may obtain coverage for medical expenses and loss of time resulting from accidental injuries on courses. In 1961, about 15,000 persons suffered disabling injuries through golfing mishaps, according to insurance statistics.

Suggest Prevention Methods

Besides providing complete coverage for clubs and players, says the insurance journal, the insurance industry has helped club owners in taking needed prevention measures for buildings and contents. If such measures aren’t taken, in fact, country clubs are considered by many companies to be undesirable risks. This is largely because club buildings often are unoccupied in the off-season or because they are located in rural areas not easily
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accessible to fire departments.

Clubs that are considered to be good risks have complete sprinkler systems and their kitchens, lockerrooms, lounges, storage areas, etc., are built of noncombustible materials. The added expense of installing built-in safeguards are offset somewhat by reductions in insurance rates.

Don’t Like to Foreclose

Many people in the insurance business are, of course, golfers, club officials and even club owners. However, the Journal of American Insurance points out that insurance companies prefer not to become involved in financing country clubs. “Clubs are a little like churches,” says one insurance executive. “We don’t like to foreclose on them.”

Muny Golf Panels

Municipal golf was one of the subjects discussed at the 64th annual conference of the American Institute of Park Executives held in Kansas City, Sept. 23-27. The panel included Wilbur Wright, Rochester, N. Y., Gardner Gidley, Clemmons, N.C., Frank Vaydik, Detroit and Harry Eckhoff of the National Golf Foundation. Eckhoff also spoke at the 44th National Recreation Congress in Philadelphia, Sept. 30-Oct. 5. With him in a panel discussion group were Garrett Remm, golf director for the city of Philadelphia, Charles Christiansen of Denver, and David W. Gordon, course architect of Doylestown, Pa.