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Hold First Forum for Public Course Operators

By BILL SHERMAN

A new medium for exchanging information relating to public course operation received strong inaugural support from 60 participants at a forum for public golf course administrators held in conjunction with the GCSA conference in San Diego. The meeting was sponsored by the National Golf Foundation.

A short series of prepared speeches set the tone for the discussion of ideas, plans and questions covering all phases of public golf operations. Those attending the forum were about equally divided between municipal directors and individual owners of public courses.


Stirs up Questions

Bellitt's discussion of the "Golf Professional and His Contract" drew a heavy response in the form of specific questions. The PGA leader pointed out that pro salaries and other compensations should be directly related to job responsibilities. A pro, he said, has to complement his native abilities with proper initiative to earn a better living. Further emphasis was made relative to the contract as a necessary agreement for defining the duties and responsibilities of a pro. Inasmuch as the contract is the basis for compensation, its chief ingredients should be clarity and proper care exercised by both parties.

Budget Preparation

Gene Reid's speech dwelled on budget preparation as the key item in overall planning of operational procedures. The budget has many uses, one of which often overlooked is the function of being a chief record of research, Reid said.

Dick Sincerbeau itemized measures that the supt. can initiate to speed up play and bring about a more compatible use of the course for the public patron.

How to control play through the use of advance registration sheets, starter's
sheets, reservation policies and related items was the highlight of Don Makie's presentation of how to get golfers off the first tee.

Tax Legislation
Charles Pinney, a well-known lawyer who is connected with a Southern California golf enterprise, told of new tax legislation that affects methods of keeping golf courses records. Of much interest was his brief discussion of estate planning in its influence on individual income taxes and long range evaluation of course properties.

The necessary steps in planning a revenue bond proposal were explained by William H. Fieldman. He is the chief financial adviser for Roseville, California's first city to undertake financing of a municipal course with a revenue bond issue.

Golf and Real Estate
According to the National Golf Foundation 40 per cent of the 400 country clubs started in the last year or two have had some kind of real estate development built in conjunction with them. Florida has started or completed 40 such projects in the past two years and California claims 25.

Ladies PGA Summer Purses Exceed 100,000 Mark
Women who play the Ladies PGA summer tour will be competing for purses totalling $101,500, according to Len F. Wirtz, tournament director. Eleven official events are included in the schedule. Through the first 37 weeks of 1963, LPGA prize money will amount to $220,000, an increase of $39,000 over a similar 1962 period. Last year, the summer schedule offered only about $70,000 in purses.

Three new tournaments have been added to this year's summer card. These are the Wolverine, Ogden (Utah) and Idaho Centennial Opens. The Ogden event replaces last year's Salt Lake City Open.

Increase USGA Prize
Six of the regular tournaments are offering more money this year than last. These include the USGA's Women's Open in which the purse will be $9,000, an increase of $1,000. The Sight Open, which replaces last year's Kelly Girl and the Albuquerque Swing Parade are offering $2,500 more than in 1962 and the Milwaukee Jaycee Open is increasing its purse from $9,000 to $12,500.

The Carval Open, the last event on the