

Committees That Loaf Don't Exist Here

MY first official act after the yearly election was to appoint committees for the year. In our club the precedent has been that the member of the board of directors on a committee is to act as chairman. You might say that his chairmanship is ex officio. A chairman or committee who assumes the responsibility and does not feel a responsibility, or live up to it is a liability as well as a big detriment to the president. In other words, the president would be much better off without a committee at all.

I sometimes feel that the adherence to mechanical organization which calls for committees and the like is the biggest mistake and handicap a country golf club has, for I will venture to say that a very, very small part of country golf club committees in this country even begin to function to the extent of a percentage anywhere approaching 100. A member selected readily accepts in order to get his name in the paper or on the stationery, but that is as far as he goes. To state it another way: A president who is capable, enthusiastic and willing to work towards a finer, bigger and better club must suffer by a "limiting factor" in the matter of a chairman or committee (the same thing) on account of mechanized by-laws.

To get anywhere a president—if he has the "guts"—must outline his program for the year; allot its divisions to the committees as designated by the by-laws; appoint his chairmen tentatively, and put their responsibilities squarely up to them, with the alternative of "take it or leave it." If they take it, give them the privilege of suggesting their assistants and confirm their choices. Committee meetings at least once a month, at a dinner, mean a check-up as well as an opportunity for the formation of a constructive schedule for the coming month.

A country club is a cooperative stock company. Each member pays for its operation alike. Each member goes through the same "modus operandi" in being admitted, and pays the same amount of money according to classification of membership. Therefore, any outline of operation and any formulation of budget to "carry on" should provide an equal recognition of the individual membership and their desires.—Henry Clay Anderson.

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