

# Women's Committee Activities Big Factor in Live Clubs

By BETTY BURTON

**B**ASEBALL EMPLOYS its Judge Landis, the Professional Golf association its Albert Gates and the Women's Western Golf association has its mediator in the person of Mrs. J. E. Neff, of South Bend, Ind., to whom unusual points of play are referred and on which she gives rulings without the monetary return the above mentioned gentlemen receive. The women golfers recognize her fairness on all questions and accept her decisions, making it unnecessary to refer to the officers of clubs to solve knotty problems. There are many other matters, however, in which the women depend upon the men for co-operation.

With the number of women in the golfing field increasing annually and the standard of their golf reaching a new high level, there is greater need for co-operation among the men's and women's division of the clubs. In recent years the officers of clubs have given the women more latitude and in most instances they run their own department independently of the stronger sex, with the men making a certain allowance for the purchase of prizes, granting certain days throughout the season when the women may have guests to further clutter up the landscape with struggling females.

In the Chicago district the officers of many clubs further co-operate with the women by granting them open days on which the Chicago District Women's Golf association schedules one day tournaments. Playing on different courses tends to improve the player's judgment of distance and gives her a variety of shots to make.

With the sun-tanned fashion, the demand for sylph-like figures, the youthful look sports clothes give and the necessity of playing the game in order to be "in the know," all in addition to the benefit derived from the health giving qualities of the game and the sportsmanship it develops, women recruits for the past several years have surpassed the number anticipated. Efforts are constantly being made

to encourage the less courageous ones to build up their game.

In the handling of this army of golf club wielders there must be co-operation used in order to keep the works moving smoothly. Allowing women members almost unrestricted use of courses during the week and permitting play over the week-ends after certain hours has been a great aid in increasing the number of women players, now fast outnumbering the men players. Formerly it was the custom for the chairman of the men's events to appoint a woman chairman for women's events for the year, but at the majority of clubs now the women are given the privilege of electing their own chairman. This is generally considered quite satisfactory as women usually chose one of their comrades, not for her popularity but rather for her capability to fill the trying position. It requires a woman of judgment, tact, discretion, knowledge of the game of golf, an understanding of the temperament of the different players, and most particularly a sense of justice to conduct women's play smoothly at any club.

The mixed foursomes, however, are usually under the direction of the men. These events are held on Sunday afternoons once a month throughout the season in some clubs; in others on the afternoons of the Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day holidays. Numerous clubs have inaugurated a method to get the members out by having a mixed foursome event on Thursdays in August followed by dinner and dancing in the evenings.

Now at many clubs women golfers are restricted to certain hours on week-ends when the mighty lords of all creation come out in full force, but that problem is solved at Medinah, Lincolnshire and Olympia Fields in the Chicago district by having entirely separate courses for the women to play on during those days, while the mighty male is digging his divots.

As the women gradually improve their golf a ruling might be put into effect that

would stimulate both sexes to reduce their handicaps. Say, by way of example, that women with handicaps from scratch to 8 were permitted to play on the course at any time, those who were conscientious enough to get into that class would certainly inspire a male sharp shooter with a 24 handicap to reduce his to within firing distance. To accomplish this he would surreptitiously go to the "pro" and try to correct faults which prevented him from scoring well. This is only a suggestion and might be tried as a means of reducing handicaps. Various changes have been made in the golfing curriculum in the past few years, even to the extent of playing a different ball in 1930, 1931 and 1932. If the handicap plan suggested does not work it can be easily discarded, and no one will be hurt, though the pride of some male members may be injured.

Midlothian, one of the oldest clubs in the Chicago district, last season overcame a condition of women's golf which had existed there for many years. In 1930 there were only a couple of women members who really played above an average game of golf. Many were losing interest and the others could not be induced to play. James Creavy, chairman of men's events, attempted to attract more women to the golf course, and satisfy the majority of members, husbands and wives jointly.

In 1931 many of the precedents set in former years were violated. There were inaugurated such revolutionary measures as having no A, B and C classes and allowing no limit to handicaps. One woman carried a 125 handicap. Many of the beginners found 18 holes too much for one day so Mr. Creavy cut their events to 9 holes. However, the better players were privileged to play the full 18 and use the better nine for the day's score.

### Golf in Large Quantity

A bit of tenacity of purpose was shown by one energetic beginner who played the full eighteen holes at the opening of the season with a score of 318. One thing which marked the calibre of this woman was the fact that she conscientiously recorded every "fan." I am not informed who the bookkeeper was. Undismayed by this alarming count, which equals approximately 72 holes with an average of 79 strokes a round (enough to tire a seasoned player) she was determined to cut down her score and by the end of the season was shooting an average of 120 for eighteen holes.

On Fridays there were three prizes offered, the first for low net, the second for 10th low net, the third for 15th low net, thereby distributing the prizes rather than rewarding the best golf players. In a match one of the better players was compelled to give her opponent 4 strokes a hole, and lost one up. This arrangement works a hardship on a real golfer and rather discourages than encourages playing golf in the true sense of the word. Mr. Patterson, the conscientious pro, stood by aghast.

More women attended last year than ever before in the history of the club so Mr. Creavy told us. Mrs. J. Edward McMahon, chairman, handled affairs so admirably with the majority of women who competed in the events and so much to the satisfaction of Mr. Creavy that she has been reappointed to that position for the year 1932.

Since the officers of most clubs allow the women to handle their own problems, a word might be said to the managers in regard to supplying the proper kind of meals for the golfers who wish to keep their handicaps as well as their hips down. Plain, wholesome food at moderate prices would satisfy the athletic woman who finds it difficult in many clubs to get the nourishment she craves. Fancy desserts with an abundance of whipped cream containing many calories usually are served. Why not cater a bit to the athletes?

Into the locker-rooms, the place to which the tired woman golfer turns after her round, a few items may be placed which cost the club little and contribute a lot of comfort to the women. Cold cream, tissues for removing cream, sunburn lotion, listerine, witch hazel, pins (straight, safety and hair) and powder with little cotton balls for applying are a few that would be useful. It is presupposed that there are plenty of clean towels and soap at all times. A competent locker-room attendant can do much to make the women habitués happy. It is only spoken in sotto voce that set-ups are served the women, but if a small room off the locker-room were available this nineteenth hole performance could be attended to without offending conscientious objectors.

**S**INCE SAND in traps constantly washes down toward the lowest point in the depression, raking should be started at this low point and carried out to the trap margins.