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CLUB TOURNEYS

Some Suggestions on What Events
 a Small Club Should Hold

OUR CLUB IS young and struggling, less than a year old, and we want to work up as much interest as possible this year. At the same time we want to build for the future, and want to be sure that whatever we do will be for the best interests of the club.

(1) How many tournaments are held during a season at most clubs? I refer to major contests, and not such competition as blind bogey and flag tournaments.

(2) Should the most important one—in our case the president of the club has donated a permanent trophy for this—be played in match or medal competition, and should the players start from scratch, or should they be allowed their handicaps?

(3) Should the major tournament be held in September, near the close of the season, or in July or August?

(4) Is it permitted under U.S.G.A. rules for a player to accept a prize, such as merchandise donated by local merchants, in addition to the trophy?

—G. H. R. (Wis.)

Reply.

(1) The extent and elaborateness of a club's tournament schedule depends on local conditions and the degree to which interests in these tournaments can be built up. With proper advance ballyhoo and publicity, two major golf contests are not too many for even the smallest club.

(2) The most important event will of course be the club championship which, played either on a match play or medal play basis as the club prefers, is generally run without handicaps.

(3) At some clubs the championship is played in mid-season but in the great majority of cases the champion is not selected until very near to the close of the season, thus giving all members the maximum time to perfect their games. It is common practice to arrange the championship so that the final round in case it is played on a match play basis occur on Labor Day. If the championship is a medal play event it can be scheduled for Labor Day without the necessity of arranging for preliminary rounds.

If you decide to hold another major event, make it a handicap affair, since the

championship is played on a scratch basis. August 1st is a good time to schedule this event and the permanent trophy which your president donated can very well be put up as the major prize in this event.

If you decide to hold your championship on a medal play basis, make the president's trophy event a match play contest. Have your members qualify some Saturday afternoon and start the first round of match play the following Saturday, giving the contestants the privilege of playing their matches anytime before that they please. It would be well to limit the event to the sixteen contestants who qualify with the lowest net scores so that the event can be decided on the four following weekends: eight matches the first Saturday, four matches the second, semi-finals the third and final on the fourth.

(4) Local merchants and others may donate trophies to be competed for by amateur golfers, the only restriction being that the trophy should have no unusual intrinsic value.

As a general rule any trophy worth not over \$50 would probably be acceptable under the U.S.G.A. interpretation of an amateur. Cash prizes are of course out of the question, although it is common practice to give merchandise certificates to winners of club events.

If the merchants of your community are interested in donating prizes to be competed for by your members, it would be a very fine idea to build club spirit and member interest by accepting these donations and holding minor golf tournaments as frequently as possible. Hold a handicap golf event once a week on either Saturday or Sunday, whichever is more suitable to the golfers; whatever trouble it would take to put on these events would be repaid in increased play. Care must be exercised not to "club" local merchants into donating prizes as this can lead to complications in that these men will expect the club to trade from them in repayment for the donation they have given. Often a club can purchase more cheaply elsewhere but is unable to take advantage of the better price because it feels obligated to some merchant who has "come across" with a trophy. It would be well to have an understanding with merchants on this subject whenever they express a desire to put up a prize for competition at the club.

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