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"Let Us Handle Code" USGA Advising Member Clubs

ON THE GOLF club Code question, the best advice still remains, "take it easy." The USGA is handling the matter for its members without charge and competently, so there is no need of hasty action in signing any code or agreement that may seriously interfere with some clubs' chances for survival until the course of action has been determined definitely.

It is still the opinion of the USGA that golf clubs not operated for profit will be exempt from operation under the NRA, but if it is found advisable to have a code for such golf clubs it will have to be elastic as to hours of work and wages. Otherwise there will be golf clubs going back to corn and oats and further complicating the farm relief problem.

Government policy expressed in allotting funds to municipalities has favored use of some of this money for recreation plants in order that leisure hours extended under general code operation will have better play facilities available. It is not unreasonable to expect that such a policy be mirrored in government action protecting golf clubs against code developments that will drive them out of business. That is one strong element in the private golf club's hope for consideration. Another is the tax item. Heavy taxation on golf clubs has been salvation to many communities where the golf clubs pay, but from 40 per cent to 50 per cent of total real estate taxes are delinquent.

Competition by private clubs for mem-

bers and for business properly belonging to daily-fee courses is growing less and with the passing of these practices among the enlightened, substantial clubs the USGA case based on private golf clubs not being operated for profit becomes much stronger.

Data is being compiled by the USGA for the specific presentation of the private golf club case, if necessary. In some districts the leading daily-fee operators are attempting to secure responses to questionnaires for code purposes. These efforts have revealed an inability of the fee-course owners to co-operate. Not much response has marked this business-like and necessary action to start the fee-courses on their way out of misery, which indicates to some that there are fee-courses that must not be operated on a business-like basis for profit either. It looks, in some quarters, like the refusal of fee-operators to get together is going to hasten taps for certain of the lone-wolf layouts.

The USGA questionnaire is being sent only to member clubs and is being filled out and returned at a rate which gives early indication that business-like methods prevail at many of the private clubs.

Although the questionnaire which is given herein, has been sent only to USGA member clubs, there could be no objection to non-member clubs supplying the information to the United States Golf Assn., 110 E. 42nd St., New York City, inasmuch

This issue consolidates the October, November and December numbers of GOLFDOM into one big Planning and Budgeting guide. The contents have been designed to assist club officials and department heads in their important duty of forecasting 1934 club incomes and planning operations accordingly.

By combining three issues in one, we make certain the articles reach club officials before their budget meetings are held. If we spread this same information over the next three months, some of it might arrive too late to be useful.

The next issue of GOLFDOM will be the January, 1934, number.

as the USGA needs all the facts it can get to handle the golf clubs' interests effectively.

The USGA questionnaire:

September 25, 1933.

To the Members of the United States Golf Association:

In order to be ready for contingencies if it is determined that Golf Clubs must operate under an NRA Code, will you please fill in and send at the earliest possible moment to the United States Golf Association the following information:

Name of club. Did you operate at a profit or loss for 1931? for 1932? (If possible submit copies of Treasurer or Auditor's Reports of operations for those two years).

What is your authorized membership? Was it full in 1929? What is it now? Did you have a waiting list in 1930? Have you one now?

What are your annual dues? What is your initiation fee? Could either of these be increased at present without substantial loss of membership?

How many House Employees have you? What are their wages? How many Ground Employees have you? What are their wages?

Are your Real Estate Taxes paid? If not for what years are they in arrears? Have you interest bearing obligations outstanding? If so, has your interest been paid? If not, for what period is it in arrears?

What is your opinion regarding the effect of a Code upon your Club and its operations? Do you feel that Public Opinion in your Community requires you to operate under the NRA?

Green Section's Experts Have Busy Summer

WIDELY SEPARATED golf districts have been visited this summer by John Monteith, Jr., and Kenneth Welton of the Green Section. From St. Louis, where Monteith conducted a well-attended summer meeting at Westwood C. C. on August 9, Monteith jumped to the Pacific Coast and has been visiting clubs from Southern California to Oregon, sometimes at the rate of three a day. He expects to return to Washington in mid-October.

Meanwhile, Welton has been traveling in a wide swing through the Middle West and back East, holding meetings at Kenwood C. C., Cincinnati, Sept. 14; Canterbury G. C., Cleveland, Sept. 18; Detroit G. C., Sept. 20; Wakonda C. C., Des Moines, Sept. 22; Tulsa C. C., Sept. 25, and Charles River C. C., Newton Centre, Mass., Oct. 10.

The meeting at Cincinnati was held at the time of the Amateur, with Ganson Depew presiding, and William Harig, chairman of the Cincinnati Golfers League, Green Section, also present. There were over 30 at the meeting, including a number of chairmen of green-committees.

The Cleveland and Des Moines meetings were largely for the purpose of planting new demonstration turf gardens laid out along entirely new plans which are an advancement after a consideration of the results obtained on the other gardens for five years. At these meetings most of the local greenkeepers turned out to assist in the planting.

There was a good crowd at Tulsa and there was a great deal of interest in drainage and soil structure as they are commencing to go in for bent greens strong in that part of the country. At present a big drawback to more perfect greens is mostly due to the poor soil conditions on the putting greens. The soil in the greens at present is good enough for Bermuda but hardly of proper structure for bent.

The meeting at Detroit was very successful. According to the Detroit people it was the largest turnout they have had in that section. More than 80 of the boys met at the golf club for lunch. President Curtis, of the Detroit District Golf Association, and some of the other officers were present; also many chairmen and a number of pros.