

# DETROIT WEATHERS STORM

Figures on Tough Year Show  
Private Clubs Cut Costs—  
Improvement Expected

**A** REDUCTION of \$60,000 in maintenance expense for 1933 as compared with 1932 on the 14 private clubs reporting to the Detroit District GA, and of an average 30% reduction in play at public courses in the district, were highlights of annual statements recently made by Jos. Mack, Green Section chairman of the DDGA and Eugene W. Lewis, chairman of Club and Public Links Relations of the association.

Figures are especially interesting because the Detroit District probably has been hardest hit of all golf territories during the past two years. Greenkeepers and their chairmen have performed astonishing feats of budget reduction, which in many cases they hesitate to label economies because of the ultimate costs of restoring courses to the standards enjoyed prior to the cuts.

The 14 private clubs reporting in full had a maintenance bill of \$194,154 in 1932. This figure was cut to \$135,224 the past season. One club, Pine Lake, had a 1932 maintenance cost of \$14,463, and its bill in 1933 was only \$6,568, a reduction of \$7,895.

A comparative table:

		Saving 1933 over 1932
Barton Hills .....	\$ 6,831	\$.....
Birch Hill .....	6,740	2,603
Birmingham .....	7,702	4,273
Bloomfield Hills .....	13,135	6,548
Brooklands .....	4,665	2,498
Country Club .....	13,422	4,797
Detroit Golf Club (36)...	22,759	5,848
Flint C. C. ....	4,064	.....
*Forest Lake .....	4,217	410
Grosse Ile .....	7,819	5,770
Knollwood .....	6,630	.....
Lochmoor .....	8,844	748
Meadowbrook .....	8,277	3,729
Orchard Lake .....	8,950	2,481
Oakland Hills (36) .....	12,916	6,250
Pine Lake .....	6,568	7,895
Plum Hollow .....	9,238	5,052
Port Huron .....	3,984	.....

\*Power cost not included.

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Most of the private clubs held play fairly well. In contrast, fee and municipal courses all reported play about 30 per cent off.

### Fee Income Off

In addition, fee courses reported a reduction in revenue of nearly 50 per cent. This was credited to two causes: First, the general reduction in green-fees; secondly, the influx of a share of the semi-public courses' best customers to private clubs because of low rates and playing memberships.

Referring to figures on the play at 12 representative clubs, Chairman Lewis reported Detroit Golf Club led in the standpoint of play for 1933 with an average of 133 players per day from April 1 to Nov. 1, a total of 28,462, and an increase over 1932. Of this number, 20 of every 133 were guests. Forest Lake had the biggest guest play, comparatively speaking, among the 12 clubs reporting, 18 of every 40 (the daily average of players for the season), being guests.

Figures for the 12 clubs:

	Daily Av.	Total
*Detroit Golf Club.....	133	28,462
†Oakland Hills .....	75	16,050
Plum Hollow .....	88	18,832
Grosse Ile .....	62	13,268
Forest Lake .....	40	8,560
Pine Lake .....	25	5,350
Western .....	52	11,128
Meadowbrook .....	75	16,050
Orchard Lake .....	75	16,050
Birmingham .....	100	21,400
Lochmoor .....	75	16,050
Country Club .....	72	15,408

\*Thirty-six holes.

†Figures for south course.

Country Club's play averaged 20 daily under 1932 but was enjoyed by the player at a cost of \$195 in yearly dues as compared to \$250 the previous year. Reductions as great as 40 per cent in the dues from 1932 were reported. At Plum Hollow, which had dues of \$10 monthly this year, a 50 per cent cut is in store for 1934, a monthly rate of \$5 having been announced.

### Rate Cut Mystifies

As for municipal golf, with the exception of Rackham which showed a 19 per cent increase in play, the municipal courses experienced an average of 30 per cent less

play, as the following figures, supplied Chairman Lewis by Commissioner Henry W. Busch show:

	1933	Decr.	Pct.
Belle Isle .....	28,436	14,851	34
Palmer Park (18)...	39,926	19,489	33
Palmer (9 hole rds.)..	42,569	18,958	30
Rackham .....	33,694	*5,350	*19
River Rouge .....	15,912	9,279	37
Chandler Park (18)..	49,102	14,097	22
Chandler (9 hole rds.)	43,143	9,549	18

\*Increase.

Nine-hole rounds at Palmer Park and Chandler Park indicate, Chairman Lewis said, that part of the public couldn't afford the 18-hole rate and gravitated to the nine-hole round since the latter showed less decrease. While a cut in the rates evidently had something to do with the increase in play at Rackham, a similar move at the River Rouge course evidently had no effect.

## Depression Brought Some Good to Golf Clubs

THE TRYING times of the past few seasons have not been without their benefits to golf clubs. For one thing, conditions forced the clubs to eliminate the "whoopie" era of extravagance that was so much in evidence.

In particular, many a club was unknowingly burdened by a payroll much too large for their needs. In fact, it was the rule rather than the exception for a club to have so many employes on its staff that few of them needed to perform anything like a full day's work, week-ends excepted.

Here is a good example of payroll savings brought about by the depression. One of the Middle West's multiple course clubs built up quite a reputation in pre-slump years for the luxurious service it rendered in its locker-room. There was a boy available for every thirty-odd lockers and since it was only on rare occasions when more than five or six locker occupants happened to be in the aisles at a time, these boys stood around doing nothing most of the day and were immediately available for the members' slightest order. The boys received board and lodging at the club, salaries of \$25 a week, plus their tips.

Other locker-room help included wash-room boys, shower-room attendants, two