

Pro Makes Thursday Big Night With Member Team Tourney

By BOBBY DE GUIRE

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Here's a smart hunch for the aggressive pro who wants to do something to increase golf interest at his club. Bobby DeGuire's league of members held a sixteen-week tournament, and liked it so well they made Thursday evening play almost as big as the week-end patronage.

DURING the seven years I have been at the Whiting CC, I have tried to arrange some sort of tournament every week-end, including team matches with six or seven close-by clubs. During the last four years the members showed less interest each season in these inter-city matches, so we cut them down to only two clubs a season, Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield. It is a home and home affair, with the members calling each other by their first names, and with cold meat, cheese sandwiches and beer following the games and enjoyed by all. So much for the inter-city matches.

I noted that it was quite a job to get a good crowd out every week-end. About half the time a good many members were away over the week-end; it seemed as if I never was going to get a real big crowd out at one time. One night four or five of the members who play in a twilight baseball league came out to the club after the ball game, and it was then we got the idea of a golf league within our club.

With the help of Ed Kotel, the college coach, I ruled up a sheet and put eight men on a team. I happened to have just ten class-A golfers in the club, so I made each one captain of a team. That made eighty golfers, just about all the male members we had. For the first half of the league schedule I arranged the matches so that captains played each other, number 2 men played each other, number 3 men played each other, etc. That meant that each player always played a man in his own class. I didn't like this method, so in the second half of the schedule, each member made up his own foursome, and it was a lot more fun. The scoring was as follows:

The low five scores of every team were posted each week, and the team with the lowest total at the end of eight weeks won the tournament. The scores were very

even for teams all through the tournament. We started out by playing on Wednesday nights, but since the doctors who had office hours could never stay to the dinner that followed the tournament, we changed to Thursday nights, and this worked out fine.

By the way, we have a sandy soil here, and the tournament was named "Bobby De Guire's Sand Lot League." Few of my members missed even a single session of this tournament, and every Thursday evening it was a lot of pleasure for me to stand on the first tee from 4:30 to 6:00 and see a steady stream of golfers teeing off. After the league scoring of 16 weeks was up, we still continued the Thursday night suppers.

The club closed Nov. 1; tournaments were run right up to that date. Dinners were served on the porch because we have no clubhouse, just a small pro shop, with a large porch around it and a kitchen in the back. The last few dinners were a bit cold, but every member always had a good time.

Advises Pro Attendance at Green Section Meetings

PRO ATTENDANCE at the various sectional meetings where Green Section authorities present information on local and national turf problems is urged upon PGA members by George Jacobus, president of the pro association.

Jacobus wrote in a recent bulletin:

"No professional should pass up this marvelous opportunity to equip himself with a thorough knowledge of turf and golf course construction and maintenance, enabling him to successfully co-operate with his greenkeeper and have a better understanding of his problem."

ED LALLY, pro at Framingham, Mass., found the answer to pro idleness during the winter. Ed taught FERA groups in the Civic League building nets from Jan. 1 to March 31 this year. The lessons were individual in 20 minute periods. He taught more than 200 people, about half of whom never before had held golf clubs. Pupils had to be 21 or older.

Lally says far more people applied for the lessons than could be handled. It was one of the most popular of the winter FERA recreational activities in Framingham and, according to Lally, is something that pros ought to push strong, winter and summer.