

# JERSEY CLUBS IN BEST OF HEALTH

*Survey reveals clubs are hiking dues and initiation fees as roster limits are neared*

**N**ORTHERN New Jersey golf and country clubs have left depression woes behind and once again are enjoying financial health. Initiation fee barriers, familiar in 1929, are reappearing, it was found, and clubs which pleaded for members during the dull years are now drawing back into their shells of ultra-exclusiveness. Several clubs are nearing proprietary membership limits and others already have raised the bars against "special" members, that group known to have kept more than one organization liquid from 1931 to 1935.

While club officials depict the new trend as an indication of prosperity, they are found to be proceeding cautiously.

In many clubs, it was discovered, the upswing has been rapid while, of course, there are some that managed to go through the lean years without finding it necessary to make unusual concessions. Obviously, the latter have been the first to return to the boom years' level.

Although the exclusive Baltusrol club held an enviable position throughout the depression, it is cited as an example of the current trend. Club receipts, it is reported, are \$11,000 greater at this writing than at the corresponding 1936 period, a fact considered to be particularly significant since Baltusrol was the scene of the United States Open championship in 1936, always considered to be financially desirable.

The Maplewood club was one of the first clubs in this area to resume the initiation fee. Mountain Ridge never was in danger because of its small indebtedness. Canoe Brook, Glen Ridge, Forest Hill, Rock Spring, Shackamaxon and East Orange are all having appreciable gains in membership rolls over a year ago. Essex Fells re-established its initiation fee and Echo Lake was reported as expecting to follow suit. Despite an increase in dues, many new members were reported at Cedar Ridge.

Replying to rumors it was about to close, Braidburn announced a group of members had guaranteed to underwrite carrying charges for three years. Ridge-wood, Arcola and Hackensack never faced the question of survival. Aldecress is

contemplating construction of a new clubhouse. Essex County is also considering a new clubhouse at its two 18-hole courses.

New Jersey shore resort clubs, in the midst of the summer season, are reported to be in unusually prosperous condition. Deal has taken on several new members and Homestead has expended several thousands on course and clubhouse improvements. Also cited as an indication of better times is installation of sprinkling systems at the Rumson CC and the Spring Lake G & CC, and remodeling at other courses. There was virtually no reconstruction in the vicinity during the bad years. Other shore clubs reporting increased activity include Jumping Brook, Hollywood and Manasquan.

Suburban, a Union County club, was included among clubs resuming initiation fees.

## Dyker Beach Golfer Wins \$10,000 Verdict for Loss of Eye

**A** JURY in the Brooklyn (N. Y.) Supreme Court recently awarded to George Combes \$10,000 in his suit against the City of New York for loss of an eye as the result of being struck by a golf ball while playing the Dyker Beach course.

Combes was putting on the 18th green when a ball, allegedly driven by Edward Apstein from the fourth tee, struck him. Combes charged the course was improperly laid out; the proximity of the fourth tee and eighteenth green creating a hazardous condition. He further maintained that "under all architectural standards, the fairway should have been at least 100 yds. from the tee and that the fairway should have been at least 125 ft. in width."

**C.** K. BRADLEY, supt. Passaic County GC, is conducting a weekly column on "Lawn Lore" in the North Jersey News. It's a model job of greenkeeper publicity and community service.