

## KEEP OPEN!

**Clubs find it pays to extend season beyond Labor Day**

**W**ITHIN the first two weeks of September some of the most important conferences of the year will be held between department heads and officials of golf clubs. The time has passed when the golf clubs in the central and northern states could discontinue lively operations after the Labor Day holiday and let the season slump into its grave.

Now members insist that their plant be utilized on a longer schedule and that committees and executives in charge of the club's affairs make arrangements that will keep the club going until winter closes in, thereby giving the members fuller utilization of the investment.

Moreover, experienced observers of the club situation appreciate that much of the annual turn-over in club memberships is caused by the winter absence of contact between members. Club spirit is allowed to lag. Such affairs as bowling leagues and bridge parties have done much to offset the winter loosening of golf club bonds. Skeet, trapshooting, and winter sports when the weather permits also have been employed with success by clubs to keep the members together.

### Extending Golf into Fall

With bar profits giving house operation a chance to keep well out of the red during the late fall and winter, there is a larger opportunity for managers to stage schedules of card parties, keno and other social affairs. "Snowbird" golf played by the hardy Easterners in the

New York, Boston and Philadelphia sectors has not spread much to other parts of the country where winter really hits, although a "snowbird" tournament in Kansas City has drawn large fields and been beneficial for the club encouraging this hearty winter pastiming.

In many parts of the country seven or eight weeks from mid-September through to mid-November have the finest golf weather. Climate a good part of the time is not worse than "bracing" and even when mittens are needed for comfort there now are extremely comfortable and practical golf gloves that are used by many of the tournament players who buck into some chilly, gusty weather along their winter tours.

Trick events, both indoor and outdoor, are highly successful in maintaining longer golf schedules. The US Royal tournament kit contains much material for running such events, together with suggestions for events. The pro, manager and greenkeeper would do well now to go over such of this material as is still unused and in a session with club officials arrange a special tournament schedule for late season.

Considerable ingenuity is used by club department heads in arranging late sea-

son events which in some clubs have stirred interest more than the usual season schedule.

One event that always goes well is to draw partners out of a box so the line-ups are arranged "blind." Another that calls for pro-greenkeeper cooperation is playing the course backwards with temporary tees being employed. Shocks of corn sometimes are used to mark the location of the temporary tees. A variation of this event calls for playing the holes in other than normal routine. Many of the events are played on a nine-hole basis because of the shorter days.

There are a number of smart managers who regard the football season as a great boon for house business. Millions of dollars are spent by football fans for cocktail parties and dinners in celebration or for consolation. The background for spectacular parties, at no undue cost for decorations, is one that allows the manager a chance to show his ability as a party arranger.

The leaf problem is the one that the greenkeeper has to handle. If there is to be a fair amount of play during the autumn, leaves must be kept cleaned up. It may cut into the budget somewhat but not to a point that will rule it out, because increased house income will more than offset the cost of gathering leaves. Greenkeepers want to employ their good greensmen as long as possible in the fall, so the general "policing" of leaves and cleaning out of the rough is partially an answer to a greenkeeper's problem.

A chance to close out shop stocks, give some lessons even late in the season, and establish valuable close contacts with the club's most active members give the pro ample reason for taking a diligent and thoughtful part in extension of the season.

Whether each manager, pro and greenkeeper realizes it fully at this time, it is plainly apparent that lengthening the season is one of the important parts of their work and a job that is becoming more widely expected by club members.

#### Inter-Club League Boosts Golf Interest at Kansas City

**O**PERATING under the name of the Intra-Private Club Competitive Golf League, seven clubs in the Kansas City district have banded together for bi-weekly team events this summer. Clubs in the league are Indian Hills, Ivanhoe, Blue

Hills, Oakwood, Mission Hills, Milburn and Hillcrest with W. B. Silberman of Oakwood acting as chairman. Competition will extend into October, thus helping to extend the Kansas City golf season, which ordinarily is inclined to die out shortly after Labor Day.

The league is an offshoot of a 16-man team play event, started earlier this season, which was not competitive but solely for the promotion of good fellowship among the membership of the seven clubs entered. A fee of \$2.00 per player was split \$1.00 for dinner and \$1.00 for prizes, bought from the pro at the host club.

Whenever possible, clubs were expected to select a different group of 16 players for each meeting and special effort was made to interest the high-handicap golfers. The event has proved most popular, as it gives golfers a chance to play other local courses. Play rotated to each club.

The league developed when a need was felt for a competitive inter-club event. Tournament chairmen of the seven clubs met on July 20 and formulated a playing schedule and rules to govern play. Schedule is a round robin, with each club playing its 8 best golfers against the 8 best golfers of each club in turn. In order to prevent congestion, since the events are played on alternate Sundays, 4 men of a given team visit the opposing club's course and 4 men remain at their home course to take on 4 players from the opposing club. Thus the Sunday traffic is no higher than if no event were being played; the four visitors merely take the place of the four home-club players who are away.

Scoring is by the Nassau system—each player and his opponent competing for points, one point for the winner of the first nine, one point for winner of second nine, and one point for winner of total 18-holes. The team winning the most points is the winner of a scheduled game.

**A**NNUAL FIELD DAY of the Midwest Greenkeepers' Assn. brought out almost 100 greenkeepers and supplymen for an afternoon of golf and a prize dinner at Glen Eagles CC (Chicago District) August 2.

Majority of prizes for the affair were bought from the Glen Eagles pro-shop, a friendly gesture the greenkeepers make at their events and a polite rebuke to "buy it wholesale" tournament prize buyers.