

For Variety, Try a Horse Race Tournament

By JACK FULTON

WHEN a club's annual invitation day comes around, some type of gambling event always helps to make the day more successful. Traditionally, this takes the form of the Calcutta auction, which is generally sure-fire in putting an edge on the day's activities; but Calcuttas have been held for so many years that the novelty of the event is wearing off.

An interesting substitute, which offers plenty of opportunity for the players to satisfy their gambling yens, is a Horse Race tournament in which win, place and show tickets are sold on the competitors in the event. The Rochester (Minn.) G&CC has held this event most successfully on several occasions and from Art Hoffman, the club's alert pro, and Bill Heyerdale, tournament committee chairman, comes a complete description of how the event is held.

The first step in holding a Horse Race tournament, Hoffman explains, is to post on a blackboard or announcement board where all can see a list of the foursomes due to compete in the event. All men in each foursome are listed, together with each man's handicap, thus:

Horse No. 1

John Jones	14
Tom Smith	7
Harry Brown	17
Bill Black	20
Points to start	58

All other foursomes are similarly displayed and given a "Horse Number."

Those wishing to place a bet consult the board, select the horse or horses they like, and bet them to win, place or show. There is no limit to the number of horses an individual may bet on, or to how many tickets he buys on a given horse.

Selling of tickets is done before the tournament (the night before is ideal) and all sell for the same price whether they are win, place or show. Rochester has these tickets printed and put up in books of 25 for convenience. The price of a ticket is, of course, set by the committee.

When a ticket is sold, the purchaser's name is written on the stub and the number of the horse is recorded both on the

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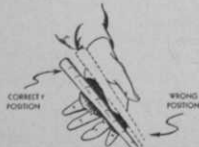
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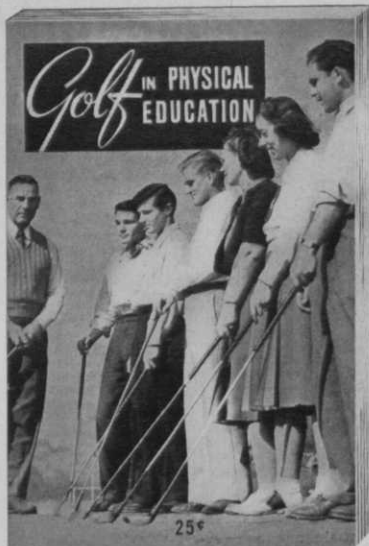
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ticket and the stub. Also recorded on both halves must be a notation indicating whether the bet is for the horse to win, place or show. Or separate books of tickets, on different colored stock, can be printed to segregate and automatically identify win, place and show bets. Ticket stubs are turned in with money collected.

"This use of printed tickets with stubs is very important," says Hoffman. "It eliminates mistakes, covers loss of tickets and acts as a double check."

The winning horse is determined by adding to its "starting points" (the total of the handicaps of the four players) certain additional points which may be earned during play. An eagle adds 4 to a horse's points, a birdie adds 3 points, a par 2 points and a score of one over par on a hole adds 1 point. At the end of the event, the horse with the greatest total points is the winner, with the next largest is the place horse and with the third largest is the show horse.

If each player was accurately handicapped and the golf played for the day was as advertised, his total points for the 18 holes should equal 36—par or 2 points

a hole. The ideal for a foursome is 144 points. Infrequently has this been topped. Most often if playing conditions are ideal the majority of the horses will come in with 130 to 142 points.

After the committee has computed the winning horses, the business of the pay-off follows. All money received on win bets has of course been recorded and this total must be split among all holders of win tickets on the win horse. If only one ticket was sold, holder of that ticket takes all the win money; if ten tickets were sold on this horse, the win money is split in ten equal parts.

All money taken in on place bets is divided 70% on the horse that actually places (or comes in second) and 30% on the horse that won (or came in first). The 70% is divided among all holders of place tickets on the place horse; the 30% is divided among all holders of place tickets on the win horse.

Win	Place	Show
100%	30%	15%
	70%	25%
		60%

All money taken in on show bets is divided 60% on the horse that actually shows (or comes in third), 25% on the horse that places (or comes in second) and 15% on the horse that won (or came in first). 60% is divided among all holders of show tickets on the show horse; the 25% is divided among all holders of show tickets on the place horse; and the 15% is divided among all holders of show tickets on the win horse.

"We have found this tournament to be successful in stimulating competitive golf. It makes the players handicap conscious which in turn assures success in other handicap events. The horse race tournament is run 4 or 5 times during the season, usually held here around the first of each month. The players are allowed to select their own foursomes in most instances; however, once or twice during the season the tournament committee picks the foursomes so that each horse will have approximately the same handicap. This allows for the intermingling of players obtainable in no other manner."

Those tournaments held the morning following a club function, preferably a dance, seemed to have been the most successful. This was no doubt due to the interest displayed by the better halves of the families involved and to their ability to participate at least financially in this event.



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