



Tennis court flooded for skating at the Western G&CC, Detroit. Winter Sports Club 'clubhouse' is in background.

Winter Sports Program Holds Members—Builds Club Interest

By CALVIN POOLE

WITH winter sports getting increasing publicity and growing in popularity among the grownups as well as the youngsters, the progressive country club in territory where winter weather allows a chance for skating, skiing and sledding, has an opportunity to maintain high year-around interest.

It's believed that this winter will see record activity in winter sports at country clubs inasmuch as foresighted clubs are beginning to "sell" the clubs as valuable factors in physical conditioning. The accent in the past has been on club membership for social standing or having just a swell hell of a good time, but now the conviction that the strength of the nation is the strength of the individual is bringing the wisely guided club into campaigns on the health theme.

Golf clubs have had the problem of putting on spring membership campaigns to replace members who've dropped out during the winter off-season because of lack of connection with the club. Bowling leagues have helped keep members together, but the outdoor activity, which now is considered smart, as well as good

physical conditioning, seems to supply an important factor that's been missing. There also is the members' kids' activity in outdoor winter sports and the interest of the youngsters of non-members to make the winter sports program part of the answer to the problem of retaining membership on a year-around basis.

Another element that club officials have been able to use effectively in making the winter sports program valuable is that of the winter sessions reducing the cost per visit to the club. Many of those who drop country club memberships do so because they figure it costs them too much considering the comparatively few times they may visit the club.

This fall and winter, regardless of weather conditions for ice and snow sports, the shooting programs—skeet and trap—are certain to be highly popular because of the defense theme.

An interesting case of a club that expanded its program to avoid the winter slump is the Western G&CC in the Detroit (Mich.) district. Of Western's winter sports attractions, G. D. Cline, Jr., presi-



Shelter houses and portion of trapshooting apparatus at Western G&CC. Snowstorm was in progress when picture was taken.

dent of the club when the winter program was inaugurated, wrote:

"At our annual meeting in the middle of October, 1939, one of our good members suggested that we start a Winter Sports Club, using our pro-shop and caddie quarters as a clubhouse. This was due to the fact that we close down our main clubhouse completely during the winter months.

"Even though it was quite late to get started, we did this, installing trapshooting, building a toboggan slide, flooding our tennis courts for skating, installing floodlights so they could be used at night, as well as a loud speaker for either radio or phonograph entertainment.

"The idea has more than paid for itself, as well as helping to pay for the overhead that we have during the winter months. In fact, it was so successful that the second year we increased the dues, which were \$5.00 the first year, to \$10.00. In addition, we spent \$2,500 in fixing up the pro-shop to make a very comfortable and appealing winter sports' clubhouse. We added more trapshooting apparatus, enlarged the skating ring, and had a complete series of social events and parties during the entire winter.

Gets New Members

"We have received some very fine new members due to their joining our Winter Sports Club, as we did not limit the membership in the Winter Sports Club entirely to our golf members.

"At the time of the year when our golf club interest is waning, we find everyone enthusiastic and looking forward to the Winter Sports Club. We find that it also allows us to have a year-round club, without all the tremendous expense of keeping our large clubhouse open."

Annual MSC School for Greenkeepers to Begin Jan. 5

MASSACHUSETTS State College's sixteenth annual winter school for greenkeepers is scheduled to begin January 5, 1942, and continue through the Recreation Conference, March 13-15. This course is an intensive and thorough study of all the phases of golf course management, and is under the direction of Prof. Lawrence S. Dickinson, who originated the first school for greenkeepers ever held in the U. S. Prof. Dickinson is assisted by members of the college staff, and Carl Treat, a greenkeeper well known to all in the profession.

For the convenience of men who are unable to leave their club for the entire school term, the course is divided into two terms; January 5 through February 6, and February 8 through March 15. A certificate is awarded only to those who complete the full course. However, one may take the first term in 1942 and the second term at some future time. No one will be admitted into the second term who has not completed the first. There are no scholastic requirements for entrance, practical experience being of first importance. Enrollment is limited in number and is open to greenkeepers and persons with golf course experience.

The total matriculation fee for the full course is \$16.50; and for the term, \$9 payable at the time of registering. Enrollment has already started and those interested can obtain more complete information by writing to Prof. Lawrence S. Dickinson, M.S.C., Amherst, Mass., or to the Director of Short Courses, M.S.C., Amherst.