

improvement, evidenced by the fact that at that time I was using horse-drawn fairway mowers at the club employing me.

Up to the year 1928 golf had a phenomenal growth, and then followed the worst period of depression known to golf clubs in this country. Golf course maintenance faces a new crisis today. We must be prepared as never before to adjust ourselves to a deficiency in our maintenance program. The lack of manual labor must be met with fully motorized course equipment over tees, fairways and greens.

The use of all-out power mowers on golf courses will reduce labor hours one-half. In short the following equipment will be a necessity:

- (1) For greens—duplex mowers.

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## Norwood and Beckett Tell of Pro Prospects In '42

**JOE NORWOOD**, Los Angeles (Calif.) CC pro, has the following to say about what he thinks the pro's program for 1942 will, and should be:

"My club, in the East, during 1917-18 was active on a basis that if the golfer ordinarily played three or four days a week he would reduce his play to once or twice weekly. Club activity was reduced to a minimum with relation to parties, dances, etc. With reference to present day war activities, aviation, for golf courses along Eastern and Western coasts, puts a little different slant on things—for should there be any invasion by planes, golf courses would make good landing fields, so building of barriers on the courses might be in the minds of the War Department.

### Count More on Older Pros

"The new age limit of 20 to 44 for active military service, will take in a high percent of the pros and therefore the older pros will be counted on more than ever.

"My program for furthering continuation of golf is along these lines: should golf playing time be sharply restricted, let's remember that a practice range will enable one to give, say, one hour to practicing with special exercises in addition, as compared to three and four hours for a round of golf. This will keep the golfing public fit and bring about a chance they have longed for in peace times—taking time out for practice and lessons.

"Group lessons can be arranged for hours best suited to those interested, for time will be considered on a basis different than that of peace time.

- (2) For fairways—seven and nine gang mowers.

- (3) For rough—mowers with increased bar lengths and increased cutting units.

- (4) For tees—all power mowers with wider cut.

We also have improved topdressing machinery and power sprayers and one man water systems in operation today. We are ready for what may come and I think some interesting cost figures will result in the years ahead on golf course maintenance. Trial and error are our greatest teachers and when this war is over, I believe golf course maintenance will have met its greatest test and not been found wanting.

"The caddie situation will probably cause more and more use of carts, or fewer clubs, which after all, hurts the manufacturer, but golf must go on. There'll be fewer balls, naturally.

"Professional tournaments started after the last war, so even one familiar with the earlier days can hardly foresee the effect on present tourneys. The Professional Golfers Association was but two years old when the war ended. Golf pros will have no easy time. Many private clubs will have to exist on a public pay-as-you-play basis.

"Golf supplies will be somewhat slack. Pros, with clubs which are hard-pressed, may be asked to turn in some of their earnings. This will give the pro a chance to keep the club open—where dues are hardly sufficient to keep expenses up.

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**Howard Beckett**, pro at Capital City Club, Atlanta, Ga., views pro and golf club prospects during war-time with cold, calm realism. Howard says:

"In 1918 the battlefront was in France. Most of the boys when they had the chance at the many different camps at home, played golf, and in fact, many had their clubs with them. At my club, which was close to famous Camp Gordon, we had lots of the boys playing over the week-ends and we had a great time.

"But this is not the set-up under present conditions. These youngsters are taking this thing seriously. They have no time for golf. In fact the young fellows at my club have given it up entirely until they find out what this is all about.

"The picture is changing so fast for all of us it is going to be next to impossible to make any plans for the future. But each pro is going to have to keep on his toes, live from day to day, and handle problems to the best of his judgment. Adjusting this great old game into the defense work is going to take time.

"To me the whole set-up reflects back to the meeting of pro executives and golf manufacturers in Chicago last November, at which time the manufacturers were asked what we could expect for the coming year, and their answer was, "We don't know."

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### The Manufacturers Say:

CHARLES F. ROBBINS, pres., A. G. Spalding & Bros., Inc., in a letter sent to each of the company's employees late in December viewed the sports business situation, in the following paragraphs:

"In my opinion, the experience of Canada most closely parallels our situation in this country and furnishes the best comparison. Canada went to war in September, 1939, and has been actively engaged ever since. She has not only furnished supplies and material to England, but has also sent divisions of men. Our sales in Canada in 1941 were larger than any previous year in the recent past. Sales of golf, which is an important item, showed an increase of over 10% in 1941. Tennis held up and sales of team equipment items—many of which went to the armed forces both in Canada and England—showed a very large increase. Current orders for all items are strong. We have been able to obtain sufficient materials to produce the goods which our orders have called for.

"Athletic activity is part of the regular training for men in the armed services of the United States. In the last war every military unit had its regular athletic equipment, which consisted of baseball, boxing, football, basketball and volley ball.

### Considerable Equipment to Be Bought

"The supply of athletic equipment to the Army is today under the jurisdiction of Major Theodore P. Bank in the Morale Division. There is every reason to believe that large quantities of team equipment will be purchased by the Army and the Navy. Some of this will be bought by the government on bids and some of it

will be bought locally from dealers by the training camps and naval stations.

"John B. Kelly of Philadelphia has been appointed by President Roosevelt to head a division of the government for civilian physical training. He is now engaged in formulating a program for this activity. Both President and Mrs. Roosevelt have a very personal interest in this subject, the importance of which is officially recognized. It is probable, therefore, that an increased demand for athletic goods will develop from this activity.

"So much has been said on so many occasions about the necessity for physical fitness that it is necessary only to mention it here. Its very importance, however, shows conclusively that the athletic goods business is fundamentally and closely tied in with the prosecution of the war. This applies to men in the Service and also to those engaged in war industry and civilian occupations. With this background, it is difficult to suppose that material necessary for the manufacture of athletic goods will not be made available.

"I know I express the feeling of the majority when I state that it is my sincere belief that athletic goods are a necessary part of the present war activity. If any one of us is needed by our country in some other job, and, therefore, is called for such a job, it should be considered a privilege, and I believe that any one of us so called will give his utmost to that job. If, however, we are not so specifically called, then we may continue with our work in the Spalding organization, with a realization that we are doing a real job and rendering a necessary service to our country in doing our part in carrying on the war."

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CLARENCE H. RICKEY, president, Crawford, MacGregor, Canby Co., believes that American golf, besides providing needed recreation and relaxation for fitness, has been one of the very large contributing factors in developing a competitive spirit in each of us and that so long as those responsible for golf's conduct provide that element of competition, through energetic tournament committee work, there's no need to fear any collapse of the game during the present emergency. Rickey says:

"Since fully ninety percent of all rounds of golf played during 1941 were played by golfers who were not even slightly acquainted with the game back in 1917-18, a comparison of golf in this coun-

try during the two war periods is hardly analogous. In fact, the only similarity is the desire to get fit, to regain that hard, lean look we had back in '17, and that means exercise, and that to an American means some form of competition, and that could mean golf and more golf, whenever the time can be spared.

"During the armistice of the past twenty years Americans have developed the game of golf into a typically American game. Because we are a highly competitive people, we have adopted a type of play different from that of its originators in that we get a greater lift out of winning—a thrill out of a longer drive, are more concerned with better equipment, course conditions, etc.

"We play constantly on championship layouts, where our scores are high, but we like it for it's a real challenge. We choose foursomes, or make matches and get greater uplift out of winning a dollar thirty cents than we do from a most successful business coup, for it's something to beat.

### Keep Competition Alive

"That's the development in typically American golf that all club officials must recognize and make adjustments to keep alive. We must not allow a falling off of fairly-handicapped competitive events. We must not let a member lose the fun of competition. We may need to keep a 'weather eye' on all of our members and see that foursomes are arranged for them. Give them competition now and you will keep them interested.

"Wartime emergencies are bound to make membership changes. Old foursomes will be broken up; remaining members will feel lost. Taxes will cause some loss of membership, for 1932 taught us that a man will sacrifice his own pleasures first. But for those whose units of energy are depleted by defense work, whose nerves are overwrought, a really competitive game with a chance to win is a certain panacea for the heebie jeebies.

"Summing up, it puts the burden of making certain every member has an interesting game whenever he shows up at the club, upon someone whose job it is to maintain membership. It means no curtailment of the activities of the tournament committee or professional. Such a program will hold members, as well as make your club the most desirable one to the prospective new member."

## Eddie Williams Is New PGA Seniors' Champion

EDDIE WILLIAMS, of Chicago's Bryn Mawr CC, captured first place in the annual PGA seniors championship held January 17-18 at Fort Myers, Fla., by shooting two sub-par rounds of 69 for a 138 total. Eddie's superb golf, as well as the fine play of the entire field of golf's grand veterans, gave additional valid recognition to golf's claim as "the game for all ages"—a game played equally well by any and all from 8 to 80.

Runnerup to Williams was Jock Hutchinson, Glen View Club, Chicago, with a two-day total of 144. George Morris, Colonial CC, Harrisburg, Pa., was third with 145. In the four-ball, best-ball play held two days prior to the regular tournament, the team of Eddie Williams and Wendell Kay carded 66, three better than the next team, Wilfred Reid-Bill Gordon. Charles Mayo-Tom Skipper and Milton Theobald-Bill Livie tied for third and fourth places with scores of 70.

At the annual seniors' election, Alex Cunningham, of Chicago's North Shore CC, was named president for the coming year, with Capt. Charles Clark of Cleveland, 1st vice-pres.; Bertie Way, Cleveland, 2nd vice-pres.; Eddie Williams, secy; Alex Ogilvie, Augusta, honorary president.

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Without more new golf balls the game will be in a bad spot. Recovered balls will help some, but not enough.

Mid-winter purchasing of golf balls by individuals has been too much on a hoarding basis. You can bet the individuals who bought in unreasonably large quantities won't be willing to pay out their money on the same basis in preserving the clubs at which they'll play balls from their hoard.

Distribution of such balls as each pro may be able to buy presents a delicate problem. The pro who lets himself be stampeded by some member who wants to buy more than his requirements justify, and more than the supply warrants, is making a mistake that may cost him his job and his club the patronage of many members unable to get balls later in the season.

Plan your pro department's ball rationing plan now and promptly advise your members of the plan.