

Gasoline Rationing—

What Effect Will It Have on Course Maintenance?

By CALVIN POOLE

IT IS TOO early to know what all effects the gas rationing order will have as it applies to golf play and course maintenance. Auto fuel rationing is due to go on a national basis. The first couple of weeks of gas rationing in the N. Y. Met area showed no great drop in golf play. Players are taking turns in driving to golf courses. While at many courses there are less cars in the parking space, there have been the same number of players on the course as last year. Plans, route maps and schedules that golf course employees can draw up for players' reference have helped keep up play volume.

At some courses play is not only increasing in number of golfers, but also in rounds played a day. The golfer comes out earlier and stays later—perhaps not as often as previously—but “making a day of it,” when he does play.

This has thrown maintenance schedules out of line—early a. m. golf delays course workmen, and increases motor fuel consumption in waiting to let players pass. This factor should be considered, if club officials suspect maintenance crews of “borrowing” from course gas pumps for their own use, also to account for suspected shortage if questioned on the fuel increase by the supplier or governmental agents.

Summer resorts having golf in connection, will feel the greatest pinch, especially if they are some distance from rail or bus depots. Also, passenger travel for vacations may be limited, which will add to the resort course difficulties. One solution may be to contract-hire a taxi accommodation service.

It is doubtful at this writing if restrictions will be made as regards use of gas for golf course engines on tractors, mowers, etc. However, in areas where rationing is ordered for car use, filling a car fuel tank from the club pump may lead to trouble in getting more gas for course use, especially if the car is registered as to limited amounts of fuel.

An Eastern local tire distributor has received no OPA order preventing sale of replacement tires for course machinery that has been and is needed for maintenance use. New machinery that will be available will come with steel

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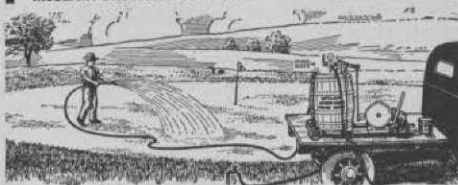
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wheels, as use of rubber tires on such has been ordered stopped.

In war industry areas, meal times at clubhouses have changed. Private clubs should not overlook chances of income from night shift war factory workers who come out early in morning and want "supper" after the a. m. rounds that they play on a special daily-fee basis.

Since gas rationing cuts the cruising range of golfers and workers seeking other recreation facilities at clubs, some kind of reciprocal membership exchange might be worked out by clubs, so that membership could become more localized.

Greenkeeping association meetings will show a drop in attendance, at a time when the need is greater for organized problem discussion. In this connection the New Jersey GSA has started a post-card inter-membership communication system. From this, a periodic newsletter mimeographed by pro-tem secretary H. T. Islieb will be issued in place of monthly meeting notices. Traditionally poor letter writers (with some exceptions), greenkeepers may develop into good correspondents. Turf research workers not being called upon to speak or appear at meetings, should have more time to devote to inspection tours, and on experimental plot projects.

Players staying longer during the day at clubs, are "finding time" to take more lessons.

Information received from Australia dated April 2nd, showed golf was still being played, and with U. S. fighting men having a good percentage of golfers, play is expected to increase. In Australia, a gallon of gas sells for around 75c in our money. In Britain, high grade, slightly play-marked golf balls are being bought by rebuilding firms paying 14 shillings a dozen—for balls that sold new in normal times for 2 shillings each.

Expect 20,000 Participants In Remote Control Event

MORE than 20,000 are expected to compete in the third annual Remote Control Handicap Golf tournament which will be played June 13 on more than 1,000 U. S. golf courses. The tournament is sponsored by the Indemnity Insurance Co. of North America. This year agents of the company will have many soldiers, sailors and marines among the invited guests.

War Bonds and Stamps with face value of \$4,500 make up the 558 prizes.

Jimmy Hines, chairman of the PGA tournament committee, will supervise the event which has been made the world's largest golf tournament by an ingenious handicapping plan and pro push of the event as a big attraction that in normal times brings several thousand dollars a year in prize and other business to pros.

Pros and club officials may secure complete details of the Remote Control tourney by writing the Indemnity Insurance Co. of North America, Philadelphia.

All-American Amateur Prizes To Be Held at \$100

GEORGE S. MAY, president of Tam O'Shanter CC, has withdrawn his original plan of starting the \$2,300 War Bond prize distribution to amateurs in the All-American Amateur and the Tam \$15,000 Open, July 20-26 with a \$500 War Bond.

Leading amateur golfers were unwilling to have their amateur status questioned

Golfdom