

Baltusrol Sets Itself on Wartime Basis

LIFE has been very confusing to golfers these past few months, what with rumors flying back and forth about transportation to the club, possible shortages in playing equipment, and even whether or not the club would open. Most of these rumors have proved—or are proving—not to be worth worrying about, thanks to clear thinking by club officials.

Typical of the assuring letters clubs are sending to members is the notice sent out to members of Baltusrol GC (Springfield, N. J.) by Caxton Brown, president. Note in particular that Baltusrol plans to return to its members any amount of dues they pay over and above the year's expenses.

President Brown's letter reads:

Dear Members:

In these exacting days of war work, heavy taxation and restrictions, it is easy to adopt an attitude of pessimism toward relaxation and sport. Yet, in my opinion, those of us who are fortunate enough to belong to Baltusrol should have naught but optimism concerning that activity.

Why?

BECAUSE you own the most beautiful sport recreational ground to be found within miles of the metropolitan area.

BECAUSE you have two wonderful golf courses which it is the intention to maintain in prime condition under all circumstances.

BECAUSE you have an excellent club house, in excellent repair.

BECAUSE you have an exceedingly alert Board of Governors working continually to protect your interests.

Because the book value of your proprietary certificate is several times its face value.

BECAUSE your club has no funded debt.

BECAUSE your property is ample to protect against encroachment of unsightly developments.

BECAUSE in addition to a strong financial position, the management has had the foresight to provide substantial inventories of fertilizers, insecticides and operating equipment, thus reducing current expenses for 1943.

BECAUSE in an emergency such as the present acute gas rationing, your Board within a week had provided two horse-

drawn vehicles, secured horses, built stalls and provided all essential paraphernalia. If needed this service will be augmented.

BECAUSE under a conscientious Finance Committee, every non-essential expense is carefully scrutinized and suitable operating budgets established. No reversion to a position of indebtedness is visualized.

BECAUSE the members have always been free of assessments in any form, whilst proprietary certificates are redeemed at face value and no departure from these policies is remotely foreseen.

BECAUSE when numerous other clubs are folding up or imposing restrictions of a drastic nature—and imperilling their future, Baltusrol goes on its way with only mild inconveniences expressed in reduced service.

BECAUSE without making a promise I intend to recommend to the Board that any net income derived from the operation of the club during this year be apportioned pro rata against the last quarter's dues.

I know you will agree with me that this is a record, and a situation that inspires confidence and optimism. I recite it merely to indicate the confidence of the Board during trying times when members are concerned about their ability to use the club freely. Surely this is the character of enterprise that warrants your fullest support during the war period. The more that support is forthcoming the better the Board can and will protect your golfing interests.

Free Storage—Carrying a set of clubs, plus a change of clothes, from home to the golf course, is going to be a bother this season to fee-course players, since transportation by automobile is likely to be out. Howard Fuqua, operator of St. Andrews GCSe (Kansas City, Mo.) is making the most of this situation and has remodeled his office into a reasonably burglar-proof room where regular players at his fee course may leave their clubs and shoes without charge between golfing days.

Players are going to appreciate this little extra service; they won't have to tote clubs back and forth on crowded street cars or buses. And back of the whole idea is a piece of excellent psychology—players will say, "Well, my clubs are out at St. Andrews. We might as well play there."