

Transportation restrictions naturally affected play to some degree, but in the face of crowded bus and streetcar facilities golf showed an upturn in total rounds played at all clubs.

Congressional is the only club around Washington which has closed its doors to golfers. That club has a favorite contract with the War Department which will aid in reducing its outstanding debt when the property is returned to the club. Service men were welcomed, free of charge in the case of enlisted men, and with reduced fees to officers, at most of the clubs around Washington. Woodmont, located near the great Naval Medical Center, took in around 40 Navy officers Washington G&CC's service roll has a waiting list, and Chevy Chase and Columbia have long civilian waiting lists. Kenwood took some of the Congressional members left out when their club closed, and Manor took others, while some went to Indian Spring, but on the whole all clubs were crowded.

With the membership at peak all clubs are in good financial shape, and expect to remain so for the duration of the war. When the war ends and Congressional returns to the private club fold many old members will return, but Washington could absorb another big private club without losing many members from other links organizations.

The Women's District GA, a lovely outfit, carried through a 12-event tourna-

ment schedule, with smaller fields than in past years, due to transportation restrictions. Neither the women or the men held a championship tournament.

The pros, lacking sales of clubs and balls in the volume of other years, report diminution in business over pre-war years, but are carrying on, hopeful conditions will improve, particularly on the golf ball side. Wiffy Cox, veteran Congressional pro, went to Hempstead, L. I., when his club closed for the duration.

Columbia, Chevy Chase, Kenwood and Manor planted victory gardens last spring, with Columbia making more than two-score plots available for its members. Vegetables raised in the gardens, in some cases, were used in the clubs themselves.

Around Washington, which is sure to be overcrowded during the war, golf needs more room and more courses. Outlying clubs are sure to suffer from lack of transportation, but the clubs which are on street car or bus lines will far exceed normal peace time play, and their business operations are sure to show a better situation than in pre-war years.

Early this year some took the attitude that a man carrying a bag of golf clubs might be a target for finger pointing, as a war effort obstructionist. During the period of gas rationing that was particularly true. But now the situation has changed. Golfers no longer fear they will be called war obstructionists by carrying their clubs openly.

## Atlanta District Has Fine Year

By O. B. KEELER

**T**AKING it up one side and down the other, I'd say the golfing situation in the Atlanta district is decidedly more up than it is down, as compared with the performance last year; that is, in 1942, the first year of the War Years. That goes for the private clubs and the public courses as well.

East Lake, Capital City, Druid Hills and Ansley Park report a somewhat startling influx of new members in our town, and special provisions are made for officers and enlisted men in the Service to pay dues for the period they are to be in this vicinity, rather than the usual initiation fees for membership. Play at Old East Lake, which closed its No. 2 course nearly a year ago, has picked up to where they are contemplating reopening that layout. It is up around 200 on Saturday and

Sunday, with 35-45 on week days. I have not heard of any clubs in Atlanta or the neighboring towns closing, though some clubs, as the Coosa CC at Rome, have shut off nine holes.

The physical condition of all the layouts around here is emphatically better than usual; not only better than last year. The favoring weather had a lot to do with this, but the fact remains that most of our courses are in as fine condition as they ever have been.

The general attitude toward golf is somewhat complicated. The age-trend of course is toward golfers of 40 years and up; and the interest is in golf as a recreation—not as a tournament competition. The ladies (God bless 'em), also, are carry-

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## Golf Meets War Demands

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ing on gallantly. A lot of them have enlisted in various Service branches and Red Cross work; a lot of them are canning, or were during the season; yet the gals played their Georgia State and Atlanta City championships, with fairly representative fields, while the boys have called off their formal competition, and confined their tournaments to club championships, compressed as much as possible into week-end affairs.

Some of the clubs went in for Victory gardens. East Lake reports 50 bushels of excellent sweet potatoes, scaling up to 5 pounds, and a flock of turnips. Capital City had a Victory garden, but lost most of the produce during the nights—which, of course, means that the vegetables went on somebody's table; East Lake produced worthy supplies from a garden near the No. 4 green, and used them for the club service.

The rapidly increasing Bell Aircraft population at Marietta, 20 miles from Atlanta, has boosted play at the famous old Marietta CC; and North Fulton, the last course laid out by the late Chandler Egan, and a truly great layout, reports at least 200 regular players from the Bell plant.

There are 7 public courses in the Atlanta District, five city and two county, and it is rather significant that under the regime of George Clayton, president of the Atlanta Public Links GA, three of our public courses, North Fulton, Adams Park and Bobby Jones, recently have joined the USGA.

"And we should like it to be generally known," adds Mr. Clayton, "that we are grooming North Fulton for the National Public Links championship, to be played there the second year after the War is over. Denver has the first turn; and North Fulton the second."

It may also be noted with a modicum of pride that the Atlanta Public Links GA got Bing Crosby and Bob Hope down here to play in an exhibition four-ball match with Johnny Bulla and Ed Dudley, president of the PGA, for the Red Cross—and the biggest gallery that ever followed a golf match in Atlanta, at the the Capital City CC, turned up \$5,220 for the Red Cross fund.

The private clubs all are encouraging Service men to play, with half-rates where indicated; the public course rates are so low as not to make much difference—

25 cents for the nine-hole layouts; 50 cents for the 18-hole courses, on week days, and up to 50 cents and \$1 on Saturdays and Sundays.

The transportation problem in and around Atlanta is not acute, because of rather good service by the street car and bus lines.

On the whole (again) the 1943 golfing situation is a lot better than it was in 1942, when everybody was pretty much up in the air and not always with the right end up. The main problem right now is golf balls. One big, private club recently was down to one type, a 50-cent ball, and still is dealing only in reprocessed balls. I beg to record that inquiry from one and all—what about the golf ball problem? They would adore to get some inside information from you fellows who know what there is to know about it.

The caddie problem of course sticks out like a sore thumb; but a lot of more or less stalwart addicts are toting their own clubs; and the program of play is being staggered so as to fit the situation as well as possible.

But no clubs or courses are closing up, so far as I can learn; and financially the private clubs seem to be going very well; the membership maintenance really is remarkable. Our folks down here seem sensibly inclined to keep on golfing for the relief it brings from the strain of work and worry; and at this writing it seems a reasonable conclusion that they will keep on playing, for the duration. And there again, what about them golf balls?

## Transportation Bothers West Pennsylvania Golfers

By CHET SMITH

WESTERN Pennsylvania golf was down noticeably this year, but to quote Mr. I. W. Danforth, president of the West Penn GA, "There was no damage at all to the basic popularity of the game or to the organization structure of the individual clubs or the ruling organizations—which will make for a quick return to normalcy when the great day dawns."

During the ban on pleasure driving, play at both private and public courses was off about 50 per cent, but when the ban was lifted Sept. 1, there was an immediate 25 per cent rise all around, so