

ments vary with each club. At several of the private clubs here, the plan has been to grant use of the course to the first 12 service men turning up each day and unless the course is crowded, others may play without charge. Presidio Club, with a large membership of the military, has an open day each week. Across the bay, at Orinda, the membership includes some 75 men stationed at the Pre-Flight school, dues being half-rate and green fees waived. Sequoyah reports about 30 officers from Oak Knoll playing regularly.

At the San Francisco public courses, the practice has been to waive green fees for a dozen service men daily, scarcely a generous provision. A monthly tournament for service men, to be rotated on the three city-owned links was inaugurated in October by the AWVS and gives promise of developing into something worth-while.

The condition of golf courses around here may be classified as excellent, as good as 1942 and in a few cases even better though there has been little rain and the shortage of course labor is acute.

Tournaments have been suspended in a few instances, particularly women's events. Others have been reduced, both in length and time. For example, the state amateur was streamlined to five days, the qualifying round cut to 18 holes. The pros have been hit, too, for many are without assistants and press of business precludes much, if any tournament activity. About 30 percent of the Northern

California pros are employed on a full time basis. Most of the others are engaged in war work, for economic and patriotic reasons.

Golfers have given considerable time to Victory Gardens and while some clubs lack ground for elaborate layouts, one (California) has leased out and supplies water for 35 acres, all planted with vegetables. Lakeside has a three acre garden while at clubs in the East Bay, smaller gardens are producing.

The financial condition of most of the bay region's private clubs ranges from good to excellent. Membership lists are growing at those most prominent and it is the general belief of club and association leaders that the clubs have weathered their most trying times; those now operating will be even stronger after the war.

The golfers look to the future with optimism and while the threat of more drastic gas rationing hangs over the West Coast, it is also the opinion here that the game will suffer only in the event of some serious military reverse.

By and large, the players at private and public courses have been conserving at least enough of that allotment of gas permitted for pleasure driving to take them to and from their clubs. With the share-the-ride plan in general operation, there's no reason to believe the golfer within reasonable distance of a course will miss out on his recreation, even if given less gas.

Yanks in India Asked \$6.04 Per Golf Ball

PFC. JOSEPH D. ORCHARD, special service councilman of American air depot group in India, wrote the Wilson Sporting Goods Co. a close-up on the golf situation with Yank Army air forces. Said Orchard:

"Golfers in the American Army Air Forces stationed in India find it almost impossible to obtain golf balls. A few new balls are available in the near-by city at an exorbitant price of Rupees 20 (\$6.04) each. Reclaimed balls, sold by merchants here in India for Rupees 8 (\$2.40) each are in worse condition than those which were being sold by caddies before the war.

"Therefore, we are appealing to you directly to help make it possible for us to continue to enjoy this grand old American sport.

"Our golf club considers this strictly a business proposition and will pay for all balls you can send us (preferably re-processed balls).

"Attached you will find a score card of our course. With the help of Indian coolie labor we constructed this course in our spare time in four months. The layout may be quite different from the championship courses in the States, but we enjoy the course as though we were playing on Merion Cricket Club."

L. A. Young Spring and Wire Corp., parent corporation of the L. A. Young Golf Co., has issued a book describing war production jobs being done in its 11 plants. It's a highly interesting and impressive outline of tremendous achievements in a wide scope of war materiel manufacture.