

How Tamarack Hurdled War Handicaps

In 1943 New York district golf clubs suffered an acute shortage of just about everything in the book, except courage. Among them, Tamarack CC of Greenwich, Conn., found itself in about the toughest location, geographically imaginable. As a result of the gasoline shortage and other handicaps Tamarack had lost nearly half its members before the 1943 season got under way. The remaining members simply determined that the club's half million dollar property would not be allowed to fall apart, with the result that an accumulated deficit of \$6,000 which added crimson coloring to their 1943 opening was turned into a business like blue by the time the loyal Tama-whackers went to the tee this spring. Here are some 'takes' from the scenario from Warren Bullock, a member of the cast:

"Transportation—By pooling transportation and car usage, enough members were able to keep playing to retain the club on an active status—even providing caddies, with caddy carts when boys were short. The club converted its rainy day play room into a barracks style dormitory, so members could go out Friday night and stay the week-end.

"Restaurant—Unused plots of land were converted into Victory Gardens (I don't mean the mashie and niblick type of operations either). Our steward beat the OPA ration point problem by serving fresh garden truck from our own gardens.

"Balls?—Yes, we had them. Members with President Joseph A. Lockhart as chief factotum pooled all their resources in the way of balls whose virgin faces had been tampered with by missed iron shots and sent them in to be reprocessed in quantity lots. Adding to the collection were caddies in bathing suits conducting submarine operations in the water hazards, and Joe Lockhart spent his spare

moments with other assistants in combing the rough for lost pills.

"Upkeep—With the manpower shortage it was a problem to keep the course in decent condition. However, members instead of playing the nineteenth hole turned in (at times) to a little field work on traps, etc., and rules about replacing divots and raking away footprints in traps were strictly enforced.

"Tournaments—The usual club events were held with war bond prizes provided by a membership sports pool. The same problems will be met this year, but with last year's experience we are not worrying."

Overseas G. I. Joe Tells of Balls They Use

In June, Jack Stafford, engineer with the General Electric Company at Pittsfield, Mass., and active leader in the company's employees' tournaments, received a letter from R. E. Anderson, a former employee now with the Army "somewhere in England", highlighting the value and delight of playing with a good golf ball. Anderson wrote:

"Jim McGurk has written me that he is able to send me a dozen golf balls which you so generously gave him. I want you to know that I am deeply appreciative of your generosity and thoughtfulness in doing this and want to assure you that the receipt of these balls will be one of the most welcome gifts ever received by anyone. Thanks an awful lot.

"Well, Jack, I've seen fellows over here playing with balls that you wouldn't even bother to knock away—you'd just leave them, they were so bad. Fellows over here have played with balls that must have had at least six or seven good nicks in them. I've seen one Englishman with a ball that's had a piece of the cover cut off by a knife so the loose piece cut off wouldn't interfere too much with his putting. I picked up an old scab in the middle of the fair-



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