

score of 156, became the first Senior Amateur champion of California.

Most California clubs have special concessions for the play of men in uniform. It is their pleasure to extend courtesies, either free or at low cost, to players vouched for by service organizations.

We look forward to increased activity for 1945. We shall need greater facilities to handle it.

Connecticut Clubs Solid Despite Wartime Drop

By ROBERT D. PRYDE

Sec. Connecticut State Golf Assn.

★ LAST YEAR THE Connecticut State Golf Assn. held but one State Victory tournament. The players qualified at their home clubs on a Saturday or Sunday for two low gross, four low net, and four in a Senior Division. These qualifiers played off together on a Sunday afternoon at a centrally located club to determine the winner. The events, all Medal Play, were most successful.

For 1945 we will possibly run two of these State tournaments, along similar lines. We do not think it best to run any championship events, nor do anything to encourage men to take time away from their work or to use gas traveling.

The membership of our clubs is at present reduced on account of war work. The help on golf courses and clubs is very much restricted. But "it's an ill wind that blows nobody good." The clubs, because of reduced expenses, show fine financial statements for 1944. The clubs have been well patronized and have done a good volume of business, also the members are very active in playing golf.

We have now 46 clubs in the State association. Four have closed for the duration. The gas situation was the deciding factor in closing, as these clubs were at a distance from bus lines.

The play at Shenecossett CC, near the New London submarine base, has been very active—both by the workers and the trainees.

I feel quite sure that we will have a reaction as in the last War, and for 10 years afterwards we will have a real live interest amongst the golfers. Steady positions, shorter hours, and good pay are all factors that will encourage men to play and get the exercise, as well as the sociability, of golf.

Our colleges and schools are concentrating to a great extent on training young men for military service and the activities in sports are of necessity curtailed.

It is to us a noble purpose to keep our courses functioning, even on a restricted basis, so that our boys now in the war will find the conditions they expect to find when they again return home.

Buffalo Play Large But Tournaments Curtailed

By CHARLES F. GOULD

Buffalo District Golf Assn.

★ I CAN SAY that 1944 was a better season generally in our District than 1943. Most all of our District clubs are in much better financial condition, and have invested some of their increased earnings to the point where the courses are in beautiful condition. Clubhouse patronage was good in most clubs. Tournament activities were very limited, our association holding only one of our usual five or six District affairs, the Junior and Boys Championship. Play on all clubs was better than 1943, in fact in some places better than pre-war. Until the European situation clarifies itself, I do not see much chance of any great tournament activity in 1945, but there will still be a large amount of recreational play.

War Pressure Boosts Arkansas Golf

By JOHN M. HARRISON

Sec.-Treas. Arkansas State GA

★ SINCE THE DEPRESSION of the early thirties clubs in Arkansas have consistently accommodated a good number of golfers. It is my opinion that there has been very little, if any, decrease in play in this section since the beginning of the war, especially on the weekends. True, many have gone into the service, particularly the younger ones, who played a lot, but it's hard to notice any numerical difference in the past few years. This is explained, I suppose, by the stimulated war prosperity and the increasing need of persons who have been working hard during the week for relaxation on the weekends and sometimes in the late afternoons. It seems that the hour gained on war time has increased, to some extent, play during the week.

The golf ball shortage is, of course, very acute, but everyone seems to be getting along just about as well with the reprocessed balls and playing a lot longer with each ball, and hunting a lot harder if a shot inadvertently strays into the tall and uncut. Incidentally, speaking of the roughs, they are generally thinned out and cut down pretty well in this section because of the golf ball shortage and probably due to the fact that one not only runs a much greater risk of losing a ball in high grass but having found it therein is much more likely to chop it up beyond recognition before again attaining the fairway. Perhaps the caddie situation also has something to do with the widening of the fairways and the cutting down of the roughs. There are not nearly as many caddies as there used to be, and

most of the older ones have either gone into the service or into some more profitable employment. There is a general indifference on the part of caddies to the finer points of caddying, although the boys are making about twice as much as they were making before the war, and we have observed that there is not only a scarcity due to war service or other employment but because many of these boys seem to make enough to take care of their wants by working only part time.

Except for their supposedly being made easier by the elimination of some of the high grass hazards, the courses are in pretty much the same condition, although there are not as many men available to work on them. The elimination of some of the hazards hasn't noticeably helped anybody's game, probably explained by the difficulty or impossibility of eliminating the main hazard in golf, i. e., the mental hazard.

Things are very active in most of the clubhouses. Most of the lockers are filled, and despite the difficulty with ration points and clubhouse labor, the managers are accommodating an unusually large number of dinner guests, etc.

Camp Robinson is near the Little Rock courses, and Camp Chaffee is near the Fort Smith courses. The Army has taken over all of the major hotels in Hot Springs, Ark., for recreation and rehabilitation purposes, and the two topnotch golf courses there at the Hot Springs G&CC are primarily being used by service men. Nevertheless the regular members are still using the courses, too. In addition to the foregoing, there are a number of air bases throughout the state that are located near golf clubs that belong to the Association, and all of these are available to the service men and are accommodating a good number of them. Substantial concessions to the service men on dues and fees are made at every course and every club in the state that we know about, and it is my opinion that this move has greatly stimulated play among them.

Our annual invitation amateur golf tournament was held at Hardscrabble CC, Fort Smith, during the latter part of May, and, as since the beginning of the war, it was an invitation affair. Many service men attended. Aside from the Association's annual invitation golf tournament, the larger clubs in the state have conducted annual invitation tournaments as before, except that the tournaments have been operated for war benefits and used as a means for selling war bonds. The prizes have consisted of war bonds and stamps, accompanied by some trophy of little intrinsic value, which could be kept as evidence of the achievement. During the war invitation tournaments have been held at Little Rock CC, Hardscrabble CC, El Dorado CC, and Texarkana CC.

The 1945 invitation tournament of the Association will be held in Texarkana. These tournaments, especially the Fort Smith and Little Rock tournaments, have for many years attracted topnotch amateurs from the Southwest and other sections. Some present titleholders are: Spec Goldman, who beat Wilford Wehrle in the last invitation of the Arkansas GA; Jimmy Wittenberg (formerly at L. S. U., now in the South Pacific), who beat Cpl. Earl Stewart, Jr., in the last Little Rock Invitation; Labron Harris, who beat Dale Morey in the last Hardscrabble invitation.

Whenever the officials were determining the advisability of having a particular tournament that particular year much interest was shown by civilians and service men in the continuation of tournaments. As a matter of fact, it was almost unanimous.

Enrollment in the Association has been very good for several years, and it has been so good that we are not necessarily anticipating or even seeking a great increase after the war; however, we do anticipate a bright post-war future for golf in this section, which embodies the belief that not only will more people be interested in the game but more courses will be worked in an effort to get them in Class A condition, and the Class A courses that we now have will be developed with needed improvements, such as watered fairways, better greens, etc. The Bermuda greens are excellent during the major part of the year but they are inclined to get too rough and wiry, especially in the summertime. We hope to develop a generally better type of green after the war.

Golf is an ideal sport for this section, because it can be played all the year round, and there are very few weekends during the year when it cannot be played comfortably.

GIs Share in Kentucky's Big Golf Year

By EARL RUBY

Sec. Kentucky State G. A.

★ GOLF CLUBS IN and around Kentucky enjoyed one of their best seasons in history during 1944. And if it weren't for the shortage of clubs and balls, the year 1945 might easily become the most successful in history. This may sound screwy, but it is a fact.

Play was better than normal at almost all country clubs, and the distance from the center of the community to the club seems to have very, very little, if any, effect on the play. In other words, the gasoline shortage did not hurt golf play in Kentucky at all. The club members found bus transportation, share-a-ride cars, and other means of travel.

Memberships at most country clubs closed long before the year was out, so