



Bob Poggi (right) pres. NYC Police Golf Assn. and Walter Grego, genial club professional, Bayside GC (Long Island) discuss plans for series of women's events with officers of NYC Policewomen's organization. (L to R) Mrs. Gertrude Winterhauer, Mrs. Marion C. Mullen and Mrs. Irene A. Peters.

Pros Help New York Police Build Big Golf League

By JOHN BRENNAN

"We have to thank the members of the Metropolitan PGA for the vast strides made by our organization," declared Bob Poggi, affable president of the New York City Police Golf Assn. at North Hills GC, one of the most accessible courses to the cavern dwellers of Manhattan's towering skyscrapers.

Listening attentively were Mayor Bill O'Dwyer, Police Commissioner Arthur W. Wallander, Fire Commissioner Frank J. Quayle, City Treasurer Spencer Young and J. T. (Pat) Clancy, president of North Hills.

Like Topsy, the incredible city of New York and the game of golf the NYCPGA itself "just grew." Poggi informed his audience of several hundred at the North Hills dinner that the average attendance at the monthly tournaments of his organization has been 255 players, a far cry from the dozen who teed off in the first fixtures during 1932. In addition, the bug has smitten the members of the Police, Sanitation, Finance and other departments of the Big City. Poggi estimated that fully 3,500 persons on Father Knickerbocker's payroll are avid divot diggers.

"This tremendous development would not have been possible but for the intense and kindly cooperation of the PGA members, especially those in Westchester, Connecticut and Long Island," Poggi said. "Golf

pros have been responsible in a large measure for our growth. They fixed dates for us to play at their courses and saw to it that members were on hand to make our tournaments pleasant affairs."

So great was the golf interest among municipal employees last year that the Mayor's Athletic Committee conducted a city-wide tournament in which more than 1,200 competed. The finale was staged at La Tourette, one of the municipal courses located in Staten Island. It proved an eventful day, with Earl MacFadden of the Police team winning with a one-over par card for the 36-hole medal test. The Fire Department, which later lost to the gendarmes at North Hills, annexed the team prize. In charge of the city tournament, which will become an annual affair, was Assistant Fire Chief Bill Hennessey.

Hennessey, who has been one of the dozens of guests at the monthly Police tournaments for the past 16 years, expressed the opinion that eventually there will be similar tournaments for city employees in other sections of the country and possibly some sort of national championship.

Commissioner Wallander, who stresses fraternization to his army of police, two years ago suggested that the NYCPGA select a team to engage the leading clubs of Long Island, Westchester and Connecticut. Poggi, president of the organiza-

tion, immediately set up a schedule and named his squad of 18 men, including himself, a nine-stroke performer.

Police Have Star Golfers

A half dozen matches were played in 1946, but last year Commissioner Wallender saw his Police team win six and lose five matches against the most formidable opposition in the East.

But, with such links stalwarts as cross-handed Jimmy Oleska, who won the Metropolitan medal in the USGA amateur championship qualifying round at Winged Foot two seasons back; Harold (Bud) Southwick, 1947 champion at Clearview; Earl MacFadden, finalist in the title chase at Plandome Country Club; Julie Vogt, one of the sweetest swingers in bunkerland, according to T. Suffern Tailer; Tony Huskins, winner of the New York Daily News driving contest in 1931 with an average of 308 yards for three tee shots; Ray Hendley, another prodigious hitter; Al Piras, who holds several amateur course records in the East; Bill Lang, Dickson Young and George Geischeidt it was not too difficult a job to form a well-balanced team to meet the cream of the amateur crop.

Others of the squad are George Bailey, winner of the coveted Medal of Honor, highest award in the New York City Police Department; Rudy Kollman, Lt. Joe Buck, ex-New York public links champion; George Doyle, Sgt. Jim Hart, Fred Hinderman and Bill Hanratty, crack sherlock.

Oleska has been a consistent winner in tournaments since emerging from the Dyker Beach incubator with the Strafaci brothers and dozens of other leading Met amateurs. He has retired two Charles F. Noyes Cups in the Norwich, Conn., C.C. Invitation, having dominated the field in six of the last tournaments.

The gendarmes won at Dunwoodie GC, Yonkers; Gedney Golf Club, White Plains; Fenway, also of White Plains; Queens GC of Woodhaven; the Mitchell Field GC of Westbury and at North Hills over the Fire Department. The losses were to Westchester CC, Rye; Hubbard Heights GC, Bridgeport, Conn.; Pomonok CC, Flushing; Plandome Country Club and Meadow Brook Club, Westbury.

Galleries Without "Tickets"

At Westbury, the Meadow Brook Club members turned out en masse to witness the matches. Among the galleryites were Lady Sylvia Stanley, Mrs. John R. Fell, Mrs. Winston Guest, Mrs. T. Suffern Tailer and Mrs. George Bostwick. The polo capital of the world gave the police-golfers a tremendous welcome. Howell Van Gerbig, golf chairman at famed

Meadow Brook, put on a "day" that the policemen won't soon forget.

Meadow Brook summoned some of its better divot diggers to combat—and beat—the invaders. Among the home players were Bob Sweeny, former British amateur champion; Tommy Tailer, ex-Metropolitan king; Jim Knott, Van Gerbig, Frank W. Burton, Robert Grant 3rd, Bill Holloway, J. R. Fell and "Pete" Bostwick.



Fire Commissioner Frank J. Quayle and Police Commissioner Arthur W. Wallender ready to tee off at first tee in one of many tournament events scheduled by NYCPGA.

During the 1947 season, the NYCPGA staged one-day tournaments at North Hills, Glen Oaks, Fresh Meadow, Oakland, Hempstead, Sands Point, Garden City Country, Plandome, Sound View, Bayside and Pomonok on Long Island; Fenway, Winged Foot, and Gedney in Westchester; Split Rock in the Bronx and Hubbard Heights in Connecticut.

The NYCPGA was launched in 1932 by Sgt. Si Ambraz, who toured the world during the last war with "This Is the Army," as an officer; Commissioner Charles Boland and a dozen others. Actually, the group decided on a tournament slate while competing in a tournament up in White Plains. Other charter members are Captain John Driscoll, Inspector George Heitzman, Detective Frank Kear, Inspector Charles Stilson, Inspector Tom Cummings, Jim Oleska, Lt. Joe Grady, First Deputy Commissioner Tom Mulligan, Detective Maurice Dobson, Inspector George Colgan and Lt. Jack Osnato, the much publicized detective who broke the infamous Murder, Inc.

The members of the NYCPGA compete each year for the Spring 3100 Trophies in three classes and the handsome Sylvester Gardiner Trophy. The latter was donated by the steel tycoon, who is a member at Nassau CC and Brookville GC.

(Continued on page 76)

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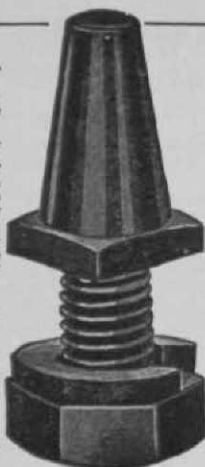
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had to take more of an active part in getting the handicaps on an equal basis. Surprising what it does both for the club and the pro shop.

PROS HELP POLICE

(Continued from page 36)

Last year, at the suggestion of Commissioner Wallander, there was an inter-departmental competition held in which 26 divisions competed. The Detectives won with a team comprising Oleska, George Lunny, George Bailey, Frank Neuman and Bill Hanratty.

The NYCPGA is part of the vast Police Sports Association which embraces track, baseball, softball and other sports. Chief Inspector Martin Brown is president, Deputy Commissioner William Turk, secretary, and Commissioner Wallander, chairman of the board.

Clubs Welcome Police

President Poggi, whose name has become synonymous with the NYCPGA, was a guest at the annual meeting of the Metropolitan Chapter of the PGA and was lauded for his work in promoting golf among the municipal employees.

Al Ciuci, president of the Long Island PGA, who has become a close friend of Poggi, said the Long Island clubs actually compete for the privilege of acting as host to the NYCPGA.

"These police golfers are getting so good in a competitive way," cautioned Ciuci, "that they'll be challenging the PGA members after they knock off a few more of the leading clubs of the district. They really pack a wallop."

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Not to be outdone by the males, the distaff side of the New York City Police Department organized its own golf team last season and competed against a feminine contingent from the Sheriff's office led by the comely Helen Gilligan, a member at Plandome.

Walter Grego, Bayside Links pro, was host to the inaugural party of women police golfers and all agreed it was a pronounced success. Mrs. Irene A. Peters, Mrs. Gertrude Winterhauer and Mrs. Marion C. Mullen are the officers of the organization that intends to conduct six tournaments during 1948.

"We have had the police golfers here every year ever since we opened up the course," said Grego. "In fact, the tournament is one of the big events here, rivaling in interest the annual World-Telegram Hole-In-One tournament."

So, with policemen, firemen and thousands of other city employees flocking to the fairways, Father Knickerbocker's boys and girls should be getting their share of the sun rays and develop into A-1 divot diggers.

GETTING GREENS TURF

(Continued from page 32)

should be enough men to sod the entire green in one day. A heavy roller is required. If a three unit fairway roller is available it is satisfactory, provided the tractor is equipped with rubber tires. A power roller such as is used for tennis courts or light sidewalk work is ideal. There must be enough weight to press the sod firmly into the base. The weight will not harm good quality sod. Plenty of water should be applied just ahead of the roller. Do not soak the sod first but deliver water immediately ahead of the rollers so they push a wave of water ahead of them. Roll lengthwise and crosswise, once each way. More rolling than this may displace the sod pieces.

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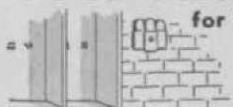
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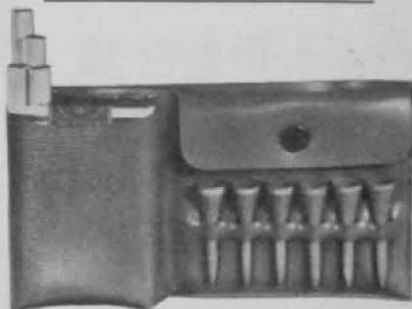


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