

tions of the state. Last spring the 10th annual Tulsa Four-ball, run at the same time as Oklahoma City's 12th annual meet, drew a record 248 teams.

As in Oklahoma City, where the newspapers and the pros cooperate fully to make the tournaments successful, in Tulsa, the Tulsa Daily World, with sports editor B. A. Bridgewater and the Tulsa section of the PGA do the promotion work on the huge tournament.

For the last six years interest has been helped by an inter-city series, home and home, between the Oklahoma City and Tulsa men's champions of the Four-ball. Never has a winning team refused to play in the state championship series. It works this way; whatever margin a team establishes in the first weekend of the series after 18 holes, is carried over — a regular 36-hole playoff. Tulsa has won twice, and Oklahoma City four times. The crowd interest is keen.

Oklahoma, with many golf tournaments and playable weather almost all the year round, is building more and more golf courses. Oklahoma City still is short of links, although Floyd Farley's new 18-hole Meridian layout has helped to decrease the shortage.

Promotes Fee Club Business

Play in both Four-ball meets generally is restricted to publunk courses until semi-finals or finals, or both, in order to keep the Country clubbers happy. Of course, the publunks usually want the business and in spite of a lot of work entailed at the starting tee, dollars pour in at the clubhouse and in pre-tournament practice rounds each week.

In the opinion of golfers, pros and newspaper officials alike, the Four-ball tournament, as proved in play by outstanding pro teams in more and more tournaments each year, is the coming stimulus to golf.

Oklahoma has led the way in amateur Four-ball setups, and annually the men's Four-ball is the greatest participation tourney in history in the state.

They think the women will build their tournament and conversely the tournament will build women's golf, in time. Now, it takes no sales talk to get men to play in the Four-ball. No golfer, good or fair, would think of passing up the tournament and from one to the other, the men are busy acquiring new partners.

Teams that reach the quarterfinals are broken up and not allowed to be teamed

up again. This gives every duffer a potential chance to play with the champion par-buster. In the men's play, pros are allowed to participate and yet only once in 22 tournaments, the 1946 Tulsa meet, has a pro been a member of the championship team. Morrie Gravatt of Tulsa CC made the grade with John Spencer, 100-shooting amateur, that year. Before the inter-city finals Spencer was 10 strokes better.

Bud Hoch and Troy Hoskins, a collegian and a radio announcer, respectively, won in Oklahoma City last year and took the inter-city series. At the outset Hoskins never had broken 80. Yet, the week after the Four-ball, he had practiced so diligently and acquired so much poise through play in the Four-ball, he was breaking par at tough Lincoln park and beating Hoch. No one protested that the team was unfair; it was perfectly legitimate at the outset. But Hoskins' improvement showed the good of the Four-ball that all Oklahomans know; it makes you practice.

The Four-ball, sold first to the newspaper and the pros as sound promotional timber, should flourish over the nation.

Perhaps, in time, a national Four-ball championship tournament of city amateur Four-ball champions can come of the Oklahoma beginning. It has the possibilities of becoming that big.

Remember — the hardest Four-ball is the first one. It's worth the effort.

USGA Works Itself Into the Red in 1948

USGA annual report for 1948 showed a loss of \$14,704 on year's operations for 1,280 members; largest membership in USGA history. Net increase in membership in 1948 was 155. Record entry lists of 5,970 for association's five championships, including the new USGA junior. Cost of Curtis cup trip overseas was \$7000. Income from championships was \$39,000 compared with \$48,000 in 1947. National Open income was about \$15,000 against \$19,000 previous year. Amateur and women's each did approximately \$1000 better than in 1947. USGA income from Amateur at Memphis was \$11,589 plus broadcasting income. Green section expense was \$35,127 covering most extensive and successful program in Green section history. Income from all sources for 1948 was \$102,770.