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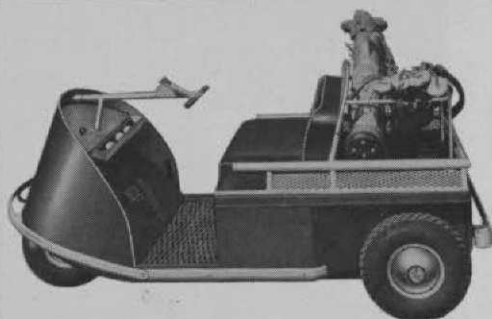
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May Decision Is \$210,000 Blow to Tournament Pros

Decision of George S. May to abandon the All American and World's tournaments, annual events at Tam O'Shanter CC, Niles, Ill., was unexpected but did not come as a complete surprise to those who have had even casual interest in the hassle between tournament sponsors and the PGA.

The break came into the open late last summer over the matter of who should collect tournament entry fees. At that time the PGA decreed that all 1958 entry fees would have to be turned over to it in lieu of the \$2,000 previously charged for the association's expenses in setting up tournaments. In addition, the PGA also informed the sponsors that the association would dictate allocation of prize money, saying in effect, "You put up the dollars and we'll run the shows."

When this ultimatum was delivered, the sponsors, who until this time had been rather loosely banded together, tightened up their organization and took steps to counter the PGA demands. Paul O. Ridings, public relations counsel for the National Invitation Golf tournament, which

is held in Ft. Worth, was appointed the sponsors' executive secretary and given the job of trying to effect a fair and amicable settlement with the PGA. After Harold Sargent was elected pres. of the PGA last November, Ridings upon holding a conference with him, came away feeling that all differences between the two groups eventually could be cleared up.

At a meeting, scheduled for this May 10, many of the problems that have arisen relative to tournament sponsorship were expected to be thrashed out.

Demands Resisted

May's letter to J. Edwin Carter, PGA tournament bureau mgr., which was released to the press on Mar. 31, pointed out that the association demands to which he objected were that the PGA was to collect all entry fees, wanted May to provide \$15,000 for a PGA sponsored Pro-Am at Tam O'Shanter and that he adhere to the association's T.T.T. plan, under which the 10 top tournament players of the previous year are guaranteed appearance money.

In commenting on the entry fee situation, May stated that the PGA hasn't or isn't collecting any fees this year from the

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L. A. Open, National Open, Masters, Houston Open, Dallas Open and several others. He added that none of these tournaments pay more than \$50,000 in prizes.

"According to the contract which the PGA offered," May said, "it would cost me about \$40,000 more in 1958 to conduct my tournaments than it did last year. The entry fee total would amount to about \$25,000; there would be an increase in prizes and another \$4,000 for the T.T.T. plan which I repeatedly have not agreed to and never will."

In the 17 years the All American and World's tournaments have been held, May has distributed nearly \$2 million in prize and exhibition money. If the two events are not held this year it will cost professional golfers about \$210,000.

May's letter was concluded with the remark that "I am not going out of the tournament business. I am leaving shortly on a foreign trip and am seriously considering inaugurating tournaments in other countries."

May Resume in 1959

Later, May said that even if the PGA were to accede to his wishes on the entry fees and T.T.T. payments, it is now too late to arrange the 1958 Tam tournaments. But he left the door open to resuming the

dual events in 1959 if the PGA will agree to let him write his own tickets.

Tournament players naturally were disappointed that golf's richest lode has at least been temporarily mined out. Most agree that demands on May probably were too severe and that sooner or later resistance was bound to be met.

However, practically all the circuit regulars denounced the idea of paying a fee to enter a tournament. "What it

Jock McKinnon has been the pro at the Capilano GC in Vancouver B.C. for 20 years. For most of that time he hasn't been at his physical best. Recently he received the results of medical tests.

He is allergic to grass.

amounts to," said Jack Burke, Jr., "is that the actors pay to make an appearance." One pro said golf is the only major sport in which a player has to put up an entry fee for a chance to win money. However, this condition still prevails in all the big bowling tournaments. But bowling doesn't have golf's spectator appeal, or for that matter, facilities for accommodating the crowds, making it necessary that players ante up the prize money.