

## **Michigan Public Links Group Gives Golfers Full Fare**

ONE of the most active public links associations in the country is that which has been operating in Michigan since 1951. More than 300 players belong to the organization which annually provides the membership a full schedule of tournaments and special events from April until October.

The Michigan Publinx GA was granted a state charter more than eight years ago, being formed by a group of public links players who had held informal tournaments and team matches in the Detroit area since 1936. The man who did most to get formal recognition of the public players was Tex Ellison, a tool and die maker. He serves as director emeritus.

President of MPGA is Roy Iceberg, vp and sales mgr. of Golf Mart, a course accessories and supply distributor. Vps are Harold Rutledge, a telephone company executive, and Joe Peak, a development engineer. Sal Pomante, a shipping supervisor, is secy. and Clyde Bates, a payroll accountant, is treas. The organization's tournament dir. is Don Nelson, an advertising salesman, and handicap chmn. is George Greenhalgh, a layout engineer. Eight others are members of the board.

### **Meet Semi-Monthly**

Officers and directors meet semi-monthly with an annual meeting being held each spring in which the governing body is elected. At this session, the members are entertained at a clinic conducted by one of the state's top pros. Al Watrous of Oakland Hills CC presided at the 1959 gathering and gave a demonstration and recounted golf lore that still are being talked about.

A full season's schedule is replete with events in which the entire membership gets a chance to compete. The MPGA sponsors at least a half-dozen 18-hole handicap tourneys, several best-ball events, the State Publinx match play tournament, a 54-hole medal play championship the 36-hole qualifying heat for the National Publinx and regular Sunday team matches involving ten public courses in Detroit.

The latter activity has the ten courses divided into two divisions. There is a home and home schedule for all teams and the climax comes at the end of the season when the two division champions meet for the league title.

The match play championship, incidentally, has been won for the last three years by Mike Andonian, a Pontiac school teacher.

### **Competes With Detroit District**

Another highlight in the MPGA season comes when the Publinx representatives meet a 16-man team from the Detroit Dist. GA, composed of private clubs. This is a two-day affair involving both match and medal play and gets excellent state-wide coverage from the press and radio. Four Publinx players annually are invited to play in the Detroit Dist. championship.

Since 1956, MPGA teams also have been playing interstate matches with clubs from Toledo and Cleveland.

Handicap tournaments conducted by the Publinx organization regularly have entry lists that include from 150 to 250 players. These competitions are broken down into flights and in all flights 15 prizes are offered. These range from golf bags or carts to balls.

### **National Acceptance**

MPGA handicaps, in recent years, have received national acceptance. They also are recognized by the Michigan PGA for use in weekly pro-am events. George Greenhalgh, who concedes nothing to a Univac, has been handling the handicap sheets since the Michigan Publinx organization was officially founded.

Membership in MPGA is limited to 300 in order to assure smooth operation of all tournaments. A larger enrollment probably would prevent all the players from getting in full rounds on tournament day and since they are workingmen golfers, two-day affairs are out of the question. The membership fee is \$10.

Michigan usually sends a large and formidable delegation to the National Publinx tournament. In 1955, the group's Sam Kosciw of Detroit brought back the championship. At the present moment, MPGA is lobbying to have the 1961 National tourney played at a Detroit course.

### **Cooperate on Research Program**

Arizona GCSA and the University of Arizona at Tucson are making plans to cooperate on the state's first turf research program. Organization of the program has been the main topic of discussion at all recent Arizona GCSA meetings.