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## U. of California Makes Survey of L. A. Maintenance Costs

A recent turf survey of Los Angeles county, made by the agriculture extension service of the University of California, shows that nearly \$6 million is spent annually in the maintenance of 101 golf operations there. These include 43 18-hole and 11 9-hole standard courses, 5 18-hole and 9 9-hole Par 3s and 32 driving ranges.

Maintenance of the 43 standard 18-hole courses is calculated to average nearly \$107,000 per course. For the 9-hole standard courses, the average maintenance cost is figured to run to \$64,000. Turf acreage for the 18-hole courses is 85 and is just short of 50 for 9-hole courses.

At par 3 installations, the California extension service figures that it cost \$43,500 to maintain each 18-hole layout, and about \$26,000 for each 9-hole operation. Turf acreage at the larger courses is said to average 30 and at the 9-hole courses, 15.

The 32 driving ranges have an average of three acres in turf. Cost per range for maintenance is \$3,750.

Investment in maintenance equipment is said to average \$20,000 at the 18-hole standard courses. The extension service says that average equipment investment at 9-hole standard courses and both types of Par 3s is about \$12,000.

## PGA Changes Award Designation to 'Player-of-the-Year'

The PGA is changing the designation of 'Professional Golfer-of-the-Year' to 'Player-of-the-Year' so that there will be no confusion with its counterpart award, Golf Professional-of-the-Year. The latter honors a home pro who is recognized for his contributions to the game.

More than 1,000 sportswriters and broadcasters again will vote with 5,000

PGA members in selecting the 1961 Player-of-the-Year, Arnold Palmer, 1960 winner of the award and a strong candidate to repeat, can become the second man to win the honor more than once. Ben Hogan, who has monopolized this distinction, was named the leading player in 1948, 1950, 1951 and 1953. Gary Player, another strong contender for the 1961 title, could become the first foreign-born pro to get the award.

## Bala Members Spurn City's Offer; Continue to Play Golf

Bala GC, within Philadelphia's city limits, has been under pressures to sell because of increased value of land in a "golden mile" under rapid development and because of tax increases. But the members recently voted to continue to play golf despite the financial pressure.

The membership received some relief when the board of tax revision said that a recent large increase in tax assessment was a mistake. The new tax increase instead of being \$18,220 will be about \$4,440.

### Greedy Eye on Course

The City of Philadelphia has had a greedy eye on Bala GC for a number of years. The club is located in an area where land prices have skyrocketed in recent years because of industrial and residential development. The club owns 80 acres of open, developable land in an area so appealing that the city offered the club \$2,000,000 for the land. About 100 members recently met to consider the offer. They chose to remain where they are and play golf. The increase in assessment followed, but the club protested and won its case.

The end, of course, is not in sight. Taxes presumably will continue to rise as land values in the area go up. Most other private golf clubs, once located in or near the city, have moved farther into the suburbs where land is cheaper and taxes lower.

The city's offer to pay \$2,000,000 for Bala GC will remain as a tempting offer. Several years ago, Philadelphia CC, located in the same general area, got a big price for its land and moved to Gladwynne, Pa., where it has become an even bigger and better club.

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