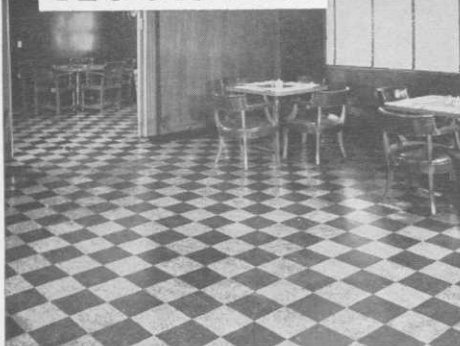


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**Green Chairmen Forum
at GCSA Convention**

Clubs Drag Feet In Seeking Relief from Excise Tax Burden

Where the money will come from to pay for the increasing demands and costs of golf was a major concern of green chairmen at the forum held for them during the GCSA conference in San Diego.

Emanuel Levy, green chairman, Brentwood CC, Los Angeles and chairman of the forum, pointed out that only 1,703 of the 6,521 conventional courses in the U.S. are private 18-hole clubs, and that there are 3,618 9-hole clubs, leaving 2,903 18-hole courses in private, semi-private and public operation. Levy remarked that the tendency is to regard all golf clubs as having the financial character of the richest private clubs instead of regarding the golf business picture factually. The Brentwood official has extensive interests in bowling establishments and from that experience contributed the warning that golf examine its business position with caution as well as with optimism.

Asks Drive for Fair Taxes

Frank G. Hathaway, president and general manager of Los Angeles A.C. and Riviera CC, and sec.-treas., National Club Assn., told the club "tax story," pinch-hitting for Walter Slowinski, tax law authority and counsel for the GCSA and Club Managers Assn. of America.

Hathaway was one of those few who has spent his own time and money in going to Washington and lobbying for a fair tax load on clubs and members. He noted that country and city clubs, horse and dog tracks, pay 20 per cent excise taxes. Night clubs, furs, jewelry and toilet articles pay 10 per cent tax. Golf and city clubs, rather than the ways and means committee of Congress, he said, are to blame for continuance of the 20 per cent tax load. The clubs haven't put up any sort of a case for themselves, individually or through their associations, in getting the tax burden reduced.

Clubs rode as freeloaders on the CMAA tax relief campaign begun by former CMAA president, Dick Daley, and oper-

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ated by the CMAA Executive secretary and its tax counsel and lobbyist, Slowinski. After observing the weakness of the clubs' effort in Washington, Hathaway and others organized the National Club Assn. to specialize in matters pertaining to taxes and other legislation.

The National Club Assn. is a non-profit organization with office at 1028 Connecticut ave., N.W., Washington 6. Golf club and association officials will be sent details of the NCA organization, plans and dues, upon request.

A New Big Business

Herb Graffis, GOLFDOM editor, observed that golf now is really two games: one the game played for fun by about 6,000,000 Americans who spend all but a very small fraction of the amount annually spent in the game's big business. The other game is that of tournament and exhibition golf built upon the interest and support of the ordinary players. There is a tendency to confuse the two games, he noted.

The result is that expensive course construction and maintenance are carried on for low handicap amateurs who pay a small percentage of the costs, and for

tournament professionals who pay no initiation fees or dues whatever. This tendency also appears to be evident in official concern about ball distance, Graffis remarked, and added that he had not heard of any alarm about ball distance being voiced by average golfers.

The old and the new in golf course maintenance, Graffis continued, were pretty clearly separated by 2-4-D, which inaugurated the chemical control era in turf management and, in general, a scientific attitude in operations on the part of the supt.

Graffis said that the golf car and bag cart have brought a new era into the golf business. He expressed the belief that the day of extravagant clubhouse construction has ended. GOLFDOM'S editor remarked that the most progressive people in the golf business are those who look at the duffers as their Number One source of support.

Border Looks Ahead

Elmer Border, veteran supt at Las Posas, CC, Camarillo, Calif., viewed course maintenance progress as being somewhat handicapped by the long life of maintenance equipment. He believes that if man-

ufacturers had a quicker buying market there would be a reduction in man-hours of work. Labor economy has been attained to some extent in golf but not to the point of other industries where manufacturers are not held back by their customers' reluctance to junk obsolescent equipment.

Border remarked that if Green committeemen were to serve long enough to learn the job, and if supts. trained assistants who could take over much of the routine, course maintenance would improve because full advantage would be taken of the assets in personnel.

Right Men, Right Plan

Charles Laws, co-chairman, green section, Southern Calif. GA, and green chairman, San Gabriel (Calif.) CC, said that he thought green chairman is a bad name for the job, although in some respects it is appropriate. He told of the difficulty of getting qualified chairmen who are willing to serve. He counseled against making a course so tough that members have to fight it.

Laws urged that the supt. and pro attend directors' meetings so they are kept aware of the status of the club as well as

being available for information and counsel. He presented a handbook for green committeemen's use that supts. and club officials, who have examined it, declare to be the most practical they have seen.

Laws noted that about 35 per cent of a first class club's revenue should be allotted for course maintenance, but added that this observation is subject to revision in many cases.

GWAA Meeting

The eighteenth annual meeting and election of the Golf Writers Association of America will be held in the Tournament building of The August National GC on April 3, the day before the first round of the 27th Masters Championship.

Women's Collegiate

The nineteenth Women's Collegiate tournament will be played June 17-21 at Penn State U. Carol Sorenson of Arizona State is the defending champion.

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