

## MGA Establishes Central Handicapping Service

The Metropolitan Golf Association is establishing a centralized handicapping service to electronically compute and revise the handicaps of golfers of its 198 member clubs in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. The service is being introduced in time for use during the 1964 golf playing season. The MGA thus becomes the largest district golf association to introduce central control computing as a service to its member clubs.

To provide the latest in electronic computing methods, the MGA has made an agreement to sub-contract the work through Sports Data Corp. of New York. During the past two years this company has been providing electronic handicap computing for a number of clubs in the district.

### Points Out Advantages

In announcing the service to its member clubs, the MGA pointed out a number of advantages of centralized handicapping, among them: uniformity of handicapping in the district; elimination of human error in calculation; computation under one method — the official USGA golf handicap system.

Handicap assignments and revisions for the entire district will be made on the same day, seven times each playing season. Clubs conducting member-guest tournaments will be able to verify guests' handicaps through the MGA office which will maintain a master list of all handicaps computed and recorded to the last revision period. Club handicap committees will be relieved of the slow, tedious and troublesome chore of keeping records and computing manually. Computations will be made overnight.

### Uniformity Established

With the move toward centralizing handicap computations, the MGA is giving full effect to the USGA golf handicap system, which has as its basic elements, uniformity of course ratings — an evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course compared with other rated courses in the area, which the MGA has followed during the past three years — and a faithful application of the USGA formula of computing handicaps, under a uniform method, from complete and accurate scoring records of all players.

## Murphy, Smallwood Win Top Newspaper Writing Awards

Jack Murphy of the San Diego Union and Irwin Smallwood of the Greensboro (N.C.) Daily News were the principal winners of the seventh Brunswick-MacGregor newspaper golf writing competitions, sponsored by the Golf Writers Association.

Murphy won first prize in the feature division with an article on the unscheduled match between Arnold Palmer and a bee that sat on his ball in the 1963 Phoenix Open. Smallwood was singled out for his gripping news writing story of Jack Nicklaus' reaction to missing the cut in last year's Open at Brookline.

Second prize in the feature division went to Bob Drum of the Pittsburgh Press while Ben Garlikov of the Dayton Daily News won the second news reporting prize with his description of Nicklaus' Masters victory. Third place winners were Frank Reece, Dallas Morning News (feature) and Murray Forsvall, Dallas Times Herald (news writing).

Prizes of \$250, \$150 and \$100 were awarded in each division. There was a record list of entries in the 1963 competitions — 158 in the feature division and 81 in the news division. The contests were judged by Jay Jensen, head of the University of Illinois Journalism school, and his staff.

## Casper Plays 80 Rounds in 70.58 to Lead Vardon Cup Race

Although Bill Casper, Jr., had to sit on the sidelines for two months during 1963 with an injured hand, he managed to get in enough rounds to qualify as the winner of the Vardon Trophy. His 70.588 strokes per round for 80 rounds gave him a fractional lead over Arnold Palmer, Julius Boros and Tony Lema, all of whom finished under 71. Casper also won the Vardon cup in 1960.

Here is how they finished in the Vardon Trophy competition:

	Rounds	Average
Bill Casper, Jr.	80	70.588
Arnold Palmer	79	70.633
Julius Boros	98	70.735
Tony Lema	103	70.893
Dow Finsterwald	123	71.244
Don January	99	71.343
Gardner Dickinson, Jr.	112	71.464
Art Wall, Jr.	94	71.532
Bruce Crampton	149	71.570
Gene Littler	104	71.712