

HARLOW OUT

Conflict and Mystery Confuse Firing of PGA Tournament Bureau Head

WHY was Bob Harlow, for many years the lone and always the prime promoter of professional golfers' tournament interests, fired as Tournament Bureau manager of the PGA?

George Jacobus, president of the PGA in December announced officially Harlow was receiving the bum's rush from his position, although he had been repeatedly lauded during the annual convention of the PGA a few weeks prior to the notification he was through. Harlow's record in keeping the tournament money up during the years of acute depression was regarded as a miraculous achievement in sports promotion. When the news was tossed in that Harlow was tossed out, a gale of queries swept golf.

Jacobus and Harlow tangled promptly, with Jacobus taking the position "a good professional may be let out and given absolutely no reason at all." Harlow maintains that regardless of this being a bad principle for the PGA to endorse, his record of performance for the PGA and agreement to re-engage him did not warrant his abrupt and mysterious discharge.

Jacobus Says He Can't Dodge Abuse

Jacobus says he is in the affair as the fall guy because he is president of the PGA—that he is "not at liberty to quote the opinions or feelings of the officers or sections" and as far as the Executive committee (of the PGA) is concerned this is a closed issue."

Jacobus and Harlow clash bluntly on one point. Harlow states that the Tournament committee headed by Ed Dudley offered him a new contract permitting him to carry on a newspaper syndicate of his golf notes but at a reduced salary from the PGA. After that offer was made on the independent volition of the Tournament committee, says Harlow, Jacobus hurriedly got into a session with the committee, whereupon, as a result of the second session the PGA executive committee was advised that the Tournament committee did not recommend renewal of Har-

low's contract because of his newspaper syndicate work and because of vague charges. Jacobus states that the Executive committee never received recommendation from the Tournament committee for Harlow's re-engagement.

Harlow charges that the calculated nature of the letter sent to the PGA Executive committee was such that no course other than that of canning him was open.

Harlow Brings Up Sportsmanship Issue

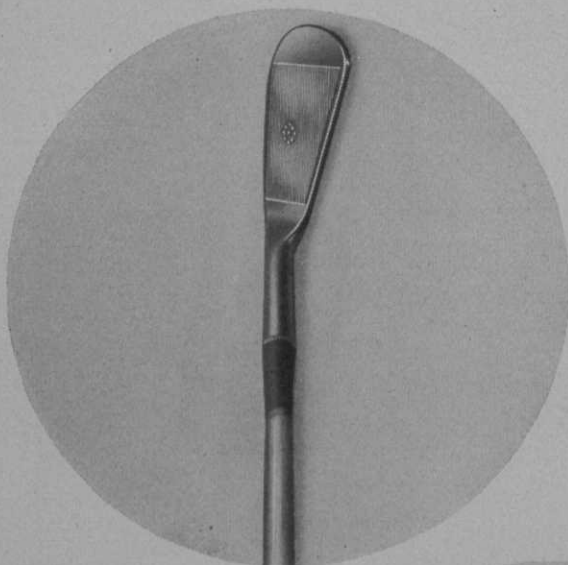
Probably around this point the entire Jacobus-Harlow controversy will revolve if it is brought to a show-down. Jacobus says the issue is settled; Harlow is canned, and that's that. Harlow maintains that beyond his personal connection, the standing of the PGA as an organization of fair-minded sportsmen is involved. He says he is determined to carry his fight for vindication to a finish in the conviction that the PGA can have no technicalities denying a man who has served golf well, a fair and full hearing.

When the newspaper stories broke and the sports columnists began wondering why Harlow was discharged, members of the PGA Executive committee also began to wonder what the whole story was.

The alleged conflict of newspaper work obviously wasn't the reason for Harlow's discharge. Hal Sharkey and Francis Powers, former managers of the Tournament bureau, both were working newspapermen and handled the Tournament bureau on the side. A "malicious gossip" rap of course was not detailed.

After the "malicious gossip" and "outside interests" charges were presented against Harlow another slug was tossed at the tournament bureau manager. The rap set forth was that John Jackson, president of the USGA, had officially foamed at the mouth and protested against

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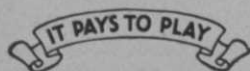
The new Jones Irons have deeper, more compact blades—they are more graceful and easier

playing. The top of the blade has been brought down to the hosel in a more gradual taper, giving the appearance of added depth and a slightly opened face. The stream-lined contour between blade and hosel creates more room at the heel and removes fear of shanking.

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GOLF EQUIPMENT

Harlow having mentioned that pros want more prize money out of the National Open inasmuch as the gate at Baltusrol showed signs of returning opulence.

The good taste as well as the judgment involved in dragging the USGA into what is strictly a back-stairs brawl so far as the USGA concerned, are wide open to question. Jackson, a judicial and genial gentleman sportsman, is not the type to ask that any PGA man be discharged because of the suggestion of some tournament pros about increasing the Open prize money. That cry is persistent and Harlow as an employee of the pros, maintains he was in duty bound to report the noise.

Why Drag USGA In?

It is inconceivable that the USGA should deal itself a hand in the PGA family brawl and to those acquainted with the dignity and excellent judgment of the USGA official family it appears that Jackson's official interest in the Harlow-Jacobus argument would be, at most, a casual and formal comment.

Twenty of the leading sponsors of Open golf tournaments and amateur association officials wired Harlow hearty endorsement of his work and more than 70 of the foremost tournament players including all the 1935 Ryder cup team signed a petition to the PGA to re-instate Harlow in his position. Among the signers of the petition were Paul Runyan, Horton Smith, John Revolta, Bobby Cruickshank, Billy Burke, Mortie Dutra, Willie Macfarlane, Neil Christian, Jimmy Hines, Harry Cooper, Tony Manero, Joe Turnesa. Harlow takes the position that the PGA cannot disregard such a petition signed by members close to the situation. The St. Petersburg (Fla.) Chamber of Commerce announced a \$3,000 open match play best ball tournament, Feb. 26, 27, 28 as an endorsement of Harlow.

Newspaper comment on the discharge of Harlow gives the PGA more publicity than it has had on any of its affairs other than a national tournament, and has stirred up the mystery of firing Harlow until PGA politics for the first time become a matter outside the family circle. Sport writers, long acquainted with Harlow's activities in playing-pro promotion, are sharply critical of the method and the action especially since many of them know that Harlow turned down an attractive offer to head the promotion of a new sports plant in Chicago, understanding that he was to be re-engaged by the PGA. James Kearns,

Chicago Daily News expert, wrote, "No one has, to date, explained any reason for such a bite at the hand that has fed more than one golf pro. . . . The decision on the hiring and firing of Harlow is supposed to rest with the PGA Tournament committee of which Ed Dudley is chairman. But neither Dudley nor the committee has yet offered any public comment." Pete Norton, sports columnist of the Tampa Tribune, who should be in a location to get the inside from both Jacobus and Harlow, writes in his column he "frankly admits ignorance of the reasons for the summary dismissal of Bob Harlow, veteran manager of the Tournament Bureau of the PGA."

Fred Corcoran, hired as Harlow's assistant prior to Harlow's dismissal, now is Tournament Bureau Manager. Harlow never had an assistant before Corcoran was employed, nor did any of the other Tournament bureau managers, so the "I told you so" boys are pointing to the engagement of the innocent Corcoran in November as a planned preliminary to greasing the skids for Harlow.

What is especially mystifying from the strictly business angle is that Harlow should be fired with the Ryder Cup team trip to England coming up this year. Harlow has been business manager for every Ryder Cup team the PGA has sent abroad and has handled the booking for the visiting Ryder Cup teams here. Abroad he has arranged for thousands of dollars of extra income for the American PGA members in exhibitions, store appearances, testimonials and newspaper articles, and this is not money that can be picked up for the boys by any inexperienced hand.

Harlow is carrying his side of the story to the Pacific Coast pros and Jacobus is standing pat in Florida. Jacobus says that Harlow has been canned in due order by executive committee members who "have minds of their own and act as they see fit for the good of the PGA and its members:" and who "are not being prompted or dominated by me." "Nothing further will be done," declares Jacobus.

With Jacobus asserting that there is definite finality in discharging Harlow and Harlow insisting that he and others having deep and long-standing interests in the PGA be advised concerning the whys and the wherefores of his discharge and be given a sporting chance to present his case to the Executive Committee of the PGA, you can make your own guess as to how far the Harlow case will get toward judgment.



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PRO'S PLAN MAKES MATCHES

By FRED E. KUNKEL

A BLACKBOARD, a few typewritten notes—and twosomes, threesomes and foursomes are made up and drive off chuckling and completely happy. It all started when one of those phenomena appeared, known as a golf bug, who does his dozen and a half daily on the golf links, regardless of weather.

The golf bug arrived and complained he didn't have a game. He had tried to call up some of his friends but was unsuccessful in contacting them, or inducing them to play.

The assistant pro was sympathetic but noncommittal. He didn't want to play. The weather was unfriendly. It was cloudy and stormy. The wind was blowing a gale. Old Sol hadn't shown his face all day. The pro-shop was cozy and warm. But the member was in good standing so he reluctantly laid aside a golf club head he was sand papering and played golf.

But out of that came an idea. Why not organize this group of men who played almost every day, bring them together, and get them to gang up? He talked it over while they were chasing their drives down the fairway, and his plan met with an enthusiastic reception.

That same evening the assistant pro jotted down a few ideas on a sheet of paper which read something like this: "There are a number of more or less elderly golf players who play nearly every day for the joy of the game and for small stakes. To make up a foursome requires much use of the telephone. It has to be repeated daily. It is a nuisance to the player. And on occasions, in a telephone call, a few minutes delay in the call leaves out someone with whom others desire to play. All play about alike and none objects to being partner to any other. The only fear is leaving somebody out or not getting a game.

"Now, if they will telephone me that they are going to play I can put their name down on a blackboard in the golf shop and make up matches as the names are given me, seeing that no one is left out.

"Thus I can help to arrange a game in the group at any time. All a man needs to do is to call me up. He doesn't have

to telephone anybody else. Then when they come out they have a game arranged.

"They let me know what time they expect to start and when they are going to play. Their names go on the blackboard and any one in that group will understand on arrival who is going to play that day.

"When they arrive they know who is here and I can make up their twosomes or threesomes or foursomes, or they can make it up as they wish. In the event I should get five names, I am to see that four of them don't go out and leave one man stranded but that two go out in one group and three in the other.

"Its going to be an excellent idea. Heretofore they had to wait around for a game or for somebody to show up—and maybe that somebody would be a stranger to them and they like to play in their own group.

Matches will start weekdays at any time between 1:30 and 2 p. m. at the convenience of the players and in accordance with notice given to the pro. Anyone is free to make up any other match he desires, without calling up.

These notes made, the pro then set down these rules in 1, 2, 3 fashion on a typewritten sheet of paper and handed it to a group of 12 or 15 players and they all agreed to the plan. Provision was made that additional members might be nominated by any three and accepted, automatically; unless there was an objection.

At the bottom of the rules appeared the names of the various players, their score or handicap, and their playing habits, such as "regular," "two or three times a week," "occasionally," "once or twice a week."

And now everybody's happy and everybody knows that they are almost sure of a game if they call up the pro and let him know they are coming out.

And this continues good for every day in the year, 365 days, not once in a while.

DAN WILLIAMS' FIRST 20 YEARS

By GENE HAMPSON

ONE of the home pros who has done a great deal to raise the standing of the golf professional in the eyes of the men who support the game, the duffer, is Dan Williams, who on January 1 started his 20th year at the Shackamaxon CC, Westfield, N. J. Williams has had his share of tournament golf. However, he is of the opinion that he has finally found his niche at home and not on the nerve-wracking tours. The genial former caddie prizes highly his tournament clippings but they take a back seat in his mind to those which show that he has aided in maintaining Shackamaxon to the extent that members issued him an honorary membership in the club as a partial token of their appreciation.

None of his records means more to Williams than the simple fact that he has signed his third five-year agreement with the New Jersey club, something of a record in a game where five-year contracts themselves are few and far between. This contract plus his specially engraved membership diploma mean more to Williams than winning any tournament. Each new contract has brought an increase in salary which goes far to make up for the gold that might be gathered in tournament competition.

After 20 years on the job one might suppose that a professional has learned just about all the ropes concerning his chances to help the home club, but Williams insists he is still learning new ways to aid each season; and it is a tribute to his willingness to serve that he promptly goes to work on every new idea. Some of his activities may be a tip for other professionals or even club officials.

More and more the club officials have come to lean on Williams for aid in their various problems until at the present time it is difficult for the little home professional himself to recall the various angles of his position that have come to the fore in recent years. One of his duties has been to serve the club as official host.

Despite his many activities and the fact that he often spends 10 hours a day on the practice tee instructing eager pupils,

he usually can find time to greet some new member, a newspaperman or play a few holes with a member and some important guest. His friendship with the various golf writers of New Jersey and even New York has meant much to his club in the way of favorable publicity.

His continued affability has also meant much in the way of securing new members, several newcomers having joined Shackamaxon admittedly for the purpose of availing themselves of his instruction and friendship. During the depression years when membership slumped, Williams was one of the hardest workers in the membership drives and turned in as many new members as any one connected with the club.

When a nearby club broke up a year or so back, the cream of the membership there came to Shackamaxon telling old members that they were selecting the Westfield club because Williams had done so much for them at their old club in the way of entertainment, aiding them in staging exhibitions, etc.

A Busy Tournament Schedule

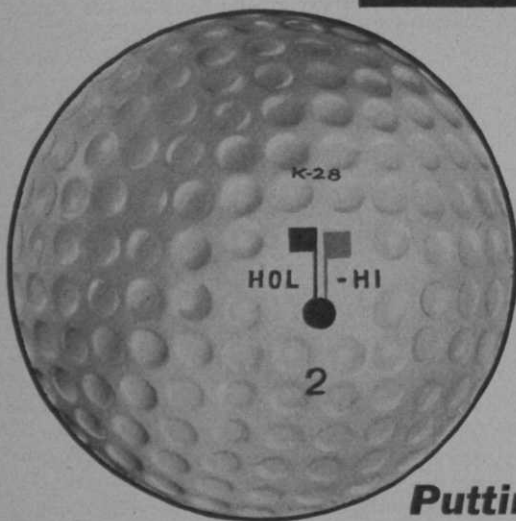
Another activity to which he has been and still is closely identified is of course, the tournaments. Shackamaxon annually stages one of the most ambitious tournament schedules for members of any club in the metropolitan district and the professional's judgment has always been solicited in the type and conducting of the events. The presentation of special prizes by Williams has also aided in creating greater interest in the events.

In addition Williams has brought the members and their wives closer together on the golf course by sponsoring on his own a mixed competition of nine holes one evening a week during the summer season. He has relieved the tournament

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Putting New Life Into Sales

Here is a tournament record that puts the New Hol-Hi K-28 in the sales spotlight: Denny Shute, first in the P. G. A. at Pinehurst; Ralph Guldahl, first at Augusta, and Denny Shute and Jimmy Hines' tie for second and third; and Ralph Guldahl's win at Miami Biltmore—together with Jug McSpaden and Gene Sarazen's tie for third, and Denny Shute's fourth—were all made with Wilson Clubs and the New Hol-Hi K-28.

THAT IS PUTTING INTO GOLF 28


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The uncanny accuracy of the New Hol-Hi K-28 is due to a new principle of weight distribution perfected by Wilson and used for the first time in a golf ball. This new exclusive Wilson method places greatest weight away from the center of a ball instead of at the center, as in ordinary golf balls. The result is greatly increased roto-centric (flywheel) action or spinning momentum, which gives better control on every shot. With the proof of its capabilities demonstrated by its remarkable tournament record, the New Hol-Hi K-28 offers you a sales opportunity that is without parallel in golfing history.

Players mentioned are retained on Wilson's advisory staff.

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committee of all the responsibility and work of this event, and in addition to inaugurating an interesting golf and social event, has added to the dining room's income by bringing members and their wives to the club at least one evening a week for dinner and usually cards afterward.

Chickadees Are Famed Winter Club

Another tourney activity credited largely to Williams, at least for its revival in recent years, is the winter golfing club, the Chickadees. This club is one of the few metropolitan organizations playing throughout the winter and boasts a membership of 50 persons with a women's club recently organized.

With Williams at the helm as director of the tourneys, the winter golfing body is a club within a club with officers, dues, etc. Each member pays \$10 at the start of the season and is given a handicap. Everyone wins one prize but only one, with handicaps increased to the point where the player can't help but win and then decreased so he can't win again. If the members fail to win he is awarded a prize at the banquet which closes the Chickadees' season in March.

This club has been O. K. in many ways. Not only has it kept the members' interest in Shackamaxon alive during the winter months, but it has also increased the club's winter income for lunches, dinners and drinks; and has meant some money during the winter for the caddies, many of whom otherwise might be unable to secure income of any sort.

The caddies, too, have come in for Williams' attention in the way of special tournaments for them, a chance to make extra money during exhibitions, dances, and through various other jobs. Williams annually gathers donations from the members and conducts a special Thanksgiving turkey dinner in the main dining room for all bag-toters.

At times when members expressed a desire to view some outstanding golfer or when publicity of the right type was needed, Williams has arranged matches between nationally known golfers. During recent years such players as Helen Hicks, Johnny Farrell, Victor Ghezzi, Ky Laffoon, Charlotte Glutting, Gene Sarazen and Babe Didrikson have trod Shackamaxon's fairways in special events, each time drawing large crowds.

Williams ability as an instructor has also meant much to his club with golfers

coming from many miles to avail themselves of his teaching. At times when such stars as Miss Glutting, Herbert C. Buchanan, Bob Lester, Gail Wild and others have accomplished good tournament results, Shackamaxon usually has been noted as the home club of the stars' teacher.

These and many other ways, too numerous to mention here, are the reasons why Williams is a popular man with Shackamaxon members and why golf professionals as a whole are a well thought of lot by members of the Westfield club.

WPA Has Put \$10,500,000 in Golf Course Work

WALTER McCALLUM, golf editor of the Washington (DC) Star, has secured from WPA national headquarters government figures on the extent to which public golf plants have received New Deal financial aid. The information secured by McCallum, which is of greater extent than that GOLFDOM was able to get from sectional WPA authorities, is summarized as follows:

In 1935, WPA funds totaling \$9,359,699 were expended on 306 public golf course projects. Local sponsors of the projects put up an additional \$1,454,436 for this work. No club dues or initiation fees are permitted for play on these courses and green fees must be nominal. In 1936, up to October 31, WPA had spent an additional \$1,234,428 and local sponsors \$242,398 in starting 62 additional golf courses. Total golf courses to Oct. 31, 1936, aided by WPA work—368. Total expenditures \$12,290,961—of which \$1,696,834 was from local sponsors and \$10,594,127 from Federal funds.

No WPA officials would confirm any statement that has been publicized concerning the number of golf courses involved in WPA plans for eventual work. WPA officials say such statements are entirely conjecture.

Cunningham Honored at Dinner—Election of the veteran Alex Cunningham as president of the Illinois PGA was followed by a testimonial affair to the veteran Scot organized by members of his club, North Shore CC (Chicago district). About 30 pros attended, each pro playing with three North Shore members. Club members presented a watch to Alex at the dinner that concluded the affair.