

Helping Hands for the Juniors

By JOHN P. ENGLISH
USGA ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

When golfers turned their serious efforts to the development of junior players, they moved into a field which has proved as responsive as a small boy on Christmas morning. As a result, progress has been rapid and significant.

Junior programs have matured into four distinct types, each of which performs a worth-while function in creating interest and in molding youths into sportsmanlike, self-disciplined players.

Two Stimulants

The championships, of course, attract most attention and are a stimulant in creating interest. There are, for instance, the USGA Junior Amateur Championship, which will be played next month at the Denver Country Club in Denver, Colo., and the USGA Girls' Junior Championship, to be held at the Wanakah Country Club near Buffalo late in August.

Caddie scholarship funds which have been established by associations all over the country, while of an essentially different nature, are a coordinate factor in the stimulation of interest in golf even as they serve their primary educational purpose.

Each of these programs, however, operates at an advanced stage in the development of the junior player. The attention they receive should not overshadow the yeoman's service rendered locally and at clubs through two entirely different types of programs.

The first of these is the local area program of the type which Frank Emmet has evolved with particular success in Washington, D. C.

In 1927 when the golf course was nearing completion at Georgetown Preparatory School, the headmaster asked Mr. Emmet, then general manager, to form a golf team. He formed one but it couldn't find competition. There wasn't another school golf team in the area.

This spring 17 school teams, comprising six players each, engaged in their 23rd season of league competition on some 15 private courses. The team matches are only one phase of a comprehensive program of junior activities. Mr. Emmet's tireless efforts brought all this into being.

Washington's program is a sort of jigsaw puzzle of competitions under various sponsors which is fitted together and directed by the District of Columbia Golf Association. Its success depends upon planning all the activities in advance and submitting the proposed schedule at a winter meeting so that arrangements can be coordinated in a single stroke.

The schedule is built around key dates, such as those established for sectional qualifying for the USGA Junior Amateur Championship. These always are fixed approximately a year in advance, and it is perfectly proper to combine them with a local competition.

Mr. Emmet is director of junior activities for the DCGA, and in addition the juniors have their own officers, a card-index file on all players and a scrapbook in which they maintain a record of all their competitions. Each club contributes approximately \$100 to carry out the program—some donating directly, some asking contributions from members and some turning over the receipts from a week-end tournament.

The team match phase of the program ends with two championships — the Schoolboy Championship, in its 18th year and sponsored by the WASHINGTON POST, and the District of Columbia Golf Association Junior Championship, in its 27th year.

During the summer several clubs conduct field days. Invitations are extended to all boys interested in golf. The club professional usually opens these meetings with a talk on an aspect of the Rules,

etiquette and instruction. He may be assisted by well-known amateurs. An 18-hole competition follows. These field days are coordinated so that all the Rules and all the standard subjects of instruction will be covered within the season.

In the summer, also, the boys may enter an attractive list of other competitions. Some of these are the Middle Atlantic Junior Championship; the Maryland State Junior Championship, from which the BALTIMORE NEWS-POST selects two boys to represent the area in the Hearst Junior Tournament, and a



Gay Brewer, Jr.

Present USGA Junior Champion

sectional match-play competition to determine qualifiers for the Junior Chamber of Commerce Tournament, a vast event on a national scale and one of the biggest stimulators of junior golf interest.

The Hinsdale Model

Another type of local program is that notably aided by the PGA and exemplified in Chicago, where emphasis is on work of the clinic type at various clubs.

The model is the successful program of junior activities developed at the Hinsdale Golf Club and similar in some

respects to the field days held near Washington.

The Chicago District Golf Association tries to broaden the scope of such activities so that all affiliated clubs will take part in the development of juniors. In this connection it has prepared the following advisory memorandum which pretty well outlines the nature of the "Junior Days":

1. One hundred per cent cooperation of the golf professional is necessary. He must be willing to devote from one to two hours once a week from the middle of June to the last of August.

2. Secure cooperation of Club Board of Directors in organizing a Junior Committee and junior events. Appropriate \$100 for junior prizes if possible and assign a non-exclusive (open) week-day morning each week from the middle of June to the last of August. Get Board's permission to charge each junior who registers on the first Junior Day \$5 for additional junior prizes. Secure Board's approval and authority to enlist the golf professional's cooperation.

3. Enlist the help, by all means, of the Chairman of Women's Golf and of her committee. Make her co-chairman of the Junior Committee. You will need this Committee's help in obtaining the cooperation of the juniors' mothers and the attendance of a member of the Committee each Junior Day.

4. Make up, with the assistance of the Junior Committee and the golf professional, your junior golf events, and print the schedule in your year book. All of these except the championships are played on a handicap basis so each junior may have an equal chance at prizes, not only on each Junior Day but in the major events.

5. Send out letters to all club members two weeks in advance, asking them to send their children, aged 7 to 21, to the first Junior Golf Morning. With the letter, enclose a schedule of junior events for June, July and August.

6. Follow the letter with a postcard three days in advance, reminding juniors to attend opening Junior Golf Day.

7. Follow with a telephone call to each junior, asking them to attend opening Junior Golf Day. This may be done by giving the six junior boys and the four junior girls on the Junior Committee three or four names to call and by making them responsible for attendance.

8. On Junior Day morning have as many junior prizes on exhibit as possible to whet their appetites and desires.

9. The professional then takes charge

and may give 15-minute lessons by dividing juniors into advanced, intermediate or beginner classes. At Hinsdale, George Arnold allows each junior to hit six or seven balls under his direct supervision.

10. For at least a year it will be more or less necessary to follow, each week, the same procedure as for opening day. This is done mostly by telephone calls, by word of mouth and by postcard. If a junior qualifies for a match play event, he should be told the name of his opponent and when the match should be played. It doesn't take long for word to get around about fine prizes, free lessons and fun. When this occurs, junior attendance will be automatic and will increase every year.

11. Publicity should be sent in regularly each week to newspapers, telling the winners of junior events. This may be done by appointing a boy or girl to perform the task. The kids (and parents) like to see the names in the press. This builds prestige and prominence for junior golf and places it on a level with adult golf club events.

12. Keep separate handicap book for juniors. Have them turn in all scores as adults do, but use handicaps up to 120.

The Chicago District Golf Association also sponsors four tournaments. These give competitive experience to some 400 boys. They are: the Junior Open Championship, the Junior Closed Championship and professional-junior and junior club-team rounds.

The youths who achieve local or national prominence as junior players and who eventually become contributing



Dean Lind

First USGA Junior Champion in 1948

members of clubs and communities are being developed through programs such as these, and no golfer who respects the game can overestimate their importance.

USGA COMPETITIONS FOR 1951

Walker Cup Match: May 11 and 12 at Birkdale Golf Club, Birkdale, Southport, England. Men's amateur teams, Great Britain vs. United States.

(Dates entries close mean last dates for applications to reach USGA office,* except in the case of the Amateur Public Links Championship. For possible exceptions in dates of Sectional Qualifying Rounds, see entry forms.)

Championship	Entries Close	Sectional Qualifying Rounds	Championship Dates	Venue
Open	May 21	June 4	June 14-15-16	Oakland Hills C. C., Birmingham, Mich.
Amat. Public Links*	June 1	**June 17 to 23 July 17	Team: July 7 Indiv.: July 9-14 July 25-28	(not determined)
Junior Amateur	July 2	—	August 13-17 August 20-25	Univ. of Illinois, Champaign, Ill. (not determined)
Girls' Junior	July 30	—	August 13-17 August 20-25	Town and Country C., St. Paul, Minn.
Women's Amateur	July 23	Aug. 7-8	Sept. 10-15	Saucon Valley C. C., Bethlehem, Pa.
Amateur	August 13	August 22	Sept. 10-15	

*Entries close with Sectional Qualifying Chairmen. **Exact date in each Section to be fixed by Sectional Chairmen.