

JUNIOR GOLF BOOMS IN NATIONAL CAPITAL

BY

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DOES junior golf in your area need a shot in the arm?

Try interclub competition. It is going over big in Washington.

We started our Interclub Junior Golf League two summers ago. The League has stimulated so much enthusiasm among junior golfers, parents, pros and club officials that this summer we are expanding it from four to 10 clubs.

Actually, junior golf in the Nation's Capital really didn't need this stimulation. Under "Mr. Junior Golf"—Frank Emmet, director of the District of Columbia Golf Associations' junior activities and a member of the USGA Junior Championship Committee—Washington kids for the past 30 years have had one of the best junior golf programs in the country.

Almost every week during the summer, Emmet has at least one tournament, field day or other event going for junior golfers of all ages. This very successful area-wide program has produced many outstanding golfers. Nevertheless a few of us handling junior golf at our particular clubs felt that interclub matches would make a natural addition to our club programs by injecting the elements of team spirit and club rivalry. Experience with the new League has proved us right.

Some clubs had so many candidates for team places and the rivalry was so hot that they had to hold tryouts and, later, permit challenge matches, in picking the team before each interclub match.

Club pros took a special interest in their team members. At Kenwood Golf and Country Club, for example, pro George Diffenbaugh worked with some of the boys on the practice tee after they had lost their first match last summer. The boys improved enough to win the championship by a wide margin.

Matches were played on Mondays, start-

ing at 3 o'clock, so that they finished around dinner time, thus enabling working fathers to watch the finishing holes while waiting to take the boys home. This also provided an opportunity for parents from different clubs to become acquainted and compare notes on their kids' golf game.

The growth of junior golf in the Washington area prompted the Middle Atlantic PGA to set up a Junior Golf Committee this year. Max Elbin, president of the MA-PGA and pro at Burning Tree Club, where President Eisenhower plays, made Diffenbaugh chairman because of the excellent junior program developed at Kenwood. (See Journal, April, 1956.)

Diffenbaugh hopes to interest other cities in the Middle Atlantic region in developing interclub junior golf competition. Play-offs might then be held between the winners in each city to determine a Middle Atlantic championship team.

The League is fortunate in having as its chairman Lt. Gen. Floyd L. Parks (Ret.) of Chevy Chase Club, who is intensely interested in promoting junior golf. He is Middle Atlantic senior champion and a member of the USGA Senior Championship Committee.

J. Tyler (Buddy) Bowie, former club champion of Columbia Country Club, was chairman in 1956 when the League originated with Chevy Chase, Columbia, Kenwood and Congressional Country Clubs as members. This year six other clubs which competed informally against each other last summer will join the League as a division. They are Argyle, Bethesda, Manor, Prince Georges, Washington and Woodmont Country Clubs.

The two division winners will play off for the Frank Pace Trophy, which the president of the International Golf Association and former Secretary of the Army donated as a permanent trophy last year. Kenwood



Warren Hughes, captain of the 1957 Kenwood Golf and Country Club junior team, receives the Pace Trophy and congratulations from Lt. Gen. Floyd L. Parks (Ret.), chairman of the Interclub Junior Golf League of Washington, D. C., while teammate Dahn Linkins watches.

was the first to win the Pace Trophy, although Columbia won the first championship in 1956.

This is how the League operates, the matches scored, and the winner determined:

Each club has a representative on the League committee. Besides participating in the planning, he is in charge when the matches are played on his course. He runs the matches and gets the results to the League's secretary, who turns them into the newspapers.

All teams play the same course on the same day, using each course once and each team playing the other once. We also have a round-robin on the fourth day of play in which foursomes are made up of one member from each team. Each player plays an individual match against each of the other three players, so that he is playing three matches at once.

Each team is composed of six boys, two in each of three age groups—16-17, 14-15 and under 14.

Except in the round-robin, two team-

mates in the same age group tee off together in a foursome against two boys from the same age group on the opposing team. They play two individual matches and a four-ball match, each match counting one point, so that three points are at stake in each foursome. This makes nine points the maximum possible for a team to win in a dual match. In case of a tie match, the point is split.

In the round-robin, a team may score a maximum of 18 points because each of the six players is competing for three points.

Points accumulate from week to week, with the championship going to the team with the most points at the end. Last year's finish: Kenwood 35, Columbia 24½, Chevy Chase 18, and Congressional 12½.

Our League keeps a complete statistical record of the team and individual scoring in each match. Both team and individual scoring is summarized in an annual report describing the years' activity. A limited number of copies are available and may be obtained by writing the author at 7119 Exfair Road, Bethesda, Md.