



THROUGH THE GREEN

World's Busiest Course?

Are you a dealer in superlatives? You like to know the biggest, smallest, shortest, longest, best, worst, lowest, highest?

Here's a superlative for you to ponder. Where is the busiest golf course in the world?

A leading candidate, possibly the busiest, is the Rancho Municipal Course in Los Angeles where 129,607 rounds reportedly were played in 1959. This would include rounds of less than 18 holes. The Dyker Beach Course in Brooklyn certainly was among the most used with 103,604 rounds played there last year.

Several other courses in the Metropolitan New York area had from 50,000 to 90,000 rounds played within 12 months.

With New England winters what they are you might think that annual play would be low. But, a municipal course in Stamford, Conn., had 48,391 rounds in 1948. A 27-hole club in Hartford had 70,648, two Boston courses topped 50,000, and a course in Providence, R. I., had 66,373.

A course as far north as Portland, Maine, had 30,889 rounds in 1958.

During 1959 the 11 municipal courses in Los Angeles saw 849,917 rounds. Golf in California is in such a boom that every one of the 11 courses except a par-three layout, showed increases over 1958 traffic.

The Harbor Park Course had 65,441 rounds in 1959—its first full year in operation, and Harbor Park is only a nine-hole course.

Figures for traffic on many American courses surpass those for any other courses. For example, the busiest course in Argentina saw 63,000 rounds in 1958.

Golf in Scotland comes to a dead halt often during the winter. In mid-winter it is not light enough to play before 9:30 in the morning and too dark to play after 4 P. M. Even when it is light, the weather often is rainy or it is too cold, humid, or windy to play.

Despite all those weather handicaps, 33,039 rounds of golf were played over The Old Course at St. Andrews, last year. The adjoining Eden Course got 31,417 rounds.

Information Pool

The American Society of Golf Course Architects, during a recent meeting in Palm Beach, Fla., voted to establish an information pool in an attempt to help keep the rising costs of course construction as low as possible.

Statistics will make up much of the information in the pool. A summer meeting at Lachute, Quebec, during late June will summarize the data and recommendations submitted by course architects.

During the Palm Beach meeting Press Maxwell and Ralph Plummer, both of Dallas, Texas, were appointed President and Secretary of the Society, respectively, C. E. Robinson, Secretary-Treasurer and Manager of the Royal Canadian Golf Association, was appointed Vice-President. Total membership of the Society is now 21.

Irish Golf

It is not so far from America to Ireland as it is to Scotland and besides, Irish golf courses are just as good.

That is the theme of a drive by Irish tourist organizations to deal in on the traffic of golfing Americans going to England and Scotland for holidays.

To make arrangements and playing easier for visitors a list of more than 200 Irish courses has been compiled, along with their numbers of holes and standard scratch scores. Nearest towns are listed and in some cases green fees are specified.

All the information, plus a small description of some of the better known courses, has been published in a 20-page pamphlet. It makes an impressive outlay.

Tourist Wooing

Before going on to other subjects, here is another verse on the same theme:

The fine old European sport of Wooing the American Golfing Tourist is now taken up by the Ulstermen.

The Government of Northern Ireland is distributing as widely as possible a comprehensive book of 100 pages on golf courses and golfing arrangements.

Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom and traditional British restraint is used in listing the attractions of such fine old courses as Royal Portrush.

Considerable information is given on each course listed, such as visitors' fees, routes to the course, short descriptions of courses. All in all, it's a fine guide to Northern Irish golf.

Lipstick

Ladies lipstick has been put to a new use.

Golf balls were daubed with red lipstick to make them stand out as they lay in the snow last winter at several American courses.

Last reports were that the scheme worked very well.

"Fairways"

The Cleveland District Golf Association has begun publishing a handsome 50-page publication called "Fairways." The magazine is profusely illustrated. News and pictures are published on many of the fine clubs in the Cleveland district. A section, called "Clubhouse of the Month," is one of the principal features. Harry Pollock, Secretary of the Association, intends publishing "Fairways" 10 times yearly.

Golf School

The University of Michigan and the Ladies PGA are collaborating on the first National Golf School for Women from June 27-July 1, 1960. The school will be on the Ann Arbor, Mich., campus.

The school is open to all women physical educators, coaches, YWCA leaders and recreation leaders. It is for beginners, intermediate and advanced players both in teaching and personal skills.

A professional staff, including Misses Marilynn Smith, Betty Hicks, Mary Lena Faulk and Jackie Pung is available.

University Courses

Ten years ago 102 colleges and universities had their own golf courses. The number is now up to 145 courses and about 25 more are expected in the next five years.

Before World War II about 50 colleges and universities had their own courses.

Golf Pictures

Golf is one of the most photogenic of all sports and beginning this year Golf Digest Magazine is sponsoring an annual competition for "Best Golf Photo of the Year." Prizes total \$600. First prize will be \$150. Selection by judges will be based primarily on how well the photograph tells the story.

Pictures, which must have been taken between November 1, 1959, and October 31, 1960, should be mailed on or before October 31, 1960, to Photo Contest Editor, Golf Digest, 1236 Sherman Ave., Evanston, Ill.

Source of Pay

The source of salary for giving golf instruction is not the determining factor whether a player has violated the Rules of Amateur Status.

A golf driving range operator wrote the USGA saying a young man would be hired who would pick up balls on the field, serve baskets of balls to customers, mow the grass, paint fences and do other maintenance work. He also would offer customers instruction in playing.

The range operator would not pay the man's salary. A relative of the man would pay.

The USGA decision was that employment for clerical or maintenance work at a driving range—or, a golf course, for that matter—is not a violation of the Rules of Amateur Status. However, giving instruction for pay is a violation regardless of the source of salary.

"Spoiled Junior"

What happens when a golfer hits a poor shot and then so forgets himself that he throws the flagstick, kicks bunker sand, wraps his club around a tree, slams his feet into the grass, reluctantly shakes his opponent's hand and stalks off the course?

All of that happened in a recent tournament. The player was called to task and his explanation was requested for consideration in connection with any possible future entries in other tournaments.

This particular player took his medicine and today he stands cleared.

Here is his confession and apology:

"To the USGA

I received your letter and I am sorry to say that the report is true.

Please accept my sincere apology for my actions in the tournament. I know better and I should have acted more as a grown up than as the spoiled junior that I was. I realize that the tournament committee went through a lot of preparation and expense and time of their own that they devoted to that wonderful tournament.

I also let my parents down for they went to the trouble of driving me there.

I wish to thank you for everything and I am very sorry for my stupid unsportsmanlike conduct of that day.

Sincerely yours _____."

Locke Plays Again

Bobby Locke of Johannesburg, South Africa, has played his first golf since he was injured last winter in an automobile-train accident. Locke's car was struck by an electric train near Cape Town and the four times British Open Champion suffered head and eye injuries.

Locke put together a fine record in the U. S. Open. He tied for third in 1947, placed fourth in 1948, tied for fourth in 1949 and placed third in 1951.

Two-Face Club

Clubs which have more than one face designed for striking the ball do not conform to the Rules of Golf. The only exception is for the putter which may have two faces if the loft of both faces is practically the same.

A double-faced chip iron recently was submitted for approval. The club could be used by either a left or right hand golfer or it could be used when a stance was made awkward by a nearby tree or obstacle. The player could go to the other side of the ball and play from the other hand.

Rule 2-2d provides however, that "The club shall have only one face designed for striking the ball. However, the putter may have two faces if the loft of both faces is practically the same."

NEW MEMBERS OF THE USGA

REGULAR

Palo Alto Hills Golf & Country Club	Calif.
Country Club of Fort Collins	Ohio
Key Colony Golf Club	Fla.
Palm River Country Club	Fla.
Spring Valley Country Club	Ky.
Elks Golf Club	
(B.P.O.E. Lodge No. 817)	Md.
Sun Valley Golf Club	Mass.
Penfield Country Club	N. Y.
Shawangunk Country Club	N. Y.
Silver Lake Country Club	Ohio
Clearfork Valley Golf Club	W. Va.

ASSOCIATE

Canasawacta Country Club	N. Y.
Homelinks Golf Club	Colo.
Raccoon Golf Course	Pa.
Victoria Park Improvement Association	Texas
Fond Du Lac Town & Country Club	Wis.
Hallie Golf Club	Wis.