

IT'S YOUR HONOR

To THE USGA:

I will attempt to give you a summary of the Columbia Country Club's Opening Day time experiment in April, this year.

Between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and about 3:00 p.m., we started 49 fours off the first tee, or a total of 196 players. We kept records of the times taken by each of these foursomes, as they were playing a four-ball tournament similar to the normal everyday play at the Club. Of the 49 fours, 41 took over 3 hours, 4 took less than 3 hours, and 4 played in exactly 3 hours. The times varied from a low of 2 hours and 50 minutes to a high of 3 hours and 45 minutes. The average playing time for the day per four-ball was 3 hours and 21 minutes.

As you know, we employed no "policemen" on the course, but did use 4 signs to remind the players to facilitate play. I think the most important lesson learned from this experiment is the advantage gained by not allowing any four to play from the first tee until the group ahead reached the first green. This, of course, took some additional time in starting; but, I am sure that a player would rather wait 15 or 20 minutes under crowded conditions to start than to be forced to wait around the various points on the course for periods that would total more than the 15 or 20 minutes that he has spent in conversation on a bench at the Golf Shop.

Of course, our Opening Day this year was blessed with very favorable weather and an ample supply of caddies. If we had run out of caddies, as has frequently been the case in the past, you and a few other late starters could not have finished your round.

We have achieved our aim in this experiment, that aim being to convince our members that even under crowded conditions, a round of golf need not be a long and uncomfort-

able experience. I hope the results I have properly recorded at the Club could have a favorable influence on the speed of play at clubs throughout the country. If the USGA would ever desire a slogan as an attempt to combat slow play, I believe about 90% of our troubles might be circumvented if players could memorize the following:

"Anticipate each next shot and be ready to play in turn."

J. TYLER BOWIE
Columbia Country Club
Washington, D. C.

Off The Beaten Track

To THE USGA:

I am forwarding a notice of the Ceylon Amateur Golf Championship to be held in the Nuwara Eliya in October this year. These notices are sent yearly to most of the South East Asian Golf Clubs and we occasionally have competitors from India and Malaya, particularly when the Championship is played at Nuwara Eliya, a beautiful hill station with a very good and picturesque course at an elevation of over 6,000 feet.

Some years ago we had Nils Thygesen, a Danish Amateur Champion playing in this event, and he came into the final but was beaten by our Pinsiri (Pin) Fernando.

It would be too much to hope for entries from your part of the world, but if it does happen that some good amateurs are looking for a holiday, off the beaten track, with golf and excellent trout fishing thrown in, don't fail to mention Ceylon. I assure you they will not be disappointed either with the golf or the beauty and novelty of the country and hospitality of its people.

DR. L. V. R. FERNANDO,
Honorable Secretary,
Ceylon Golf Union
(2 Gower Street, Colombo, Ceylon)

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