

Why Public Links Players Should Organize Clubs

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As one studies the growth and development of golf in this country, the advantages to accrue from organization are in evidence on all sides. Organization was, of course, preliminary to play with all private clubs, simply because no headway could be made and play could not proceed without organization. When, however, in due time, there were clubs scattered over the country and they desired to pit their best players against one another in tournament, it was found that understanding was lacking, due largely to lack of national or sectional organization. The formation of the United States Golf Association and the Western Golf Association, and their united efforts, have brought complete understanding and easy control in all country-wide contests, and in addition have brought into existence many important committees that study and deal with nation-wide golf problems. The newest of these committees is the Committee on Public Links. Subsequent to founding the United States Golf Association and the Western Golf Association, it was found advisable if not absolutely necessary to introduce a third type of organization, the district golf association. Large metropolitan districts now having, as they do, from twenty to sixty private golf clubs, are finding it advantageous to organize, because the local problems are sufficient in number and magnitude to justify district associations. There remains, however, one type of organization that has not come into general existence, although in the future of golf it will prove more useful and more beneficial than any of the others, and that is the municipal links club. Play upon any private club links is a matter of selected membership and the problems arising all come within well defined limits. Not so, however, with public links. Eligibility on public links is not a matter controlled by sex, age, color, education, religion, nationality, social position, or business integrity. Public links are subject to use by practically the entire public over fourteen years of age, and as a result the public links problems cover a much wider range than do those of any private clubs. A very large percentage of public links players have never belonged to any kind of a club, and therefore, are ignorant of the ethics which form the backbone of private clubs. The original idea of many beginners is to go golfing as they would to a picnic—set the lunch basket down and begin play, making their own rules, and extend about the same courtesies as obtain among crowds in parks on holidays. Without the definite standards set up by organizing a club, their progress is slow, but with a public links club, the complexion of play changes very rapidly, and many public links clubs deserve the compliment that their members assimilate more of the rules, observe the etiquette of the game and render more cooperation to the management than obtains in many private clubs. Ignorance of the rules becomes an embarrassment to public links players, because congestion compels foursome play and strangers are thrown together. That same condition also results in quick understanding and close observance of the ethics of play. A public links club is the natural exponent and developer of both rules and ethics

and in addition it is in position of private clubs also to promote, control and assist in the direction of tournaments. By the organization of clubs on public links the standards of play are elevated and all the best that the sport can give, can be developed. All this can be accomplished with a very minimum of cost. With dues not to exceed \$10.00 per year every public links club is in position to cover all incidental expenses, finance three or four tournaments and send one or more of its players to compete in the National Public Links Annual Tournament, which before long will hold place in importance and popularity with the National Open and National Amateur. The United States Golf Association, district golf associations, park boards, recreation commissions, and city councils are doing much for public golf, and players on public links can by organizing do much in cooperation. A workable plan of organization can be found by the adoption of articles and by-laws, somewhat as follows:

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I

We, the undersigned, being of full age and desiring to become associated together in a club for mutual benefit, do hereby make, execute and adopt the following Articles of Association to wit:

FIRST: The name or title by which such club shall be known is the Golf Club.

SECOND: The purpose for which such club is formed is the playing of golf, learning the rules and etiquette of the game, and practicing its highest standards, to promote the development of public links and to support the United States Golf Association (and the District Association, where there is one).

THIRD: The number of directors or trustees shall be

FOURTH: The qualifications of officers and members, the number of members, the method of election, and the terms and conditions which shall attach to membership therein shall be prescribed by the By-laws and rules which shall be adopted from time to time.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I.—MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Membership in this club shall be divided into two classes, Active and Honorary.

SEC. 2. The active membership shall be limited to
The honorary membership shall be limited to

SEC. 3. Any person over 16 years of age shall be eligible to active membership.

SEC. 4. Honorary membership shall entitle the holder to all privileges of the club, and shall exempt him from all dues and assessments.

SEC. 5. (a) Each candidate for membership shall make application over his own signature and be seconded by two members. Such application shall be noticed to members at least two weeks before being acted upon by the Board of Directors.

(b) Applications shall be acted upon by the Board of Directors by secret ballot and two negative votes shall reject such applicant.

(c) Any member may resign from the club by giving notice in writing to the Secretary and paying all dues which have accrued to date of resignation.

ARTICLE II.—OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The officers of the club shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer and a Board of Directors. At the first annual meeting a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer shall be elected for one year, and one-half the directors shall be elected for one year and one-half for two years; thereafter at each annual meeting the officers shall be elected for one year and one-half the directors shall be elected for two years. All elections shall be by secret ballot.

SEC. 2. Said officers shall be ex-officio members of the Board of Directors with full power to vote.

ARTICLE III.—DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The President shall preside at all meetings and in his absence the Vice-President shall preside.

The Secretary shall keep all the records of meetings, send out all calls for dues and all notices of meetings or other club events.

The Treasurer shall receive all funds and shall open an account in the name of the club in such bank as shall be designated by the Board of Directors. All disbursements shall be by order of the Board of Directors and shall be properly vouchered.

ARTICLE IV.—INITIATION FEES AND DUES

SECTION 1. The initiation fee shall be \$.....

SEC. 2. The active membership dues shall be \$..... per year, payable

ARTICLE V.—ANNUAL MEETING

SECTION 1. The annual meeting shall be held on the day of in each year at the time and place fixed by the Board. Two weeks' notice of same shall be mailed to each member. Special meetings may be called by the Board of their own volition and may be called by them whenever requested in writing by two members, said request to state the object thereof. Five days' notice in writing of special meetings shall be given all members, stating object thereof. Thirty members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of members.

SEC. 2. The fiscal year shall end

ARTICLE VI.—ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business at the meetings of the club shall be as follows:

1. Reading of minutes of previous meeting.
2. Report of Board of Directors.
3. Report of Treasurer.
4. Reports of committees.
5. Election of officers.
6. New business.

ARTICLE VII.—COMMITTEES

The Board of Directors shall at the first meeting after their election appoint the following committees to serve for one year.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

ARTICLE VIII.—EXPENDITURES

No indebtedness or liability shall be incurred by the Board of Directors in any year exceeding in amount the funds on hand.

ARTICLE IX.—AMENDMENTS

No amendment of these By-laws shall be made unless the same be proposed in writing by at least ten members and notice in writing given to each member at least two weeks before the regular or special meeting.

How deep should the cup be placed below the surface of the green?—Some golf cranks blame the cup when they putt the ball too strongly and it hits the back of the cup and jumps out. A cup may be placed lower on a clay soil than in a sandy soil where the edges soon get ragged and broken. I noticed in one of the biggest golf matches of this year that the cups were placed from 1 inch to 1¼ inches below the level of the surface of the green. I would say that the top of the cup should be not less than 1 inch, nor more than 1½ inches, below the level of the surface of the green.—*J. J. McNamara, Pittsburgh Field Club, Aspinwall, Pa.*