



12 TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 1957 THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN

Steady Growth Brightens Cushing Club's Future

CUSHING, March 25.—Steady, dependable growth is the cornerstone of future hopes for a bigger and better Cushing Country club. In the past six years club membership has almost doubled and the same growing experience is anticipated in the next few years to bring the club to maximum membership of 165 as prescribed by the charter issued back in 1921 when the first nine-hole sand greens course was built.

Right now there are approximately 130 stockholders in the club and that is the only type of membership available. Shares cost \$300 and monthly dues are \$12.50. There is no daily greens fee for outsiders unless accompanied by members who must pay the bill for guests. The club's capital investment is growing steadily.

The course is in excellent condition and one of the finest small clubhouses in the state is in full-time operation with meals, entertainment and all country club facilities six days each week year in and year out.

The course is a nine-hole affair with smallish, hump-backed Seaside bent grass greens. Thereby hangs a tale that is as true as gospel. It concerns the late Perry Maxwell, Oklahoma's contribution to golf architecture from the new world to the old and back again.

Back in 1949 Cushing Country club members decided it was high time that they quit sand greens and be put out to grass. Maxwell, who had helped them build the second nine on the old sand greens course, was called in to help.

At that period in his life Maxwell had at least 60 magnificent golf courses to his credit to say nothing of major overhauling projects on such celebrated layouts as the Augusta National, Pine Valley and The Country Club of America.

Maxwell — who never had a selfish bone in his body — knew the fee would be unimportant, but his great pride in Oklahoma and Oklahomans sent him into action. He drew up complete specifications for some huge greens. The base was just right with gravel, sand, peat moss, top soil and seeding requirements fitting for any of the nation's richest clubs. It wasn't a turn-key job and Jake Veal the builder. Veal was injured early in the program of building the greens and L. F. Young was secured to complete the job.



Charles Foster jr.

Young took one look at the meager supply of money and then huddled with the current greens committee. The greens were greatly reduced in size and the ingredients in the base were trimmed from approximately 6 feet to 6 inches.

Maxwell, who had forgotten about the time he built nine complete holes at Dornick Hills in Ardmore that included water lines for less than \$10,000 as he started his career as a golf course builder, dropped by one day to see what progress was being made on the job.

He took one look at the shallow

the greens, the small size of the carpets and the humps in the middle and blew a gasp.

"Is that the way you're building these greens?" he demanded. "Yes, sir," Young, who had not the slightest idea that he was talking to the master, replied.

"Then my name must never be mentioned in connection with this course," the great man shot back, and he stalked away never to return to collect his fee.

What Maxwell had forgotten in his sensational rise to international fame was the simple fact that golf players wanted the best but that they were not proud. They'd have and play on what they could afford.

Those shallow, hump-backed greens are still on the course, but there was some trouble before they were playable. Young completed his job and planted the greens to Seaside bent. The grass came up and then died out. Bob Dunning of Tulsa was called to the scene. Soil analysis brought out some deficiencies. These were corrected and the present greens were replanted and flourished.

The course was originally built on a 160-acre tract of land southeast of the town. The land cost \$2,000 and there was an additional \$2,000 available for the building of a nine-hole sand greens course, but it was not until three or four years after 1921 that nine holes were open to play. A few holes were built at a time until the job was completed about 1924.

Among the prime-movers in the project to build a country club were such men as R. C. Jones, Tony Higgins, Claude Sitterley, Syl Barton, Ben Davis, Don Friday, S. A. Bryant, Phil O'Hearn, Chet Blankenship, and Bill Moody. There were many others who had a

helpful hand as the course grew and prospered until another nine holes were added in about 1927.

The new nine was masterminded by Maxwell and it is the portion of the course now in grass greens. Gone is the back-breaking par 6 that was the big test of the initial nine holes, a long, straight tee shot past the foot of a mountain with a right-angle dogleg to the right that sometimes needed three more wood shots to get home if the wind was howling out of the southeast.

The course has a pleasant clubhouse that cost approximately \$30,000. It was an addi-



Morris Norton

tion on the old frame clubhouse and was completed in time for a gala Christmas party in 1954.

There are also tennis courts and a six or seven acre lake that in the past has served club members as a swimming pool in addition to providing excellent bass fishing. A new concrete swimming pool is in the planning stage.

Morris Norton is pro-manager for the club. He has served in that capacity for almost five years. Course superintendent is A. C. McBride who has been on the job for about three years. The club president is Charles

Foster jr. Clyde Potter is secretary-treasurer and Thomas Maloney the vice-president. Foster and Maloney serve on the board of directors along with Harrison Maye, Charles Wlackleman, Jim Brooks, Duke Orr, Jack Walters, Hugh Hughes and Bob Jones.

Articles of incorporation provided that all committees must be headed by members of the board. Here is the lineup: greens and grounds, Orr; finance, Foster; membership, Wlackleman; entertainment, Walters, and house, Hughes.

The ladies organization has approximately 60 members and it will host the Central Oklahoma Women's Golf association in June. President of this group is Mrs. William Galey. The vice-president is Mrs. Charles Foster sr., with Mrs. Sterling Grubbs the secretary, and Mrs. Leo Davis the treasurer. Mrs. G. G. McKenney is chairman of the sports committee while Mrs. Ralph Ketchum heads the handicapper group.

BROOKS is the current club champion and Mrs. C. P. Culp of nearby Drumright is the titleholder among the women. The course record is a 67 shot last year in the Oklahoma Section PGA qualifying by LaBron Morris, Oklahoma Aggie links coach from Stillwater. Later in the tournament Jimmie Gaunett, the winner from Twin Hills in Oklahoma City, had a 31 on one nine holes, a score that was also equalled in several local events by Norton. Brooks also has shot a 32. Par on the course, which measures 3,103 yards, is 36.

The PGA sectional event is the only important tournament the course has ever sponsored since the days of 18 holes of sand. Back in those days it played