



At Sleepy Hollow Women May Play on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays Before 8:30 or After 11 o'Clock (By Photo News Service.)

Golf Clubs Make It Hard for Women to Play

Restrictions on Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays Are the Rule at Most of the Organizations Round About New York

ALTHOUGH golf has been called a royal game, its privileges, in this country at any rate, do not appear to descend in the female line. The Salic law is applied to this ancient and honorable sport. In spite of the fact, or perhaps because of the fact, that thousands of women play golf at scores of clubs within a fifty-mile radius of Times Square, certain restrictions have had to be thrown about their use of the courses. This may be one of the next points of attack for the ardent feminists, some of whom would doubtless insist that they and their sisters had quite as much right at all times on the links as the mere men. However, whatever suffrage the women members of the many clubs may have, it does not appear to have been exercised to extend to them the unlimited usage of the course.

Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays are the days when many of the clubs put a complete or partial ban upon the fair sex in relation to the fair green. They may come to watch but not remain to play, to paraphrase the old adage. The reason behind this prohibition is not far to seek. These are the days on which the tired business man feels it—and not unjustly—his peculiar prerogative to rest and recreate. Obviously, if he is a golf player and therefore lost to other forms of outdoor sport, he wants the links to himself and his male friends, at least for a part of the day. The result is a host of varied limitations upon woman's freedom of the links.

There are some clubs, indeed rather a large number, in which no attempt is made to limit the play. In some cases this is due to the fact that there are few women members and they do not serve to crowd the course unduly on the days when it is most in use. In other cases the lack of restriction appears to be due to the recognition of self-imposed rules on the part of the women members, and their habit of allowing the men to get ahead or play through without interference. Several clubs set aside special days in each month for the use of their feminine members or for visiting women. The variations in the treatment of the subject are of the widest, but they are not the less interesting on that account.

It would not be entirely correct to say that the strictness of the limitations upon woman golfers varies directly with the skill—average skill—of the men in the club, but it is true that some of the most severe rules are to be found in clubs many of whose members are in the expert class. For example, the Garden City Golf Club, which numbers in its membership such redoubtable players as W. J. Travis, George T. Brokaw, J. M. Ward, and W. B. Rhett, to mention but a few, allows women to play on Monday and Friday mornings only and limits this privilege still further by requiring them to start before 11 o'clock. Such a thing as women on the course on a Saturday or Sunday is unheard of. In this most monastic of golf clubs women are not even welcomed within the doors of the club house, although they may make themselves at home on the veranda.

There is nothing about these restrictions at Garden City which is meant to be unchivalrous or ungallant. They arise from the fact that it is strictly a golf

club—not a general country club—in the first place, and, secondly, from the general character of the membership, which is made up of men who wish to play golf undisturbed by any interfering element.

Another of the Long Island courses, that of the beautiful Piping Rock Club at Locust Valley, is also rather strict about its links. Women may not play on week days before 11:30 in the morning or after 3 in the afternoon. Nor may they play at all on Saturdays or Sundays unless they are accompanied by a member. This does not leave a very large part of the week open to the feminine swingers of clubs, but it has the effect of giving them the course very much to themselves on the week days, and is likely therefore to be appreciated by the more enthusiastic.

At the Great Neck Golf Club, at Great Neck, L. I., there are no set rules. The men have the right of way, however, and the women make no difficulty about letting them go through on the crowded days. In fact, the women at this club have a little organization of their own which makes it its business to police the course and see that the men are able to play through when the fairway is congested. By so doing they have probably earned sufficient gratitude from the members of the sterner sex to protect them for all time from any adverse legislation. This club has about fifty women members.

Just to show that the clubs known for their keen golf are not always to be found in the column of restrictions against the women, the Baltusrol Golf Club, at Baltusrol, N. J., may be cited. There are no restrictions, although among the low handicap men who make it their home club may be mentioned Max Behr, L. H. Conklin, E. P. Rogers, and C. E. Van Vleck, Jr. This lack of pro-

hibitive rule may be partly explained by the fact that the course is a long, hard, and much-trapped one, and not at all the kind that usually appeals to the woman golfer of any but first rank.

At the Ardsley Club at Ardsley-on-Hudson there are no restrictions of a formal character, although there used to be some on the books. It has been found that women who wish to play on Saturdays and Sundays have good judgment and exercise the courtesy of the green, which permits the faster-playing men to go through, and if there is any tendency to obstruct the play or the course is unusually crowded the caddie master requests the women players to hold back—say between 12:30 and 3 o'clock—so that the men may have a start.

Not far away from Ardsley to the eastward, at the Apawamis Club, at Rye, the rules are of the definite rather than of the unwritten character. There no women may play on Saturday between the hours of 12 and 3 or on Sundays or holidays until after 3 o'clock. Here again the nature of the course undoubtedly has a good deal to do with the framing of the regulations, for Apawamis is of a sort to appeal to the woman player—which is not to say, by any means, that it loses anything of its allurements for the men. But it is not a course in which one must be eternally "slugging," to lapse into the jargon, and probably requires less of muscular effort than many other courses in this vicinity.

When one switches westward again to the Hudson River Valley, one finds another club with definite restrictions and a proviso to boot. This is the Sleepy Hollow Country Club at Scarborough-on-Hudson, where, by the way, the interesting "father and son" tournaments have been held with so much success.

Parenthetically, this club was the scene not long ago of one of those lucky shots where a man puts his mashie or his mid-iron down in one. The difference about this particular shot was the way in which it was reported. A tyro golf writer interviewed the lucky player and announced in his story naïvely: "Mr. Blank said he had never made the hole in one before."

But to get back to the women who play golf at Sleepy Hollow they may play on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays only if they start before 8:30 or after 11 o'clock in the morning, and only—and here is the proviso aforementioned—if they do not obstruct the men.

The Upper Montclair Country Club, at Upper Montclair, N. J., which proudly boasts of the redoubtable Jerome D. ("Jerry") Travers as its star member, has about two score women members. But they must walk circumspectly on the days when their helpmates, brothers, and favorite young men can get away from business and devote themselves to what for the moment becomes the business of life. On holidays they are not permitted to use the course at all. On Saturdays they can play in the morning, and on Sundays after 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Here again it may be that the character of the course has an influence on shaping the rules, for, in spite of its hilliness, Upper Montclair has fairway and greens that should have a strong appeal to women players.

Wheatly Hills Golf Club at East Williston, that delightfully scenic part of Long Island, is one which has no restrictions as to its women members, but guests of the fair sex must be accompanied by members in order to play on the days of comparative congestion. Another of the unrestricted links is that of the Nassau Country Club at Glen Cove, L. I. At the Oakland Golf Club, at Bayside, L. I., women play from time to time, but they are not to be found in great numbers at any time, and not at all on the holidays. It is essentially a man's golf club. At the South Shore Country Club, at Bay Shore, L. I., there are no restrictions, and not a few women are to be found on the course on Sundays.

Wykagyl Country Club at New Rochelle appoints a special woman's day. The first Tuesday in each month is set aside for this purpose. Only those women who are associate members are permitted to play before 3 o'clock in the afternoon on holidays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and as there are but fifteen or twenty of these members, they do not have a tendency to clog the course. Just the opposite is the case at Dyker Meadow Golf Club, which has its course within the limits of Brooklyn. There is great practical difficulty in the way of allowing the women to play on Saturday or Sunday since the nine-hole course is overcrowded by its men members alone. For this reason the fair Dyker Meadowians must be content with the golf they can get on week days.

At the Saegkill Golf Club at Yonkers there are no rules in force which exclude women from the course at any time save when special competitions or the club handicaps are in progress. But this lenity is not to be found at the Siwanoy Country Club at Mount Vernon, where



The Englewood Club Imposes No Restrictions on Women

women are permitted to play on the week days at will, but must limit their Saturday use of the links to the morning hours, and may not play at all on Sundays or holidays. The Richmond County Country Club at Staten Island, on the other hand, has no restrictions governing its women members.

There is a large woman membership at the Hackensack Golf Club at Hackensack, N. J. In fact, about 275 women belong to this club, although by no means are all of them active golf players. In spite of this large feminine representation the men members have been audacious enough to enact strict rules which forbid the use of the course by women on Saturdays, holidays, or Sunday mornings.

At the Haworth Club, at Haworth, N. J., the men are very gallant. Not only have they no rules which keep women from playing on the days when the men are home from business, but it has come to be a rather general custom for those men who have golf-playing wives to play a round or two early in the day on Sunday with their male rivals and then go round later in the day with their better halves. This arrangement is said to cause general satisfaction and keep the club in a harmonious state. However that may be, it is an interesting variation of the restriction question.

Some of the other New Jersey courses are not so liberal in the matter of golf for women. At the Morristown Field Club, for instance, women may not play on Sundays. At the Canoe Brook Country Club at Summit they are permitted to play on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, but not before 10 in the morning or after 2:30 in the afternoon, while at the Country Club of Glen Ridge, which has about forty women members, the general custom is for them to let the men play ahead on the crowded days, although there are no fixed rules. At the Essex County Country Club, at West Orange, on the other hand, there are no restrictions of any kind against members or the wives of members. There are a number of women in the club who hold the golf privilege independently.

Although it has one of the most popular and, therefore, crowded courses in the Metropolitan district, the Englewood Country Club imposes no restrictions on its 125 associate women members. In addition to this membership it has some thirty or forty "house" members, who may play on week days only on payment of the course fee of \$1. In spite of its lack of restriction it may be assumed that the sprinkling of women is rather slight at Englewood on those many Saturdays and Sundays in the season when players, in order to get a round, are sent off in pairs every five minutes, beginning surprisingly early in the morning.

At the Deal Golf Club, at Deal, N. J., women are especially asked not to "take a time" at the start. Any member may bring a woman guest on Saturday or Sunday, and any associate woman member may play, but in either case they are requested not to specify a particular hour or minute for starting, but just to come along and take their turn as they may find it.

The Arcola Country Club at Arcola, N. J., is among the most hospitable in the vicinity to the ladies. Not only does it not legislate against them if they are members at the week-ends or on holidays, but it sets aside Friday of each week as a day on which any women in the Metropolitan district may play over the course without charge. This applies, of course, to non-members, and is a rather



Baltusrol Appeals Only to Golfers of the First Rank and Does Not Restrict Women From Playing
(Photo Kellar & White.)

unusual provision, especially when it holds good so many times a year.

The Morris County Golf Club at Convent, N. J., has had the misfortune to lose its clubhouse by fire, and this causes a practical difficulty which prevents it from taking care of women players for the most part. Before its loss, however, it had a rule which permitted visiting women to play on the third Tuesday of each month, and it never imposed restrictions as to play on its women members.

The Plainfield Country Club at Plainfield, N. J., extends its prohibitions to include junior members of both sexes. The juniors may not play after noon on Saturdays, nor at all on Sundays. Adult women may play on these days provided they are full members, otherwise they can play only if accompanied by a full member or a man. At the Scarsdale Golf and Country Club at Hartsdale in Westchester there are no restrictions on the play of women, but across the Connecticut line at the Wee Burn Golf Club at Noroton women are not permitted to play on Saturdays between the hours of 12 and 3 or on holidays until after 3:30 o'clock.

And so it goes all through the long list of clubs which demonstrate the popularity of golf hereabouts.

A bit of mathematics could easily show that there are more than a hundred women in the metropolitan district alone who could make the leaders of a decade ago look to their laurels, while the recent championships, with their starters close to a hundred in number, show the true enthusiasm for golf which the women of this country are exhibiting. This is indicated even more strongly, however, by the multitude of women not of championship or near championship calibre who are seen regularly on the links. They are getting a lot out of their golf in enjoyment and wholesome exercise, and even the Chairmen of the greens committees who feel called upon to rule them off the course on the busy days would hardly deny that they are contributing a lot to the game as well.

At any rate they are quite undaunted by Saturday and Sunday rules, these women golfers. And by accepting the situation resulting from congested courses and the habit American men have of crowding all their sport into the week-

ends, they are manifesting a sportsmanship which makes it quite obvious why the clubs—even the crowded ones—do all

they can to make them as welcome and as comfortable as the circumstances will permit.