



# GOLF NEWS 85

Published by the Greater Lansing Amateur Golf Association

Volume 1, Number 4

September, 1985

## - FROM THE PRESIDENT -

Now that the All-City for 1985 is history, let's take a long constructive view of this year's tournament and what we will see in the future.

Even though this tournament was far from a complete success, it was nonetheless just as far from a disaster that our local "Howard Cosell" would have you believe. As this was the first time our association helped with this tournament, we gained invaluable information on how this tournament must be run.

What did we learn? Well, we know that the "2 course concept" works. We know that more than 250 players can play in the same tournament. We know that 6 minute tee times won't work, but that 8 minute + tee times will. We know that most players feel that the "known" stronger players would prefer that they be paired with their "peers" on the same golf course. We know that the majority of participants want a 72 hole event. We know that the majority of so-called "Better-Players" want a tournament to decide the City Championship without flights. We also have learned that in no way can any tournament make everyone happy.

So now - what about the future? Well, next year the All-City will be tentatively moved to Groesbeck G.C. and Highland Hills G.C. The logistics of this event will be something to behold, but not to the point where it can't be handled. It should prove interesting to say the least.

I would like to set something straight here. The board of the G.L.A.G.A. didn't ignore the wishes of those who answered the questionnaire, rather we are bound by a commitment to the City of Lansing to rotate the "All-City" Championship. For those of you who filled out the questionnaire - your responses did not go unanswered. We've heard your wishes and they will be kept in the fore-front as we proceed with the future tournaments. Next year will hopefully see the beginning of a new medal-play tournament and the rebirth of the match-play tournament. Also, by the time this newsletter comes out, the following individuals will have been contacted about forming a committee to start a championship without flights. Those contacted are Fred Behymer Jr., Tom Oschner, Ken Horvath, Bill Brooks, Jack Pitts and Jack Ebling. This group would be independent of any association and would be formed solely for this tournament alone. This will be the

chance for those individuals to come up with a tournament that they want.

I personally see the need for both types of tournaments. It is my hope that the Greater Lansing Amateur Golf Association will continue its support and interest in the All-City Championship, because the vast majority of our members are those who could be classified as "flight" players, while at the same time encouraging more and better tournaments for this area.

355-9765 Jim Donahue  
President

### SO LONG CHUCK!

Shortly after this newsletter comes out, a member of our board and the "Longest Hitter" in the area will be leaving us for Naples, Florida.

Chuck Pohl, who helped form this association, has taken a new position with Piedmont Airlines. He also will be working part-time at Imperial Country Club.

Chuck - you have given this area things to talk about that border on the impossible. We, as an association, will miss you and we wish you the best. Good Luck and Play Well! We will miss you!

### WHAT'S IN HIS BAG?

#### Steve Wakulsky:

Driver: Taylor Made, Stiff Shaft, D-3, Victory Grip.  
Fairway Woods: Taylor Made "Spoon", Stiff Shaft, D-3, Victory Grip.  
Irons: Hogan "PC" 1-PW, Apex 4, D-2, Hogan Grip  
Sand Iron: Power Bilt  
Putter: Toney Penna Blade  
Ball: Titleist 384 Tour 100

#### Bill Kost:

Driver: Palmer Peerless, Stiff Shaft, Victory Grip, Standard Length.  
Fairway Woods: Palmer Peerless, 3 and 4

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Ball: Titleist 384 Tour 100

#### Jim Dickey:

Driver: Toney Penna Model 53, Aluminum Insert, D-3, 43 1/2" Long, Dynamic "S", Taper Tip Shaft, Velvet Victory Cord Grip.  
Fairway Woods: Haig Ultra - 3 Wood, Dynamic "S", Taper Tip Shaft, Velvet Victory Cord Grip, Standard Length. Toney Penna 5 Wood, Dynamic "S" Taper Tip Shaft, Velvet Victory Cord Grip, Standard Length, Aluminum Insert.  
Irons: 1976 Wilson Staff Irons 2-PW, Stiff, D-3, Velvet Victory Cord Grip, Standard Length.  
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Putter: Ping Answer or Tycoon Blade.  
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## ARE LIGHT CLUBS FOR YOU?

The following is a question and answer segment from the Brochure Dave Pelz puts out on his "Featherlite" Clubs:

- Q. Since the Featherlites are lighter, you swing faster; sure you'll hit some longer shots, but unless you have a natural slow swing, the critical (pressure) shots will be a disaster.
- A. The premise for your question, (why clubs hit longer shots) is incorrect; therefore, the conclusion (swinging faster under pressure) is equally incorrect.
- Q. You're going to have to explain that and please do so in terms that I can understand.
- A. O.K. Let's start with how Featherlite clubs became light and why they work. Remember that the definition of work is an average of 12-15 yards extra distance on irons; 5-10 yards on woods and 10% less left and right variation on both.
- A. A golf ball moves because it receives energy from an object. Maximum effective energy is the objective of the club maker.
- B. Our backswing provides us an energy buildup which we deliver to the ball during the down swing.
- C. A study of the golf shaft determined that the conventional shaft started to release this energy prior to contact. Maximum efficiency would have all the energy released at the ball. If the shaft releases too early, you have the phenomenon where the club head is actually slowing down at impact. Obviously this is not maximum efficiency.
- D. To optimize shaft performance a special, very flexible (not light but flexible) shaft was developed. It was so flexible that conventional head weights were much too heavy for a stiffness that was playable. After much experimentation a light head was developed which would provide increased energy to move a golf ball (less mass moving faster in the impact zone) while making a club stiff

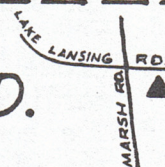
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enough to play accurately. This happens because the Featherlite club releases the energy at impact, not before.

E. The net result is a more efficient club; one that provides greater club head speed without a faster swing.

Q. I think I understand. You're saying that it's light because of the shaft and the distance I pick up is because the shaft works better for me.

A. Close. The shaft isn't light, (it's marginally lighter) but more flexible. The head is lighter. Your comment on the club working for you is excellent. If I can use the laws of physics to make you more efficient equipment it's going to work better.

Q. I understand (I think) your theory, but the bottom line is I still have a light club. I'm losing club head feel and I swing faster.

A. Let's talk about light clubs and swing speed first. Your swing is just that-"your" swing. It is controlled by your rhythm, your metabolism and your strength limitations. Once you are using equipment within the limitations of your natural range, lighter does not mean faster. (Whereas very heavy and

outside the range would be slower). Do you walk faster without shoes? I've measured many players using Featherlite clubs, and their hand speed does not increase-only their club head speed. That's greater efficiency in club design.

Q. I'll still swing faster under pressure.

A. Very possibly. But that's a case of you, not the club. If you did swing fast under pressure before, the light club won't change that. Every golfer has the tendency to swing faster under pressure-it's common on tour. That is an emotional factor, not one of clubs being lighter. Test results on abnormally fast swings didn't show any relationship between swing speed and clubhead weight.

Q. What about the loss of head feel?

A. Head feel is the relationship between shaft stiffness and the head weight. Increase head weight, keep the shaft the same and you'll get more head feel. Keep the head weight constant, use a more flexible shaft you get more feel. It's a question of fit; if your Featherlites don't have enough feel, you have too stiff a shaft.

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Q. If the shaft is too flexible. I'll lose control.

A. Ultimately. As I said, it's fit . . . the combination of the most control and the most feel. Absolutely no different a relationship than old, heavy clubs. Remember, Featherlite shafts are more flexible, Featherlite heads are lighter and the combination of the two in Featherlite clubs provides a golf club with flexibility similar to your old conventional club. . . but a later, more efficient shaft kick!

Q. O.K. I buy everything you tell me, but if these clubs are so great, why aren't they on tour? In fact, why did the tour pros drop them?

A. The mens' tour features a ball striking level which is statistically different than 99+% of amateur players. Their muscle memory is so acute that minor changes are tremendously significant. The greatest advantage to the amateur is the extra distance. This means little on tour and the accuracy improvement may not offset the adjustment factor. Even with that,

Pelz Golf has two players, D.A. Weibring and Tom Jenkins playing Featherlites. Both underwent careful testing before making the change and both report improved results.

Q. Why did Raymond Floyd quit Featherlites?

A. Mainly because he hit them too far and had a problem making the adjustment. On tour the worst place to be is over a green. Once Raymond became aware that he could do this more often than with his conventional clubs it really hurt his confidence. Frankly, we think if he had followed the introduction program used by D.A. & Tom, he'd still be playing them, but we certainly understand AND AGREE why he changed back. We at Pelz have learned some lessons in the last year and are much wiser about the fitting and conversion process to Featherlite for all golfers.

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Q. I understand you're offering a heavier Featherlite. Isn't that a cop out, an admission that the original clubs were too light?

A. Yes, we are offering a heavier version and no, it isn't a cop out at all. First we still have the original B8 wing weight clubs (Featherlite Burgundy). They are the lightest and longest. We now have a C5 swing weight club (Featherlite Green) as well. It doesn't test as dramatically superior to heavy clubs as the originals, but they are easier to swing and show improved results. It's important to understand that we're still using the special shaft and manufacturing techniques. It's just a Featherlite club with a distance advantage and a much easier transition from heavy clubs.

Q. How does it test?

A. Using the improvement guideline from heavy weight to Featherlite Burgundy, Featherlite Greens are about 45% as effective in distance gained and side

to side variations and about 40% easier to swing.

Q. Mr. Pelz, you make a very expensive golf club; are you trying to get rich?

A. Yes, we do make expensive clubs. We use very expensive frequency matched special alloy shafts, we machine our head to be correct weight with no lead weight in the neck of the club (this allows us to put the weight behind the sweet spot) and we make our sets one at a time. That is, we make 1-PW rather than 500 2 irons, 500 3 irons etc. . . Our process is costly, but it's the best way we know how to make clubs.

Q. Since you mentioned frequency matching why do you think it's so important?

A. Frequency matching means your set will disperse energy at exactly the same way with every swing. Unmatched sets require a swing adjustment for each unmatched club. We feel it is asking



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too much for a golfer to change his swing to fit the shaft of every club.

**Q.** I still don't understand. I can buy light clubs for a lot less money than the Pelz brand.

**A.** We could make a mass produced cheap head, balance it with lead weight in the neck and use very inexpensive unmatched ladies' shafts and produce an inexpensive light club. The club making process is not a secret. But clubs that are just light, don't necessarily perform better. Featherlite clubs provide a later "kick" and improved efficiency. Better performance is what Dave Pelz builds into golf equipment. We will not compromise for price.

**Q.** Sounds like you're accusing other manufacturers of making cheap imitations.

**A.** I'm saying we tested and we developed a method of making clubs which consistently produces superior results. We do not intend to change those standards.

**Q.** Frankly, Mr. Pelz, I've heard some complaints about your woods.

**A.** Understandably and rightly so. Our Featherlite irons were so superior that the woods looked bad by comparison when they didn't match iron performances. We also had a few drivers in our early production that were marginal clubs. Since that time we've done a lot of homework on woods; persimmon, laminate and metal. Our line of woods now is performing at our standards. I might add one other note; most golfers realize that drivers are a very personal club. To that end we're offering a barrel of drivers to club pros this year so their members can see our entire line and pick out the club that works best for them.

**Q.** The whole Featherlite change would be easier (and less expensive) if we could mix heavy, light etc. . .

**A.** Obviously, the player can do whatever he wants. Our tests show that to obtain optimum performance B range clubs should mix no greater than mid C range and mid C range can mix up to low D range. If you try to cover more than 6 swing weight points in your set you will have difficulty on the golf course.

**Q.** I read an article in a major golf magazine quoting a rather famous teaching pro as saying the clubs couldn't play out of rough or sand and they were at best a ladies' club or an "old man's" club.

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A. I have read the same articles and would be less than honest if I didn't admit that I get pretty upset about such comments. The thing that upsets me is that here I sit with significant test results and I read quotes by people who are making educated guesses with no testing whatsoever. I respect these people for their service and dedication to the game but they should respect the fact that rough, sand and golfers of all ages and handicaps were tested with positive results throughout. If we impart more energy to the ball, we do so regardless of rough, sand or the player. When a Featherlite clubhead has more energy (which it must have to hit the ball farther) it will go through heavy grass or sand easier and better than a heavy club with less energy!

Q. I read another statement that the only reason Featherlite clubs produce more distance is because they are stronger than conventional clubs (a 5 iron is a 4 iron, a 6 a 5 and so on).

A. This is a partial truth taken out of context. Original tests on Featherlites using conventional loft angles produced shots that were too high. We decreased the loft of the club ( $1\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  on average) and got a result where the ball launches at a lower angle, climbs to the height of old conventional clubs and exceeds their distance by an average of 12%. This produces a more stable (and stronger) shot against the wind and more control down wind. Any conventional manufacturer would love to make his clubs stronger and advertise more distance, but you couldn't get the longer irons airborne. Our players have no problems with trajectory and do so with less effort.

Q. Well, Mr. Pelz, we're down to the short game and I've heard that the short wedges and chip shots are where Featherlites really fail to perform.

A. There is a certain irony to that statement. The better player or weak players with good short games have to work hard on the adjustment to Featherlite. Once they develop the feel, the clubs are superior. Our tour players,

D.A. Weibring and Tom Jenkins, now state they strongly prefer Featherlites for short shots.

Q. Why does the adjustment require more effort?

A. On short shots, a partial swing, you get very little energy from the shaft. It is never flexed and doesn't provide a "kick". Therefore, you have to adjust by making a fuller swing on short shots. Actually as you learn the touch using the fuller swing, you find it more repeatable and the net result is a more consistent short game. All of "the feel" shots, the knockdown, the punch, the finesse shots require some extra work initially until the player has adjusted to the lighter club. But the final result is more control, better touch.

Q. Mr. Pelz, at least you've given me answers with facts and not just some fancy promises. I still don't know if I'm ready to buy a set of your clubs.

A. Mr. Skeptic, you may not be ready. My clubs are for the individual who wants to reward himself with the results of advanced technology but interpreted as a club easy to swing and fun to play. When the time comes, you'll know you're ready, but please don't make your decision based on what "sounds reasonable" to some people, or what others believe, or think. Most of these comments come from people who haven't ever tried our clubs. Go to your golf professional and TEST our clubs. MEASURE your results, and then make your own decision.

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#### **THE FEATHERLITE REVOLUTION: A TOURING PRO'S PERSPECTIVE**

(D.A. Weibring, one of the Tour's fastest-rising stars, discusses the benefits of Dave Pelz technology.)

At a recent clinic D.A. was asked about Featherlites. "Anyone who doesn't want to



hit the ball farther, straighter and stop it on the green faster please raise your hand." was his reply.

"I can't imagine any player not wanting golf clubs that will improve performance.

"I've played Dave Pelz Featherlite clubs on tour, and the results speak for themselves. Like my record-tying finish at the TPC—a course that demands distance and accuracy."

"I've also seen tests, and talked to other Tour players who've hit Pelz clubs—averaging 15 to 20 yards greater distance than with conventional clubs. In fact the extra distance makes the switch to Featherlite Burgundy too great a change for their finely tuned games. But these same results will make a dramatic improvement in most amateur's performance."

"Personally, I've tested all weights and have selected medium-weight Featherlite Greens as the best combination of technical superiority and ease of transition for my game."

"But I'm convinced Featherlite Burgundy is a superior club—giving better results with less effort—for 99% of all amateur men and women players."

"There's no question that light clubs are better for you. See your pro and ask for the true Featherlite: Dave Pelz."

It is our hope, that in the future, we can bring you more of these types of discussions on the many and varied types of clubs that you can purchase.

#### WHERE'S THE TOURNAMENT RESULTS?

The next issue (which will come out the 27th of September) will be full of coverage from the All-City Medal Play to the Oak Lane Fall Best-Ball. This issue will also have the "All-City Golf Team," the "Player of the Year," the "Golfer of the Year," the "Professional of the Year," the "'Senior' and 'Junior' Players of the Year" as well as the "High School Player" and the "Woman Player" of the year.

This issue will also contain information about Association's Tournament.

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## "SLOW-PLAY" . . . WHAT OR WHO'S AT FAULT?

A recent Detroit News article stated that the Michigan P.G.A as well as the Michigan Open were troubled by slow-play. The interesting thing about this article was the proposed solution to the problem. It has been suggested that both nines be used with a "cross-over". What's interesting about this, is the fact that the "cross-over" idea was one of the main causes of the "slow-play" problems in the All-City.

The other interesting part of this article was the things that were determined to be the causes of "slow-play". Things such as: long golf courses; tough pin placements; fast greens; and of course more players.

So just what or who is the blame for "slow-play" and what can be done to cure this cancer of all golf?

Not being able to comment on the "state" problems, let's just focus on the local tournaments and the All-City in particular. "Slow-play" is a combination of things, not just one simple cause. Let's take the last two All-City Cham-

pionships and see what the problems were:

1984 - Royal Scot: To begin with, the size of the field along with some early morning rain, caused some problems, but the first problem was that the average player was playing a longer golf course than what he was used to - which in most cases leads to more shots being taken - thus more time to play.

The main problem, however, was on the greens. It's not that Clint set the pins too tough or cut them too short, quite the opposite. They were the speed and difficulty that they should have been for a City Championship. The problem was that the average player was not used to greens that have speed or pin placements that tough. As a result, the average player was left with more than just a few 3-4 and 5 foot putts for pars and bogies. If all players had this problem, and you add the tournament



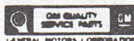
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pressure, this all adds up to more time to play.

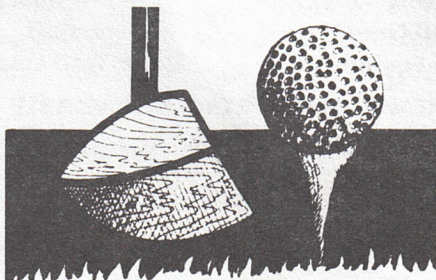
The final problem occurred when the starters grew impatient and sent the players off before their tee times. In this case the tee times were 10 minutes apart. What was forgotten, was that in order for tee times to work, they must be kept on time with no exceptions.

1985 - Akers: The problem here resulted from two things, one of which I am partly to blame. Being in the first group, we played the first 9 holes in 1 hour and 30 minutes. So we finished at least 45 minutes ahead of schedule. I'm sure the same held true on all nines.

The second problem was that 6 minute tee-times were used. This flat out was a mistake. No one will argue this point. But this was corrected.

What is not remembered is: a) it takes longer to player Akers on a normal day than it does the other tournament courses, so why wouldn't this hold true for tournaments? b) Ken Horvath did an outstanding job in marking off and staking the course to minimize the penalty for mis-struck shots. c) Fore-caddies were used effectively.

So what have we learned? Well, first of all, if players are going to enter the All-City, they should get out and play the tournament courses. Second, tee times should run 8 minutes apart and play should be in three-somes. Third, the golf courses should be kept "fair" for the entire field. Fourth, players should be aware that it will take them 4 to 4 1/2 hours to play and should gear themselves for this. Fifth, people should realize that tournaments at all levels are facing "slow-play" problems and no-one has found the perfect solution as of yet. However, we are all working toward it! And finally, we need to use more fore-caddies to keep the speed of play constant and consistent.



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### - ATTENTION MEMBERS -

If for any reason you have not received your membership packet in the mail (which should include the following: bag tag, membership card, rule book, divot tool, and the first issue of the "GOLF NEWS" please contact Jim Donahue, 1311 Lake Lansing Rd., East Lansing, MI., 48823, or phone 332-8332 or 377-7448.

For those of you how have not received your divot tool, please check this issue of "GOLF NEWS" and it should be attached.

### - CLUB SALES / TRADES -

If you should have any clubs or equipment that you would like to sell or trade, please feel free to contact us by writing down exactly what you have and what you want for it and mail it to us at :

G.L.A.G.A.  
1311 Lake Lansing Rd.  
East Lansing, Mi. 48823

(sorry this service is not for golf club and equipment dealers)

Ping Woods - 1,3,4,5

Good Condition - \$120.00

Call Brian - Work - 882-3904  
Home - 641-6842

— WE NEED HELP —

In order to keep abreast of all the possible tournaments, we need to have you keep us informed of the tournaments that you know of that are not mentioned in our tournament listing. If you know of a tournament that anyone in our membership might be interested in playing in, please give us a call at: 332-8332 after 6:00p.m.

# OAK LANE Golf Course



18 Holes  
Watered Fairways  
Snack Bar  
**521-3900**  
3/4 miles north of  
Light in Webberville



**18 CHAMPIONSHIP HOLES • WATERED FAIRWAYS**  
**DRIVING RANGE LIGHTED & COVERED • LEAGUE OPENINGS**  
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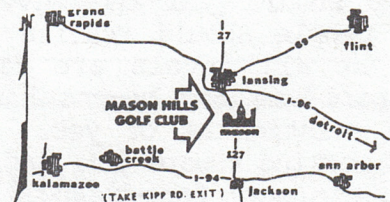
New York Life Insurance  
and Annuity Corporation  
(a Delaware Corporation)

621 E. Saginaw Hwy.  
Cedar Village  
Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837  
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Two Golfers For 9 Holes  
With Riding Cart — \$6.00 each  
18 Holes — \$12.00 each  
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Banquets  
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Driving Range  
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on staff  
Video Golf Lessons

**MEMBERSHIP SPECIALS AVAILABLE**

Formerly VeeVay Valley  
2602 Tomlinson Road

Now under new ownership  
676-5366

## Indian Hills Golf Course Okemos - Public

STUDENT AND SENIOR RATES  
COMPLETE CLUB REPAIR - CUSTOM CLUBS

**4811 Nakoma Okemos 349-1010**

