

LEISURE INVESTMENT PROPERTIES GROUP

GOLF ♦ RESORTS ♦ PLANNED COMMUNITIES ♦ MARINAS

GOLF & RESORT INVESTMENT REPORT

Semi-Annual Market Update

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1st Half 2017

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STATE OF THE GOLF INVESTMENT MARKET

By Steven Ekovich ♦ Steven.Ekovich@MarcusMillichap.com

FIRST HALF 2017 SHOWS WEAKNESS IN GOLF COURSE VALUES

Both exogenous and internal factors can affect golf course operations and asset values. During the first half of 2017, we have experienced several newsworthy events impacting the current state of the golf industry with repercussions into the future. Recent events include, the proposed sale of ClubCorp, reductions in golf course values, increased interest rates and of course, and the first six months of the Donald Trump Presidency.

Apollo Spends \$1.1 Billion to Make Golf Great Again:

The Golf Industry was shocked to hear the news of the proposed sale of industry giant ClubCorp to Apollo for \$1.1B. We have analyzed the impact the sale may have on the golf industry. First, the media only reported half of the story. The \$1.1B was only the Equity from Apollo, it did not include the assumption of the debt of \$1.1B and refundable fees of \$300M, consequently the enterprise value is \$2.2B. (Think of it this way, when you buy a course and put down \$2M and assume a note for \$3M, you paid \$5M, not \$2M). From a positive point of view, a private equity firm just took a multi-billion-dollar position in the golf industry, at a 31% premium equating to \$17.12 per share. On a trailing multiple of EBITDA it was a 9X acquisition and on forward looking EBITDA about a 7.5X. Anybody in the institutional brokerage business will tell you a 9X acquisition price is healthy, not a steal, (on a cap rate basis about a 11 cap). An analyst from Stifel Financial Corp opined, the sale at 7.5X EBITDA is low on forward looking EBITDA and should have been 8.5X, which would equate to approximately \$20 per share. Our postulation is that there could be

RECENTLY SOLD



Catechee Golf Club— 18-Holes
Hartwell, GA

ROUNDS YTD

June 2017

U.S. TOTAL YTD: - 3.8%
PUBLIC ACCESS: - 4.8%
PRIVATE: + 0.1%



Rounds Played - YoY Change



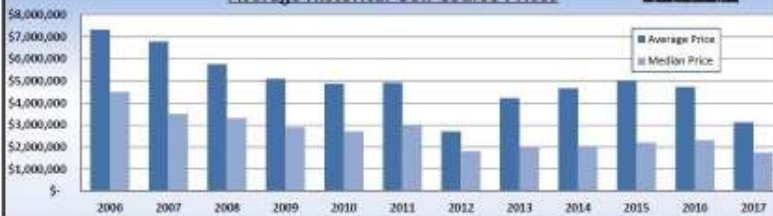
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LIPG - National Golf Course Sales History

Year	# of Sales	Average Price	% Change	Lowest Price	% Change	Highest Price	% Change	Median Price	% Change
2006	91	\$ 7,326,883	n/a	\$ 1,100,000	n/a	\$ 39,500,000	n/a	\$ 4,500,000	n/a
2007	97	\$ 6,778,325	-7.49%	\$ 559,000	-49.18%	\$ 58,000,000	47%	\$ 3,500,000	-22.22%
2008	108	\$ 5,757,172	-15.06%	\$ 595,000	6.44%	\$ 50,575,000	-12.80%	\$ 3,300,000	-5.71%
2009	97	\$ 5,089,742	-11.59%	\$ 300,000	-15.97%	\$ 50,000,000	-1.14%	\$ 2,900,000	-12.12%
2010	144	\$ 4,873,308	-4.25%	\$ 250,000	-50.00%	\$ 40,000,000	-20.00%	\$ 2,700,000	-6.90%
2011	110	\$ 4,912,103	0.80%	\$ 275,000	10.00%	\$ 73,525,000	83.81%	\$ 3,000,000	11.11%
2012	159	\$ 2,700,215	-45.03%	\$ 250,000	-9.09%	\$ 30,000,000	-59.20%	\$ 1,802,500	-39.92%
2013	145	\$ 4,211,889	55.98%	\$ 366,450	46.58%	\$ 48,520,000	61.73%	\$ 2,000,000	10.96%
2014	181	\$ 4,661,645	10.68%	\$ 266,800	-27.19%	\$ 60,000,000	23.66%	\$ 2,045,000	2.25%
2015	132	\$ 5,012,316	7.52%	\$ 263,250	-1.33%	\$ 47,000,000	-21.67%	\$ 2,195,000	7.33%
2016	123	\$ 4,718,947	-5.85%	\$ 500,000	89.93%	\$ 50,000,000	6.38%	\$ 2,300,000	4.78%
2017	56	\$ 3,113,982	-34.01%	\$ 325,000	5.00%	\$ 30,700,000	-38.60%	\$ 1,750,000	-23.91%
TOTAL	1,443	\$ 4,838,577	-57.50%						

Outliers Removed (<\$500k or >\$75m)

Average Historical Golf Course Prices



***Data Courtesy of the Leisure Investment Properties Group of Marcus & Millichap Real Estate Investment Services: www.LeisurePropertiesGroup.com

WHAT IS YOUR GOLF COURSE WORTH? AND WHY YOU SHOULD KNOW.

By Christopher Karamitsos [◇ Christopher.Karamitsos@MarcusMillichap.com](mailto:Christopher.Karamitsos@MarcusMillichap.com)

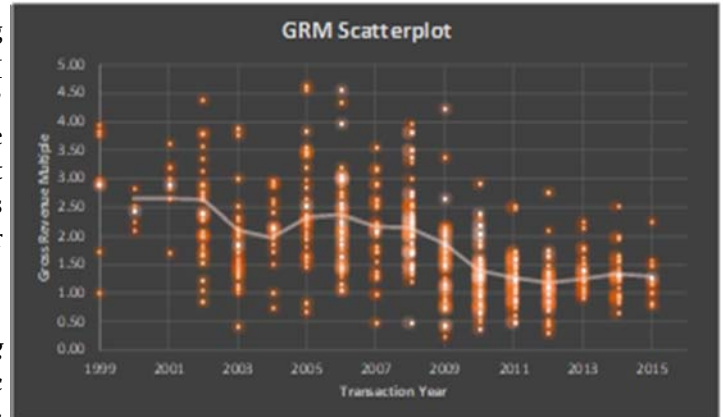
There is a question that is asked to nearly every skydiving instructor: “If my parachute fails to deploy, how long do I have to pull my reserve?” Answer: “The rest of your life.” Simple, amusing and truthful, all at the same time. The question we receive most often from course owners is, “What is my golf course worth?” Answer: “Whatever someone is willing to pay for it.” That’s equally truthful an answer but far more complex in nature.

In my last article, *Your Strategic Direction In a Transitioning Market*, I pointed out how the current macroeconomic picture, along with a transaction market in flux –besides causing confusion- will have some effect on your asset value & equity. As such, formulating your “buy-sell-hold” strategy moving forward was imperative. The best place to begin is to know what your golf asset is worth. You won’t know this by looking at the appraisal you had done in 2014 when you refinanced, or by pointing at the course a mile down the road that recently sold for \$3.2M (and of course, YOUR’S is far superior). Knowing, and more importantly understanding your asset’s value on an annual or semi-annual basis will assist you in making sound business decisions. After all, you would not embark on a four hour car-ride without first looking at the gas gauge.

Broker Opinion of Value (BOV)

A Broker Opinion of Value or BOV is just that; it is us telling an owner where the investment community will execute offers if his property were to go out to market today. Unlike an appraisal, we do not take into consideration, replacement cost, price per acre or price per hole. We evaluate an asset in terms of three main criteria: Gross Revenue, Multiple of EBITDA/Cap Rate and Internal Rate of Return (IRR). We also understand and take into account that as an investment vehicle a golf asset competes with other opportunities such as core commercial real estate and the stock market. This value is as real as it gets. Its like Goggling the stock price of GE and finding out the per-share price.

The other reason a BOV is so accurate is because we are in constant communication with investors regarding the courses we have for sale and the metrics that are most crucial to investment success, depending on the investment objective. For example, an investor looking for an accretive income deal will be focused on cap rate and IRR, while someone seeking a good turnaround opportunity will be less concerned with the EBITDA and look more at the gross revenue & upside potential. Each has his own range of value based on his individual yield requirements.



The Metrics & The New Normal

Prior to the Great Recession, it was not uncommon to see some golf course transactions selling over 2X gross revenue (see chart) and cap rates in the mid to high single digits. All of that changed when the market was flooded with REO assets once the economic meltdown ensued. While so many assets were breaking even at best or even experiencing negative EBITDA, the only metric upon which to value an asset was the GRM. We saw most money-losing courses trading between 0.6 X to 0.9X gross revenue. Top of the market became 1.5X gross revenue. However, until just recently we saw income -and subsequently prices - begin to stabilize. Courses with positive EBITDA that showed as viable assets would trade between 6X and 8.5X EBITDA. Yet we now seem to be witnessing another market transition. We have evidence that transaction prices are down through the first half of 2017. This could be due in large part to a number of factors such as new monetary policy and risk-adverse investment strategies. Consider that interest rates look to be slowly increasing, the 1031 Tax Exchange program may be significantly overhauled and that the stock market is at an all-time high. All of this is sure to have some effect on the real estate market and influence the value of your asset.

What You Need to Know

If you own any sort of leisure asset you should be asking yourself “Is my property today worth more, less or the same as it was a year ago? Is the value trending up, down or remaining flat? What are my options in light of the answers?” These are all questions the LIPG answers for investors on a weekly basis. We take into consideration our knowledge of the entire commercial real estate market, the leisure investment market and the economy on a macro level. We then determine an investor’s position and formulate strategies for the future. Contact the LIPG to learn more about the valuation process and how we might assist you. ◇

HOW AMERICAN FREE TIME IS CHANGING & ITS IMPACT ON GOLF

By Terence Vanek ◊ Terence.Vanek@MarcusMillichap.com

“We live in an increasingly complex world. One where technology, the economy, and evolving demographics are changing how Americans spend their free time. It is increasingly important to understand why people become sports fans in the first place and how they engage with sports throughout their lives.” - *Dr. Richard Luker*

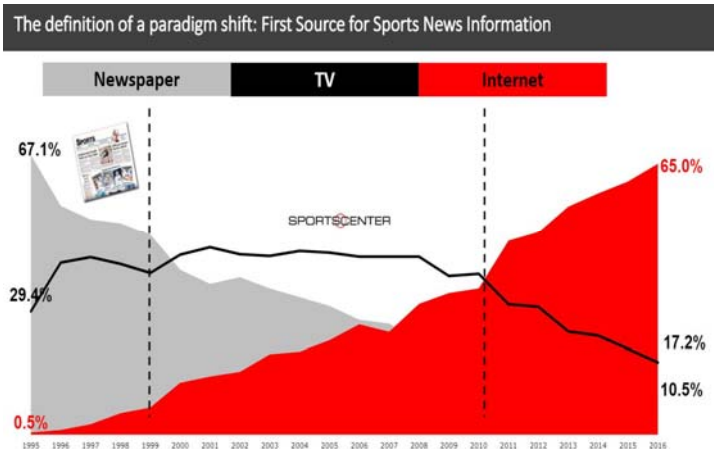
Dr. Richard Luker, a social psychologist, has been studying American life for more than 25 years. Rich is best known for his creation of the ESPN Sports Poll in 1994, which was the first ongoing intelligence tool for the American sports industry. At the NGF Golf Business Symposium, Dr. Luker presented “Luker on Trends”, a new initiative that delivers strategic intelligence and consulting to help companies develop better relationships with their customers, with a focus on how Americans spend their free time. What follows are his insights into golf and the future possibilities for growth, which reveal an industry poised for great opportunity.

“We are losing time with people.”

Free-Time Priorities

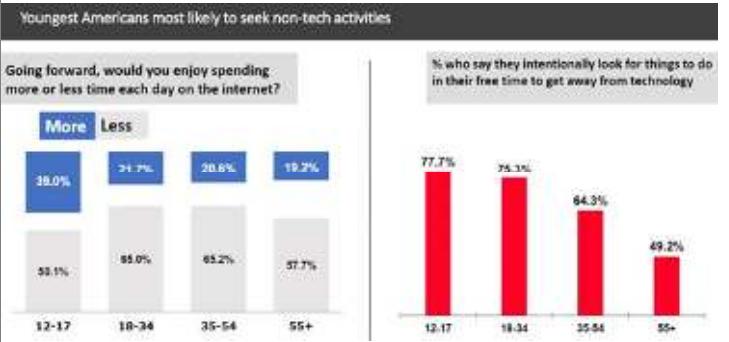
Interest in all sports, not just golf, has been declining dramatically. Why? According to Dr. Luker, the problem is not “something wrong” with sports, i.e. golf is too hard, too exclusive, too stuck in the past. The declines are a result of an explosion of competitive free-time alternatives.... The most significant being the advent of the internet. Growing amounts of time spent online have changed the dynamic in which people, especially young people, make decisions.

In 1995, 67 percent of Americans used the newspaper as their first source for sports information. By 2000, television had taken over, but with only 50 percent of Americans, and the internet was still ascending. By 2010, the internet was the first source for sports news for 62 percent of Americans. And by 2014, for the first time, the internet tied with TV in percentage of respondents identifying it as an “important or very important” source of entertainment.



GET OFF THE NET!

However, that does not mean time online is a high priority among today’s consumer. In fact, in many ways it is now viewed as an anchor. Before 2014, people saw the internet as a tool but not a destination. Americans are now aware of the amount of time they spend online, and generally know it is taking time away from things that otherwise provide greater satisfaction. Unattended, time online will eat up time in the same way one might go online to check the weather and two hours later end up watching cat videos. It seems, thankfully,



that people are starting to get sick of cat videos.

Which begs the obvious question, what do we as consumers prioritize/value most? The chart at right provides the mean priority scores (on a 0-10 scale where 10 is the highest priority) for each of the 10 free time contexts from Luker on Trends research done in 2016. For 30 years, time with family and time with friends have been the top priorities by a considerable margin. “Outdoor” has consistently been the top primary fun context and is the context that maintains the most consistent priority throughout life. “Play and exercise” is an even mix between attending to health and having fun.

Free-time priorities

Percent of U.S. population 12 and older saying this ranks between 8 and 10 (on a scale of zero to 10) of free-time priorities

Activity	Percent
Time with family	70.0%
Time with friends	42.7%
Productive activities	40.1%
Time to myself	37.5%
Outdoor activities	37.1%
Playing sports / exercise	32.6%
Out on the town	26.0%
Time online	24.9%
Watching TV	23.6%
Sports fan activity	14.6%

Source: Luker on Trends - ESPN Sports Poll: 2,993 U.S. respondents age 12 and older, 2014-2016

So... 1) Time with Family and Friends, 2) Time spent Outdoors, and 3) Time spent Playing Sports are three of the top activities Americans value most in their given free time. Sounds familiar.

Where Does this Leave Golf?

Changes like trying to speed up the game, modernize it, make it younger, and incorporate more fun things to do can buy time while golf owners and operators study, design and invest in strategies to increase dedicated, high-priority fans for the future.

Think about the things that get a higher priority for you in

IDEA FAIR

By Robert Waldron ◊ Robert.Waldron@MarcusMillichap.com

One of the biggest challenges facing golf course operators these days is overcoming underutilized capacity both on the course and in the clubhouse. Many owners and operators have discovered creative ideas which provide alternative revenue sources to supplement typical golf course income streams.

For many years, one of the highlights of the National Golf Course Owners Association's Annual Conference was the Idea Fair. Owners and operators submitted their unique revenue generating ideas that proved successful at their Clubs. Finalists were selected to present their ideas to the entire group, who voted to determine the best ideas. While attending numerous NGCOA Chapter Meetings across the U.S., I have always enjoyed networking with owners and exchanging successful business ideas. I would like to share some of the great ideas and suggestions I garnered from owners during the past year.

Alternative Routings

Increasing personal and business obligations have created time constraints often limiting the ability of golfers to play 18-holes. I spoke to several course operators who are now marketing 3-hole, 6-hole and 12-hole pricing in addition to the tradition 9-hole and 18-hole rates. Golfers with limited time find this an enjoyable way to spend time with their family on the golf course while filling underutilized tee times.

A creative twist on the alternative routing concept is the 9-hole Par 3 course. By creating par 3 tees on nine holes golfers are provided a completely different experience that can be played in less time. One Pennsylvania owner told me that one of her leagues exclusively plays the Par 3 course routing one night per week.

A Private Club in Florida uses the yardages of the Par 3 Course at Augusta National Golf Club as a model for their Par 3 Course. Their annual 9-hole Par 3 Tournament the Wednesday prior to the Masters kicks off a week of activities at the Club during Masters Week.

Love Those Golf Leagues

Nine-hole leagues have long been a popular way for owners to fill unused morning and evening starting times. One Midwest owner shared his unique recruiting strategy. During the winter months, he visits area bowling centers and solicits the organizers and participants of the bowling leagues. He offers to coordinate golf leagues at the same time of the day during the summer months. Since many bowlers also play golf he has significantly increased the number of golf leagues.

In an effort to drive member activity to the Club on Tuesday evenings during the summer months, a private Club in Maryland introduced a Tuesday Evening 9-Hole Four Ball Golf League. Participants register as either two-player teams or as individual alternates. All available spots are quickly filled each year. The beverage cart is kept very busy during league play and the majority of participants retreat to the bar and grill after play is completed. The League has turned traditionally slow Tuesday evenings into one of the busiest nights of the week at the Club.



Family Entertainment Center

In an effort to expand food and beverage sales many successful operators are now providing take-out and delivery services. A Virginia owner who operates a course situated in an upscale residential community, upgraded his restaurant to include a pizza oven. He now provides delivery service to the community creating a new source of food and beverage revenue.

In Pennsylvania, a course owner whose clubhouse serves as the centerpiece of a residential community aggressively markets his facility as a social and entertainment gathering place for local residents. Once a week, he promotes a "Community Night" by hosting a block party at the Club. He sets up outdoor grills and beverage stations while providing games and activities for both adults and children. By reaching out to the residents he has created a relationship which has resulted in increased food and beverage and social activities all year long.

A Maryland public course owner has taken the concept of his golf course as a family entertainment center to a whole new level. He hosts a "Deck Party" on Thursday evenings throughout the summer. Live bands and multiple portable bars enhance the festive atmosphere for golfers and non-golfers alike. This owner also promotes live evening concerts between holes on his course using the driving range as a parking lot. He sells tickets in advance and welcomes concert goers to bring blankets and lawn chairs. Concession stands and exclusive VIP areas with table service provide additional revenue streams.

The days of "If you build it, they will come" have long been over for golf course owners. To be successful, owners must maximize the utilization of their golf courses and clubhouse facilities. Successful operators are discovering new ways to increase activity at their Clubs that generate additional sources of revenue. ◊

CAPITAL MARKETS/COURSE FINANCING

By Zachary Hadsall ◊ Zachary.Hadsall@MarcusMillichap.com

In our 2016 Year End Investment Report, we discussed how the election of Donald Trump and the implementation of his new regulations, which included raising interest rates, could affect the golf investment market. Since our previous issue, The Federal Reserve has issued a pair of rate hikes in 2017, signaling the central bank believes our economy is on solid ground; this is coupled with the unemployment rate falling to 4.3%, its lowest level since 2001. An improving economy doesn't solely benefit the core commercial assets, it means the golf airspace should improve as well.

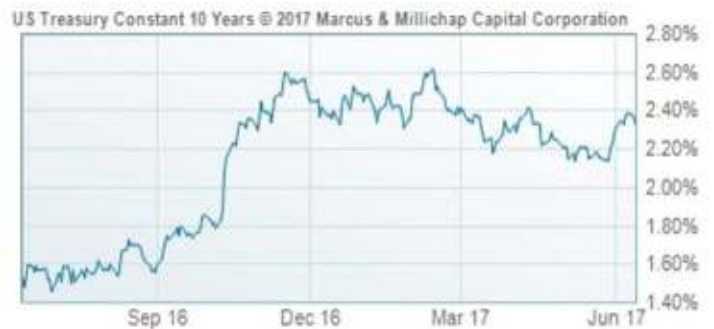
As rates gradually go up, the consensus is that U.S. Treasury yields and rates on credit cards, mortgages, auto loans and other consumer loans will slowly rise as well. This should also hold true for golf courses and all other real estate loans.

The Fed's small adjustments in interest rates are a necessity but, if done slowly and incrementally, they should impose little pain on those looking to leverage their way into a golf asset. Interest rates trending upwards means people utilizing savings accounts will start to earn a little more for keeping their money in banks; on the other hand, carrying a credit card balance or taking out a loan, such as financing a golf course, will become more expensive.

It's understood that the cost to finance a golf course, or any

other commercial asset, will continue to increase as The Fed raises its rates, but even with another rate increase scheduled for later this year, when compared to the historical cost of debt, interest rates are still considerably low. With the nation's economy continuing to improve through job creation, wage growth and consumption, the higher cost of money should easily be combatted by a stimulated, growing economy. An expanding workforce paired with an increase in pay should lead to more disposable income for consumers, which should allow for more spending on leisure activities - such as rounds of golf.

In closing, the one common thread with lenders willing to finance a golf course is a good borrower. Are lenders willing to finance everyone? No. But with the right loan-to-value, experience as an operator and the required debt coverage ratio, it should still get done. ◊



Conventional Bank Loan:	Interest: 4.75-6.25%, points: 1%, term: 3-10 yrs., amortization: 20-25 yrs., LTV: 60-70%, DCR: 1.3-1.4, loan size: \$750,000 and up/ Variable/floating rates: prime +1.5-2%=5.25% to 5.75%, term 10 yr., amort.20-25yrs.
SBA Guaranteed Loan 7A Program:	Interest: 1.5-2.75% over prime, points: 0%, term: 25 yrs., loan size up to \$5M, amortization: 25 years,
Life Company:	Interest: 4.75-5.25%, points: 1%, term: 5,10,15 yrs., amortization: 15, 20 or 25 yrs., LTV: 55-65%, loan size: \$750K and up, pure land collateral value is important
Bridge Loan:	Interest: 9-14% I/O term: 1-2 years, LTV: up to 65%, desire primary markets, cash flowing product
Hard Money:	Interest: 10-15% including points, term: 1-3 yrs., LTV: 50-60%, usually interest only
Private Equity:	Interest: 0%, unleveraged IRR: 20%, preferred returns 8.8-12%, LTV: 60-70%, waterfall structure: deal by deal on profit splits
Updated 7/15/2017	

BUYER SENTIMENT: HAVE WE PEAKED?

By Kyle Brett ◊ Kyle.Brett@MarcusMillichap.com

2017 has seen uncertain prosperity in the economy, transition and unrest in the government, and one of the hottest real estate markets in history. However, other than the recent \$1.1B ClubCorp sale, the front nine of the year has been par at best. Investors across all product types have taken notice and many have grown wary, wondering if the market has peaked again or questioning when it will. While the year is only half over, investor caution within the golf investment market may be ahead of the curve, evidenced by a decline in the average and median transaction sales price by 34% and 24%, respectively. This can be attributed to several factors: the run up over the past couple of years, larger golf companies still capitalizing on their new stock of properties that they acquired in 2015 and 2016, and uncertain buyers clearing the market, resulting in less competition and lower sales prices. The truth is, influence from some or all of these factors resulted in the first decline in values since 2012.

Who Are the Buyers?

While it may have seemed like a slow first half, the number of golf course transactions was right on pace with years past. However, unlike years past, we have witnessed a larger number of non-traditional and first time buyers in the market. Traditional golf buyers continue to look for that needle in the haystack: distressed assets with huge upside at a discounted price. Lower bid prices have resulted in Sellers holding performing assets that provide satisfactory cash flow. They just don't see an alternative investment opportunity that warrants a sale.

National and regional owners who prefer major metro markets continue to look at deals, however they have not been active during the first half of the year. Assets in secondary or tertiary markets with strong income and/or proximity to other managed assets, rarely fit their criteria anymore leaving the door open for smaller groups and first time buyers. Recent hikes in interest rates, and the perception of future hikes to come, have tempered the non-cash buyer pool for the time being. But the cost of capital for private equity is still historically low, as such they continue to be the dominate players in the golf airspace.

But What is it That Golf Buyers Want?

In today's uncertain economic environment, one must determine an investor's motivation and strategy associated with their commercial real estate investments. When it comes to investing in golf assets, we see a mixed bag of buyers seeking income, capital appreciation, and operational upside. With fewer (high quality) distressed golf assets available for sale than in years past, buyers have started to shift their focus back towards properties with stabilized operations. But these buyers have also remained very disciplined and patient while

analyzing potential acquisitions. Even cash-flowing deals listed at 8X to 10X EBITDA (10%-12% cap rate) still need upside, otherwise they are largely viewed as overpriced. On top of that, given systematic industry concerns and perceived lower participation rates, we have seen investors no longer bite off on blue sky potential. Some buyers now doubt their abilities to cut expenses and/or assume current ownership has already cut any available fat. Strictly income producing clubs aren't the answer.

In short, buyer sentiment is that prices they are willing to pay should not be considered below market value, because they feel they are redefining market value. In order to achieve top dollar, buyers must be blown away by the opportunity. That means a well located asset with good bones and little deferred maintenance. Add to that equation, a historically strong membership and/or golf revenue, legitimate revenue upside, expense reduction opportunity and potential development or redevelopment potential.

Have We Peaked?

The U.S. real estate market is a dynamic, ever changing landscape. Cap rates across all product types, including, up until recently, golf courses, have rebounded from the great recession to near record highs. Value add opportunities in golf are still present, but fewer and farther between. Investors have begun moving away from the value add opportunities and towards the safety and consistency of cash flowing golf course assets. But have values peaked?

Golf has been a four letter word for lenders since the Great Recession and they are just now starting to consider adding golf course assets to their portfolio. Recent interest rate hikes in concert with anticipated future increases have made the cost of money higher and the value for owners lower. This does not necessarily mean that we have peaked. Assets in major MSAs with strong cash flow and/or significant upside would still command the price point and attention they did during the peak in 2006. Resort and destination golf courses still hold values well above the average and median as well.

Buyer sentiment can be described as a year of transition and uncertainty. Currently there is a disconnect between buyers and sellers, particularly regarding well performing properties with significantly positive EBITDA. Meanwhile properties with negative, breakeven or low positive EBITDA continue to rely on Gross Revenue Multiples (GRM) as a means of determining value. Valuing high cash flow deals has become a balancing act between GRM and EBITDA multiples. Recession or not, equilibrium in the market or not, tax policies or not, fiscally sound investment opportunities in the golf industry are ever present and worthy of pursuit. ◊

HOW AMERICAN FREE TIME IS CHANGING & ITS IMPACT ON GOLF (CONT. FROM PG 3)

your free time. Time with family and friends likely comes first. Then stuff you have to get done, or the things you are committed to doing. Playing a round of golf, for example, is a much lower priority than playing golf in your Thursday league. Golf is not broken. It just has to fight for attention, time and investment in a world now dominated by cell phones and social media.

Time with family and friends: These are the highest free-time priorities. Make your strategies around how you enhance the opportunities and quality of experience with family and friends. Make the golfing experience about a better way to be with family and friends, not just about your score to par. ♦

This article is an edited version of Dr. Luker's NGF Symposium on how golf can improve its standing with fans.

STATE OF THE GOLF INVESTMENT MARKET (CONT. FROM PG 1)

some synergies between ClubCorp and recently acquired Diamond Resorts International. In addition, Apollo does not tend to make moves that are not calculated to return an above market IRR.

really hurting as they and others suggest?

Critics will point out that the purchase price of \$1.1B is \$700M less than KSL paid in 2006, and lower than the outstanding debt of \$1.99B. They also noted that ClubCorp had a net loss of \$7.9 Million during the first quarter of 2017. However, the critics got it wrong, we know the ostensible purchase price was twice \$1.1B

NGF refutes notion: “golf is dying, millennials are not interested and golf is just a bunch of old white guys.”

Club Corp has openly discussed the fact that they are not a golf company, but rather a membership company. In reality, they are a member based leisure company with a significant position in both golf clubs and non-golf clubs. During the past several years, ClubCorp has been implementing their capital reinvention plan with a focus on all the leisure activities that a family might desire as opposed to strictly golf. This fact will be very important as you read on in this article, when we discuss **Richard Luker's earth shattering research**

Who didn't know golf courses were capital intensive? That is not news. The perception that the golf industry has cratering participation and that younger players are not taking up the game of golf, needs to be analyzed further. At the NGF conference this past May, it was reported that golf participation has indeed slipped again from 24.1M to 23.8M golfers, however the NGF suggests the standard deviation is about +/- 900K, so the slide could actually be a gain. We have seen precipitous declines from 2007-2012 and starting in 2013, the declines have been significantly slower. Below is a summary of research the NGF presented. It suggests, golf is going to be okay.

A high-profile Wall Street analyst, who reportedly shorted ClubCorp's stock, trumpeted golf participation is waning, younger players are not picking up the game and golf courses are intensive to operate. Could they have skewed this information to drive the stock value down, or is the industry

New/first- time golfers

- ♦ 2.5M people Played Golf First Time
- ♦ Highest in number of new people since 2000
- ♦ At Tiger's peak there was only 2.4M
- ♦ 3 of 4 of the first time golfers are under 35 Years Old (Millennials)
- ♦ 34% First Time Players are female

STATE OF THE GOLF INVESTMENT MARKET (CONT. FROM PG 7)

Break down of current participation vs historicals

- ◇ 24% of all golfers are Female (Highest in History)
- ◇ 3M Junior Golfers are (Holding Steady)
- ◇ 25% of golfers are Non-Caucasian (20 years ago non-Caucasian was only 6%)
- ◇ 33% (1/3) of golfers are Females (20 years Ago only 17%)

Millennials in golf

- ◇ 35% of golfers are Millennials
- ◇ 6.2M Millennials Played Golf
- ◇ 5.1M Millennials Very Interested in playing and 10.1M Millennials Somewhat Interested
- ◇ Millennials Delayed Not Abandoned Golf
- ◇ 27 Year old golfers participation peaked in 1990's
- ◇ 35 Year old golfers peaked in 2010
- ◇ (The data above suggests Millennials are Playing Golf, just at a Later Age)

True participation in golf on grass, simulated grass (golf simulators) and golf ranges like Top Golf

- ◇ 8M Top Golf, Simulated Golf and Driving Ranges
- ◇ 24M Golfers & 8M Golfers (Simulators, Top Golf, Driving Range) = 32M golfers playing golf

So does the Kerrisdale Capital Management comments regarding waning participation in golf and millennial lack of interest in golf mean that ClubCorp, or for that matter the industry, is in trouble? I won't call it fake news, it is repeated news that is not entirely wrong, but certainly would leave one to believe golf is in trouble without further investigation into the numbers. It may be more accurate to say, the face of golf is changing and as a result, how we measure it should change.

In addition, maybe the future is brighter than what the naysayers seem to think. If you look just at statistics and read them one way, anyone could say golf is in trouble, but the same media pundits who are decrying the fall of golf said Apple computer was dead in the mid 1990s. Here is a quote from Fortune Magazine:

**Fortune, 2/19/1996: "By the time you read this story, the quirky cult company...will lend its wild ride as an independent enterprise."*

Whoops, they not only got it wrong, Apple is the largest capitalized firm in the world. Let me repeat, 80%-90% of analysts and newspaper writers left Apple for dead.

NGF Changing how we measure golf:

Looking at the NGF research, Millennials represent 1/3 of all golfers, however many are being introduced to the game later

in life because the cost made golf prohibitive during the recession. Another explanation for the delay of millennials taking up the game of golf is family commitments. Millennials are having babies and getting married later than baby boomers and gen-xers did. These 28-32 year olds with young families and busy work schedules, want to spend more time with family and friends and simply don't have time to play golf on the weekend. Some other encouraging statistics from the NGF research, show participation by women and non-Caucasians are both on the rise. Roughly 8M beginners and novices have been exposed to golf at alternative golf facilities as Top Golf and golf simulators. It is not a stretch to consider them to be our industry's farm team. The introduction to the game and these non-threatening entertainment venues create curiosity and interest in both playing golf and challenging in their skills on a real golf course. The research has shown that people who go to these facilities are five-times more likely to play golf on green grass facilities.

All Major Sports Declining Interest

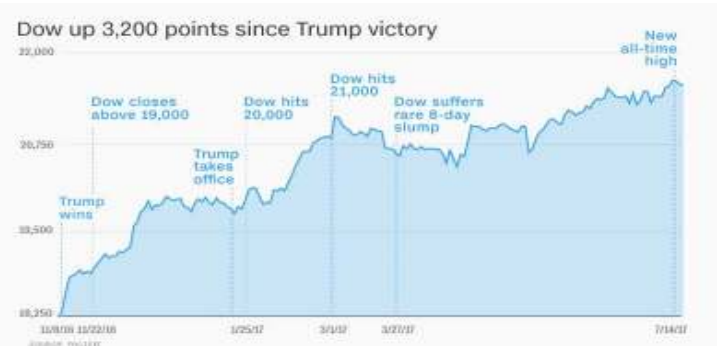
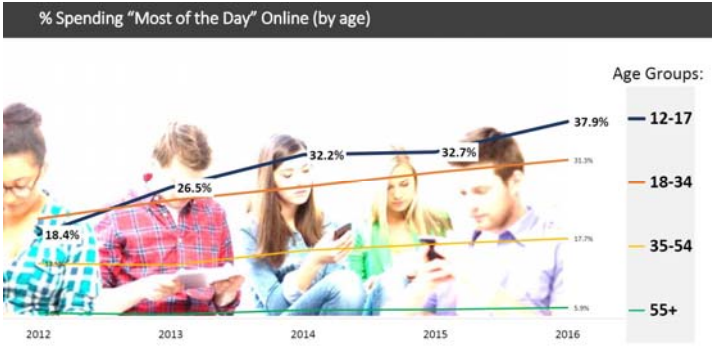
The most exciting research that I have seen, the Eureka moment of the last five years, came from Richard Luker's company [Luker on Trends](#). In January of 2011, [Luker on Trends](#) began managing the ESPN Sports Poll. Since its launch in January of 1994 by Richard Luker, the ESPN Sports Poll has conducted interviews on a nearly daily basis. Luker

"Interest in all sports is going down, golf is not unique."

states, "The depth of our interviewing allows us to analyze fans extensively and provide breakthrough strategic intelligence to our clients". He has been hired by the NFL, Major League baseball, etc. to study interest in major sports since the 1994. He is the world's authority on the amount of interest in a sport, what causes that interest, what is driving that interest and how to measure it. He stated this fact: "Interest in all sports is going down, golf is not unique."

Please reference our article on Page Three "How American Free Time is Changing & its Impact on Golf" for a full discussion of Dr. Luker's research. But one thing is very clear: I never heard these facts in the news. We certainly did not see them appear in the **Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg, USA Today or CNN**. All we heard from those publications was that golf's participation was going down and the sport of golf is on life support, nearing death. His research suggests all sports are losing their base. And guess what caused it? There is a mathematical correlation between time spent on the internet and a reduction in participation in both watching sports and interest in sports. His research shows the steady increase in different tranches of age group individuals and how their time on the internet has increased over the years. In fact, internet usage has usurped so much of people's time that research shows they actually want to find ways to get away from being on-line so much. Luker's study demonstrates what people value and how they prioritize what they value most.

STATE OF THE GOLF INVESTMENT MARKET (CONT. FROM PG 8)



The number one priority in people’s lives is spending their free time with family, followed by spending time with friends, doing something physical combined with being outdoors. Golf is the only sport that combines these top four values, suggesting that in the future, both millennials and non-millennials alike will find that golf is ideally suited as a high demand free time activity.

Average and Median Golf Values Down

For the first time since 2012, the average and median sale prices for golf courses were both down, 34% and 24% respectively, year over year. This is only mid-year data, and these numbers could change significantly by the end of the year. However we don’t see 2017 ending up as it did in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. Recent golf course sales trends: smaller golf deal sizes, transactions where the sellers are not walking away with cash, (meaning buyers will pay off debt and provide cap-ex capital, but no value beyond that), lack of available financing and buyers that fattened up on acquisitions at great yields during the recession, have resulted in investors becoming much more selective. We believe the rest of 2017 will be similar.

Fed Increases Interest Rates:

On top of a market that was already lending restricted we had another interest rate hike and likely one more by year end making the cost of money more expensive. Higher cost of funds results in decreasing values for Sellers.

Tightening Cycle	Starting Rate	Ending Rate	Duration (in months)	Total Rate Increase
Dec 1986 - Sep 1987	5.875%	7.25%	9	1.375%
Mar 1988 - Feb 1989	6.50%	9.75%	11	3.25%
Feb 1994 - Feb 1995	3.00%	6.00%	12	3.00%
Jun 1999 - May 2000	4.75%	6.50%	11	1.75%
Jun 2004 - June 2006	1.00%	5.25%	24	4.25%

* Our analysis excludes the Fed's one-time rate hike in March 1957
** Data: Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Trump’s Affect on Golf

Trump’s election has had little effect on golf course values or operations, although the proposed payroll legislation that stated that a person had to earn \$47K to be salaried did not pass. The imposition of health care on small businesses looks like it may be repealed this year if the republicans can stop fighting each other and unify for this one piece of legislation.

Removing the burden of health care on course owners along with restrictions and legislation, should make it easier for all businesses including golf to operate.

Conclusion:

While golf values are down significantly in the first half of 2017, by the end of the year, they may not be as bad as it looks and we, the golf industry, just like the stock market, were due for a correction. The reason we were due, is that we had four consecutive years of increasing values without the corresponding material increases in rounds, dues or average revenue per round. Sales prices in all commercial real estate are driven by EBITDA/NOI. If EBITDA/NOI is not increasing, values typically are flat. A significant amount of golf REO (bank foreclosures) hit the market 2011-2014, driving values artificially low. We believe much of the bounce back from 2013-2016 was due to the fact buyers were betting they could fix poorly operated distressed properties and gain immediate value increases. Now with very little distressed supply on the market from lenders, the golf industry will need real material gains in revenue and EBITDA/NOI to move the value needle.

Will Trump’s policies help? Yes. Will interest rate increases hurt? Yes. Will the ClubCorp sale acting as a bell weather for the industry, be good for us or bad? **We are hoping for good and betting on a good outcome as Apollo has some very bright people working for them. We think they will provide more resources for ClubCorp to work with.** The NGF research clearly shows the face of golf is changing, it is more diverse, attracting more females, millennials and minorities. Non- green grass golf facilities like Top Golf and simulators have a roll to play in our industry and could be a great farm team for our industry in the years to come. Finally for green golf facilities, Richard Luker’s research shows among all sports, golf is the only one that fulfills what people want and value in their free time: to spend time with friends and family, be out doors and do something recreationally. We are going to be okay. ♦

2017 SALES ACTIVITY — THE \$1M-\$10M INVESTMENT TRANCHE

By Kody Tibbetts ◊ Kody.Tibbetts@MarcusMillichap.com

The below analysis focuses specifically in the \$1M - \$10M investment tranche – generally considered the most important subset of golf-specific transaction activity. These values are driven primarily by property fundamentals specific to the business of golf, and therefore most telling towards overall investor sentiment. All sales figures previously presented in the “State of the Golf Investment Market” are derived from analysis of a larger universe of golf transactions, those between \$250K—\$75M, and therefore differ.

The Leisure Investment Properties Group tracked 67 golf course transactions during the first half of 2017, of which 56 were made available with price and sales information. Through the first half of 2017, the volume of transactions was on pace with 2015 & 2016, but we saw fewer high-end asset sales and many more smaller transactions which led to a decrease in both average and median golf course sale prices. Although both average and median values are down, keep in mind that this only reflects the first half of the year and could change significantly by the end of 2017.

Focusing on the “core” data, the \$1M to \$10M investment tranche, we saw 36 transactions take place or 64% of the total transactions. The average sales price in this range was \$3,165,799, which is down approximately 6.2% from 2016’s total of \$3,360,881 and down 6.3% from 2015’s total of \$3,363,985. The median price point also took a slight dip from 2016’s total of \$2,800,000 to \$2,725,000, approximately 2.8%, but the 2017 median price is still actually higher than 2015’s median price of \$2,700,000. As you can see, by focusing on what we call the “core” data in golf, it writes a vastly different story, showing average and median golf course sale prices only taking a slight dip in the first half of 2017, whereas if you were to compare the average and median values for all transactions in 2017 it would show we are down 34% and 24%, respectively when compared to 2016.

As discussed earlier in the State of the Investment Market, average and median values could significantly change by the end of the year, however we don’t see 2017 ending up as it did in previous years due to smaller transaction sizes, transactions where the sellers are getting no walk away cash, tougher financing terms and political unrest. For these reasons, investors have become very picky and we this trend will continue through the end of the year . ◊

RECENT SALES								
Course Name	Sale Price	Sale Date	Market	State	# Holes	Acres	Club Type	Gross Revenue - EBITDA
Kingsmill Resort & Spa	\$30,700,000	March	Williamsburg	VA	54	2900	Resort	Confidential
Carlton Oaks Country Club	\$16,000,000	May	Santee	CA	18	104	Daily Fee	Confidential
Pinecroft Country Club	\$10,000,000	February	Huntingdon Valley	PA	36	295	Private	Confidential
The Woodmere Club	\$9,947,047	April	Woodmere	NY	18	110	Private	Confidential
Valano Country Club	\$8,160,000	February	Chino Hills	CA	18	209	Private	Confidential
The Legacy Golf Club	\$5,600,000	July	Henderson	NV	10	177	Daily Fee	Confidential
Twin Rivers Golf Club	\$4,926,700	April	Oviedo	FL	18	307	Daily Fee	Confidential
River Bend Country Club	\$4,500,000	June	West Bridgewater	MA	18	167	Daily Fee	Confidential
Pont Roberts Golf & Country Club	\$4,450,000	July	Pont Roberts	WA	18	154	Daily Fee	Confidential
Colony West Golf Club	\$4,000,000	May	Tamarac	FL	36	262	Daily Fee	Confidential
Belview Blinn Golf Club	\$3,800,000	June	Bellar	FL	18	136	Daily Fee	Confidential
Decatur Country Club	\$3,700,000	May	Decatur	AL	10	90	Semi-private	Confidential
Dismal River Golf Club	\$3,500,000	January	Sand Hills	NE	36	245	Resort	Confidential
Arrowhead Country Club	\$3,500,000	April	San Bernardino	CA	18	107	Private	Confidential
Wildhorse Golf Club	\$3,250,000	April	Davis	CA	10	165	Public	Confidential
The Sinatra Resort & Country Club	\$3,100,000	April	Rancho Mirage	CA	10	104	Private/Resort	Confidential
Eagle Ridge Golf Club	\$3,050,000	January	Lakewood	NJ	27	106	Semi-private	Confidential
The Courses at London Bridge	\$3,000,000	June	Havas	AZ	36	200	Daily Fee	Confidential
Bobcat Trail	\$2,850,000	June	North Port	FL	18	113	Daily Fee	Confidential
Andover Golf & Country Club	\$2,950,000	April	Lexington	KY	18	170	Daily Fee	Confidential
Eagle's Nest Country Club	\$2,500,000	February	Phoenix	MD	18	210	Private	Confidential
Keys Golf Course & Driving Range	\$2,400,000	May	Huron	OH	9	47	Daily Fee	Confidential
Westmoreland Country Club	\$2,400,000	February	Export	PA	18	65	Private	Confidential
Laughlin Ranch	\$2,175,000	June	Bullhead City	AZ	18	156	Daily Fee	Confidential
North Hills Country Club	\$2,100,000	February	Glenview	PA	18	110	Private	Confidential
Springfield Country Club	\$1,985,000	March	West Springfield	MA	18	180	Private	Confidential
Warren Valley Golf Course	\$1,800,000	June	Dearborn Heights	MI	18	220	Daily Fee	Confidential
Oak Harbor Golf Club	\$1,600,000	March	Stonel	LA	10	300	Daily Fee	Confidential
Sun Dance Golf Course	\$1,700,000	February	Nine Mile Falls	WA	18	89	Daily Fee	Confidential
Stonington Country Club	\$1,525,000	March	Stonington	CT	18	154	Private	Confidential
The Falls Resort & Golf Club	\$1,500,000	January	Falls of Rough	KY	18	250	Resort	Confidential
Copperport at Cherokee Hills GC	\$1,400,000	May	Valley City	OH	18	70	Daily Fee	Confidential
Rio Bravo Country Club	\$1,250,000	June	Bakersfield	CA	10	180	Private	Confidential
Coffee Creek Golf Course	\$1,250,000	January	Edmond	OK	18	182	Daily Fee	Confidential
Grandview Golf Club	\$1,205,000	May	York	PA	18	96	Semi-private	Confidential
Orchard Hills Country Club	\$1,200,000	June	Barboursville	WV	9	101	Daily Fee	Confidential
Pinewood Country Club	\$1,150,000	June	Stonel	LA	18	89	Semi-Private	Confidential
Laurel Valley Golf Course	\$1,150,000	March	Townsend	TN	10	110	Private	Confidential

*Sales Below \$1M Not Shown

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