Golf Architects Re-elect; Set Membership Rule

Robert Bruce Harris, Chicago, was re-elected pres., American Society of Golf Course Architects at the association's meeting at Pinehurst during first week in December. Stanley Thompson, Toronto, was re-elected vp, Robert Trent Jones, New York, sec.-treas., and Donald Ross, honorary pres. Ten of the 13 charter members of the association which was formed during the GSA 1947 convention attended the Pinehurst meeting. Ross and his partner, J. B. McGovern, were the association's hosts.

Members reported considerable new course and alteration work. Great improvement in earth handling methods, progress in water and drainage equipment and methods, and advance in turf development has made it possible now to build a course at practically no greater cost than that of 10 to 20 years ago, according to architects and builders at the Pinehurst meeting. New mechanical methods of handling dirt also have brought course alteration, especially removal of severe grades, within price reach. Donald Ross told of removal of hills on six holes at Allegheny CC (Pittsburgh dist.) recently by new earth handling methods that made possible a job that would have been prohibitive in cost a few years before the war.

A constitution and code of ethics were adopted. Provisions were made for election of new members. A regular member must satisfy the Board of Governors of the ASGA that "he is responsible and ethical, and competent to design, maintain and direct the construction of golf courses, and meet the following requirements:

"Be at least 30 years of age.

"Have at least 6 years experience in golf course design and construction."

"Have designed at least 5 creditable golf courses and directed construction work on at least 5 golf courses. Collaboration on construction with members of the Society who recommend the applicant will satisfy this requirement in lieu of independent design and direction of construction."

Other classes of membership include "complimentary" members who are amateurs not accepting payment for their work or who have made notable contributions to science; honorary members who are professional golf architects who have made notable contributions to the profession or the advancement of the game; and senior members who have been in good standing for 10 years or more and have reached the age of 70.

Details of the organization may be secured from sec.-treas. Robert Trent Jones, Jr., 20 Vesey st., New York, N.Y.

ELLIS MAPLES’ BUILDS CLINTON — Ellis Maples recently completed 9-hole Coharie CC, Clinton, N.C. It’s the first complete job Ellis has done as golf architect and builder, although he has reconstructed several courses with results that have been highly commended. Ellis and his brother, Henson, are sons of the veteran Pinehurst supt., Frank Maples, and have been brought up under top talent of their noted greenkeeping dad, the Pinehurst architectural sage Donald Ross, and the Pinehurst pro staff. Ellis resigned as pro at the New Bern (N.C.) CC in June last year to go into golf course design and construction. He intends to develop the extensive possibilities of first class 9-hole courses in smaller cities, carrying the projects clear through from helping local parties get the clubs organized to supplying them with excellent courses economically maintained.