Developers Say Palm Beach Gardens-PGA Contract Signed

Royal American Industries, which is developing Palm Beach Gardens subdivision, has issued a release saying that Lou Strong, PGA president, and John D. MacArthur have signed a contract that moves the PGA headquarters to the real estate development northwest of Palm Beach, Fla.

No announcement of details had been made in PGA publicity. Strong says that PGA members will be familiarized with the construction and operation budgets of the Palm Beach Gardens project after the executive committee meets during the PGA Championship. Initially, the Palm Beach Garden-PGA deal was referred to by some officials as involving a $2 million property. Strong says in the Royal American publicity release that the "evaluation on the two 18-hole championship courses and clubhouse, which also will house the national headquarters office of the PGA, is $3 million." He advises that the PGA will borrow $1 million as initial financing.

Hall Withdraws Objections

Following a PGA executive committee meeting at Palm Beach and letters to presidents and secretaries of PGA sections advising that the Palm Beach Gardens deal had been approved, PGA treasurer George L. Hall, who had repeatedly objected to terms of the contract, wrote section officials that he "would refrain from making further objections" and cooperate with the executive committee decision.

No PGA release covering the executive committee decision was made to the PGA membership in general, newspapers or magazines.

The Royal American Industries release stated that signing of the contract by MacArthur and Strong put "an official end to rumors and speculation" concerning the move of the PGA headquarters to north Palm Beach County.

The signing was a formal recognition of an agreement already understood by the parties involved. "The only reason for the long delay," according to Strong, "is that the time schedule agreed upon in November, 1961, when the announcement was first made was too tight to
Aqua-GRO has paid off. We don't have near as much worry about the greens drying out—I mean the water and the time it takes to syringe them. You don't have to syringe as often, and it doesn't take as much time.

"I started using Aqua-GRO three years ago because of the heavy clay soil. You'd get a rain and the water wouldn't penetrate. Especially on the #18, where there is just a little bit of a sway. Aqua-GRO seemed to open it up . . . the water is gone . . . it's wonderful on wet areas."

Virginia Active in New Course Development

By HARRY C. ECKHOFF
Director, Eastern Region
National Golf Foundation

With the opening of ten new golf courses and additions in the last year, Virginia has a total of 150 courses of which 137 are regulation length and 13 are Par-3 layouts. A further study of the Old Dominion's golfing setup reveals that there are 84 9-hole facilities and 66 18-hole operations in the following categories: 102 private clubs; 41 semi-private and 7 municipal.

Among the new courses opened in Virginia in recent months were the following 9-hole layouts: Hanover CC in Ashland; Nottoway River CC, Blackstone; Alleghany CC, Covington; Natural Bridge GC, Natural Bridge; Gordon Trent GC, Stuart; and Carpers Valley in Winchester.

River Bend CC at Great Falls, Va., and Aero Pines GC, a Navy facility at Oceana, each have opened a second nine for play. Bow Creek CC, 18 holes —