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What club committees do you serve on?*

- Golf: 26.0%
- Tournament: 28.6%
- Rules: 5.2%
- Handicap: 6.9%
- Greens: 16.9%
- Publicity: 1.3%
- Social and Hospitality: 4.3%
- Pro Shop: .4%
- Board of Directors: 3.5%
- ALL: 17.7%
- NONE: 20.3%

PENSION PLANS

Does your club provide a retirement plan or pension program for its employees?

- Yes: 11.4%
- No: 88.6%

If so, how long has it been in effect?

- Up to 3 years: 27.5%
- 4-6 years: 25.0%
- 7-10 years: 10.0%
- Over 10 years: 37.5%

If the club does not have a plan, is one being considered?

- Yes: 14.5%
- No: 85.5%

Do you feel that the PGA should have a pension plan for all PGA pros?

- Yes: 94.2%
- No: 5.6%

Do you feel that the PGA is doing enough to institute such a program?

- Yes: 21.0%
- No: 79.0%

Contracts

Do you have a contract with the club?

- Yes: 58.9%
- No: 41.1%

Do you have only a verbal understanding?

- Yes: 98.0%
- No: 2.0%

If you have a written contract, what is the length of contract time?

- Under 1 year: 12.8%
- 1 year: 37.9%
- 2 years: 8.4%
- 3 years: 13.3%
- 4 years: .5%
- 5 years: 17.2%
- 6 years: .5%
- 7 years: .5%
- Over 7 years: 2.5%
- Lifetime: 6.4%

Do you feel that a contract is desirable?

- Yes: 70.4%
- No: 29.6%

(See accompanying comments.)

Should the PGA do more?

A key question in the survey asked professionals what, if anything, the PGA should be doing to help further the interests of the club professional, which it is not now doing.

Most felt that the framework of the Association should be strengthened—along the lines of labor unions, if necessary—to aid pros in obtaining better contracts and pension plans. The friction between the working club pro and those “glamor boys” of the tour became evident from the answers, and there were many pleas that touring pros’ endorsements be limited to pro shop lines of golfing equipment.

Other battles in which the working pros felt that the PGA might offer more assistance include the barring of pro lines from shops not owned by PGA pros, and those owned by the clubs; help combat price-cutting and discount houses; help pros keep clubs from taking over the pro shops and golf cars, and a public relations campaign by the PGA to “educate” the public on the value of the home club professional.

Typical answers to this question:

“Just about everything. Junk their red coats and insignia and get down to promoting the PGA member with traveling clinics and advertisements.”

“Withdraw Class-A rating from pros who take jobs without full concessions.”

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SHOULD PGA DO MORE?
Continued from page 26

"Any PGA pro at a course not having full proceeds from the shop should be barred from the PGA."

"It is hard to say as there is little the pro can do if the club decides to get rid of him. I can give two examples of this happening in King Mike Brady at Winged Foot and Bill Gordon at Tam O'Shanter. The PGA could drop from its membership any pro applying for jobs at clubs where a PGA pro is located."

"I was a member of PGA for 30 years, but quit in 1954. I felt I was getting nothing out of it."

"Some plan to protect the pro from unfair price-cutting and discount houses getting pro-line merchandise, and letting the touring pros have their names associated with balls and clubs they do not use themselves."

"They could do something for the club pro—all you hear is the touring pro. Run tournaments from club pros statewide and have a play-off for the four or

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SHOULD PGA DO MORE?
Continued from page 88

tive spots in each state. Give the club
pro some recognition he deserves.”

“I have been a member of the PGA
for 49 years and I don’t think they ever
did much for the club pro except that
his wife gets $1,000 when he dies and he
has a Class-A certificate to hang on the
wall showing he is a bona fide golf pro-
fessional. Very few pros I know of ever
got a job through the organization.”

“More focus on club pro problems and
less on the glamor boys of the playing
circuit. It is 7,000 other PGA members
versus about 300 on the circuit.”

“Control professional advertising for
storeline merchandise. Some protection
is needed against clubs taking the golf
shops away. There should be minimum
contracts for the PGA golf pro.”

More comments on the PGA due in October.

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