

NEWS OF THE INDUSTRY continued

Michigan PGA Section Pros To Hire Executive Director

The Michigan PGA Section has voted to increase dues and hire an executive director beginning in September.

At its fall meeting, Roger Van Dyke of Flint Golf Club was elected president, taking over from Tom Talkington, Barton Hill Country Club. Van Dyke said the officers had been studying the possibility of an executive director for the past year.

He said the section feels this is the direction that should be taken, because the section has become a bigger and bigger job to run, and a problems for the officers to handle alone. The new executive director will have responsibilities for tournament scheduling, increasing purses and organizing operations that will benefit all section members. Other



Otto Mercer of Bowie Industries recently presented Bowie knives mounted on plaques to the president and past presidents of the Golf Course Builders of America. From left, Henry L. Nielson Jr., Nielson Construction Co., Warwick, N.Y.; Robert Vincent of the Robert Vincent Co., Benton, Pa.; Mercer; David Canavan of Moore Golf, Culpeper, Va.; and Frank Underwood of Underwood Golf Course Construction, Bowie, Texas, 1975 president.

officers elected at the meeting were Jim Appleton, Washtenaw Country Club, secretary; Jim Dewling, Great Oaks Country Club, treasurer; Hal Whittington, Burr Oaks Golf Club, first vice president; Greg Matthews, Kalamazoo Elks Country Club, second vice president; Norm Bennett, Katke County Club, Jack Rosely, Traverse City Country Club, and Bernie Shirle, Owosso Country Club, at-large vice presidents; Ben Lula, Country Club of Detroit, Jeff Voss, Riverside Country Club and Ron La Parl, Battle Creek Country Club, directors.

Players Okay Turf Changes To Inverrary Country Club

Four players from the PGA Tour have placed their stamps of approval on changes made to the East Course of the Inverrary County Club specifically for the 1976 Tournament Players Championship which opens on the Florida site Feb. 25. Some of the changes will interest pros and superintendents across the country.

Alterations were made to 14 holes since the 1975 Jackie Gleason Inverrary Classic. The modifications include the extension and changing of several tees. The fairways were widened and the landing

areas improved. Several greens were changed; some are now smaller and others larger than before. Mounds for spectators have been created in back of several greens.

Tour player Bob Murphy, who won last year's Gleason tournament, said after playing the course the most significant change is the removal of a mound on the ninth hole. He was referring to a mound 200 feet long and up to eight feet in height that was parallel to the fairway and to the left of the landing area of the pros' drives. Because it was opposite a fairway bunker, the landing area was only 15 yards wide. Virtually every player in past tournaments took a long iron, or a three or four wood off the tee to lay up short and then selected a stronger club for the second shot into the green on the par-four, 438-yard hole.

Following a test round PGA officials decided on another change. The rough surrounding the greens will be eliminated for the TPC, thus making the course similar to Pinehurst No. 2, where the World Open is played. Rough along the fairway will be allowed to grow at Inverrary. The turf will be shaved down to 1/2 inch, the same as the fairways. Players will have to be more accurate with their approaches.

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