

# News

## CONVENTIONS

### Attorney, NCA president clash in D.C.

CONVENTIONS, 11  
COMPANIES, 12  
TOURNAMENTS, 14  
MEMBERSHIPS, 14  
NEW GOLF COURSES, 14  
ASSOCIATIONS, 14  
PROMOTING THE GAME, 14  
COURSE RENOVATION, 15  
CALENDAR, 15  
LABOR, 15

Kathleen O'Reilly's audience disagreed with her, but the Washington, D.C., attorney's voice reached a fierce pitch to make her point: that no person should be rejected from a private club because of race, sex, or religion.

In a sense, National Club Association President Milton "Bob" Meyer agreed. He said that the key difference which usually decides membership is the ability to afford to join. But he maintained that clubs must be able to deny any person the privilege to join a club for any reason. "It may also be referred to as the right to exclude," he said. "A club must be selective or it is not a bonafide club under concept or under law."

This presentation on a club's right to reject persons opened the National Club Association convention October 6 in Washington, D.C. If NCA Executive Director Gerald Hurley was attempting to immediately capture the attention of the conventioners' with the injection of an anti-club speaker, he did so. The message was a no-nonsense reminder that the private club concept is being challenged, possibly more

vociferously than ever.

Meyer stressed the legality of private clubs. He cited opinions by former U.S. Supreme Court justices Arthur Goldberg and William O. Douglas which defended the right to associate in private clubs. He was also pleased with the high court's decision earlier that week to refuse an appeal of a lawsuit seeking to allow women into the Kiwanis International service club.

Miss O'Reilly, however, refused to soften her words to placate the club representatives. Instead, she ripped into the alleged goings-on inside of private clubs and cited one Washington group to emphasize her objective. She said The Barristers, a group of trial lawyers, meet secretly to decide which one of its members should be "set up" for judges positions and other political posts in the District of Columbia.

Miss O'Reilly, who said she was denied membership to the group, chastised the club for allowing such decisions to be made without public scrutiny, and indicated that injustices will continue in the United States until such situations are rectified. "The most vulnerable, the

most exploitable groups have to be privy to this kind of information," she said.

She was questioned by several conventioners about what criteria she believes should be established to deny club membership to any person. She felt that failure to perform "civic requirements" should be one reason for turning down an application.

Miss O'Reilly is also director of the Consumer Federation of America, an organization that has asked all federal agencies to forbid their employees from appearing before any group that denies membership based on differences of race, sex, or religion. At least 21 agencies have agreed, she said.

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Just two of the 26 exhibitors did not sell golf-related goods at the NCA's second annual exposition. Many conventioners were attracted to the booth occupied by Arista Information Systems, Inc., a computer firm, one of 13 new

**BELOW: Oregonians NCA Director Houston White, Corvallis CC; Sen. Mark Hatfield; and Robert Johannesen, manager, Multnomah Athletic Club.**

Attorney Kathleen O'Reilly spoke out at the NCA convention against private clubs' "right to reject" membership applicants.



companies with an exhibit. There were 7 or 8 more companies with exhibits than at last year's exposition, Hurley said.

There is some doubt if the club association will have an exposition next year since there was a small number of exhibits, but Hurley indicated the NCA plans no change.

"It looks as though we're still on," he said the week after the convention ended. "We're in the process of building a show. We're not going to be an enormous, huge exhibit, but companies know we're trying to bring the decision-makers, the thought-leaders of the prestige clubs around the country (to the convention)."

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Persons attending the convention also witnessed U.S. Rep. Barber Conable caution President Carter on his relationship with Congress, a shuffling in the positions of some club officers, and a luncheon in the Senate Caucus Room.

Conable, a New York Republican, told the banquet audience that President Carter may have trouble getting approval for some of his programs unless he does two things: delegate more responsibility to his subordinates and work closer with congressmen on many issues.

Conable said the President is spending too much time on minute details regarding proposed tax regulations. He also cited Carter's failure to seek the views of key congressmen before sending them a legislative proposal, and believes this is a primary reason there is no national energy policy. The speaker also reminded conventioners that the President has proposed to eliminate the tax deduction for club dues. The proposal will have to be presented to the House Ways and Means committee, but Conable, the ranking Republican member on the committee, did not take a stand on the issue during his speech.

Club members were given an opportunity to meet several senators and aides for others during a luncheon on Capitol Hill October 7.

Sens. Mark Hatfield of Oregon, John Heinz III of Pennsylvania, and Alan Cranston of California



*These three pros from Pacific Harbour constitute three-fourths of the members of the newly formed Fiji Professional Golfers Association: Veramu Rokotavaga, Peter Clutton (head pro), and Bose Lutunatabua. The fourth member is Eddie Emerson, pro at the Fijian Hotel. All can now compete in tournaments throughout the world.*

appeared for at least part of the 3-hour period. Some club members discussed proposals that would affect clubs, such as another plan by President Carter to cut tax deductions in half for business entertainment expenses.

In other convention business, Sam M. Berry of Quail Hollow Country Club in Charlotte, N.C., was elected as a second vice president. His secretary's spot was filled with the election of Harold B. Berman of The Columbian Country Club of Dallas. Hurley said the election of a second vice president would aid the transfer of duties if Meyre declines to run for president next year. "We wanted to bring additional people on for reasons of succession in future years," he said.

Several seminars were held, including one called "Decision-Making Data for Club Officers," on October 8, the final day of the convention.

Philadelphia accountant Joseph Hilger, in an informal survey of clubs represented at the convention, found that most clubs do not prepare a 5-year plan. He considers this planning tool a necessity for clubs to have a viable future.

## COMPANIES

### Toro reports increase in equipment sales

The Toro Co. of Minneapolis reported that its sale of turf maintenance products rose 21 percent and turf irrigation sales jumped 23 percent in fiscal 1977. The company reported a record \$161 million in overall sales, a 17 percent increase, officials said.

### Sounder swing device used in 900 shops

Sounder Sports, a division of Pratt-Read in Ivoryton, Conn., says that more 900 pro and golf specialty shops now have a "Sounder Demonstration Center" that allows customers to better judge the swingweight of golf clubs.

The pro shops are given a machine called a swing simulator. The company claims the machine, which moves the club from the position of addressing the ball through the backswing and downswing, shows that each Sounder club has the same weight.

"You just have to worry about one kind of swing," says John Naftzger, marketing communications specialist for the company.

Club pros and personnel can call 800/243-0872 toll-free for further information. Personnel at the number also inform consumers about the nearest pro shop with the swing simulator, so pro shop personnel will be speaking with persons who are reasonably interested in buying equipment when they visit the shop, the company says.

### Ryan turf equipment moves to Nebraska

The production of Ryan gas-powered maintenance equipment will be moved from St. Paul, Minn., to the main production plant in Lincoln, Neb., the parent company, Outboard Marine Corp., has announced.

Production will begin at the Lincoln plant about December 1, but workers at the St. Paul facility have stockpiled equipment so there will be no shortages during the transfer. "We've assured dealers they will be able to get goods and parts during the 30- to 60-day interruption," said Frank McDonald, an OMC spokesman.

The move will put all Ryan-Cushman manufacturing in a 500,000-square-foot building. Since the engineering and marketing personnel are there also, company officials believe all divisions will be more efficient, McDonald said. OMC officials hope to sell the 80,000-square-foot building in St. Paul.

### New York firms to produce putter

Two New York companies have signed an agreement to market and manufacture the Pulse putter to be sold only in golf pro shops.

The Bermas Plastics Co. of Long Island City, N.Y., will manufacture the club. N.G.C. Marketing Corp. of Setauket, N.Y.,