

PROS MEET

200 Discuss Tourney Details and Publicity — Dutra Heads Tournament Committee

MORE than 200 pros met at the Miami-Biltmore hotel the evening before the Biltmore open began in the largest pro meeting ever held and went over the signals with George Jacobus, president of the PGA.

The meeting was engineered by Tom Boyd, a vice-president of the association, who is doing missionary work for the organization among the pros who visit Miami during the winter. Boyd reported that 20 new members were signed up at Miami.

Restricting sectional open tournament entrance to PGA members was discussed at the meeting. The idea was approved by George Hammond, speaking for the Miami-Biltmore people. George remarked that a few exceptions were made in the present tournament but it looked like something worth considering if the PGA was willing to accept full responsibility for its members. The pros themselves brought up the idea of disciplinary action on their members in a manner that would warrant tournament sponsors restricting fields to PGA men.

There was comment on the \$15 entry fee at Miami-Biltmore. Some of the boys figuring that if the idea of the tournament was to attract home club pros who had only an outside chance of prize winning, the \$15 rap was stiff.

Method of selection of the Australian team was questioned and explained. A point brought out in this connection stressed the wisdom of promising younger pros joining the PGA. Laffoon, a new member, cashed in on his membership and playing ability with a great journey.

Bob Harlow spoke on the necessity of the PGA being the clearing house for tournament dates and told the boys what the tournament bureau was up against, trying to supply good fields to both California and Florida during the winter sessions. The difficulty is emphasized by the players wanting to give all tournament sponsors a good deal. As Johnny Farrell pointed out, the players must have a proper appreciation of the fact that the folks who put up the money deserve all pro cooperation possible.

Olin Dutra was named chairman of the PGA tournament committee. Other members of the committee as announced by Jacobus are: Craig Wood, vice-chairman; Gene Sarazen, Walter Hagen, Leo Diegel, Wiffy Cox, Horton Smith, Paul Runyan, Bobby Cruickshank, Harry Cooper and Al Espinosa.

Announcement was made of PGA championship qualifying round plans involving the award of \$2,500 for sectional qualifying scores.

The Jones Masters' tournament in 1935 will be for 55 invited players to which will be added the five players not on the invitation list who make lowest scores in the ten leading winter tournaments from Miami-Biltmore to Pinehurst. Harlow gave out this information at the Miami-Biltmore meeting.

Walter Hagen was acclaimed by his comrades in the cause, who spontaneously jumped to their feet after Walter had given the boys some of his genial line and advised them not to be alarmed about some idea being for the good of either the tournament players or the home club pro businessmen. If any idea will do the whole game some good, Walter said, selfishness of any faction in pro ranks is just plain dumb.

The boys were somewhat divided on publicity policies. Some of them advocated keeping their meetings closed to newspapermen while others spoke for a vigorous and open publicity policy, maintaining that if the pros had anything to be hidden from the newspapers it was the fault of the pros. More oratory than judgment and facts figured in the needless handling of the subject. However, it became evident a couple of days later that some pros are at sea on publicity when the suggestion of pro censorship of a news story on a revision of the Miami-Biltmore class A prize money stirred up slapping between two good guys—a pro and a newspaperman. The two concerned traded pokes and then made up and forgot like good boys.

Without the little debate with the paws on the place of censorship in news, the revision of the Miami-Biltmore prize money would have been worth a few lines—if anything—in the sports sections. But with punches being slung it made a story most newspapers were quick to play up in the absence of much action among the regulation boxers.