

PGA Elects Novak Chief at Annual Meeting

Joe Novak, Bel-Air CC, Los Angeles, became first Pacific Coast professional to become pres., PGA when he was elected at the association's annual meeting at Dunedin (Fla.) PGA GC. Novak defeated Horton Smith who was presented as a candidate by the Michigan section. Marty Lyons of Philadelphia was elected sec., and Wm. Wotherspoon, Tulsa, was re-elected treas.

Political tension was eased as the seven-year reign of Ed Dudley came to an end. Dudley was made captain of the 1949 Ryder Cup team and joined Tom Walsh as an honorary president of the PGA. Novak, formerly PGA sec. and long active in district and national PGA work, had been boomed as successor to Dudley from almost the time of Dudley's election in 1947. Smith was a late arrival, being proposed by Michigan and other sections late last summer. Contrary to his wishes Smith was also presented as a candidate for the secretary post.

No action was taken on limiting presidential term of office although the matter has been discussed frequently in sections. Objections to the long term in the unpaid office is based on risk of officials becoming too much interested in political machine operation and temptation for the boys to fall in love with show-boating as the pros' top man.

Resolution adopted at Dunedin included admitting to membership, pros with 5 years experience as playing pros in PGA co-sponsored tournaments, and admission of all PGA members and members of the Advisory committee to annual meetings.

The latter resolution raised the publicity Iron Curtain which hasn't done the association any good in its press relations or acquainted all members satisfactorily with organization operations. PGA's capable and discreet paid executive secretary points out that member criticism of PGA financial statement being "top secret" data is unfounded inasmuch as delegates to the annual meeting are given copies of the annual financial statement and can pass this material along to members.

Another resolution opened the way for

pros in all North, Central and South American countries to compete in PGA of American co-sponsored tournaments as "unaffiliated" members.

The USGA as the rule-making body of American golf was recognized in a PGA resolution which codified action taken after the blow-up on rules infractions last winter.

George Schneiter, tournament chmn., reported the tournament committee was in the black for the first time in its history. Minimum purse for PGA co-sponsored tournaments was raised for 1949 from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

The session on pro business gave the PGA meeting audience their first look at the National Golf Foundation's new color sound-slide film on golf instruction for schools and colleges, and the movies of the 1948 Masters and Goodall tournaments. A couple of prints of the Masters film are available for showing by PGA pros.

At the clinic Fred V. Grau of the USGA Green section spoke on the relationship between golf turf and shot requirements. Stanley Clark, MacGregor credit manager, spoke on "Your Friend the Credit Man," emphasizing the importance of inventory control, carefully studied buying and taking the 2% cash discount.

Lee Harrington of Wilson gave an excellent talk on the pro's business responsibilities to his members. Harrington accented giving the members a better break than they are inclined to expect and not to think that many members don't talk about it when they think the pro is a bit too "hungry" for his own good.

S. C. (Chick) Allen gave an interesting and informative statistical talk that gave the pros an accurate broad view of their business. He advocated development of the promotion-minded attitude of pros and particularly urged development of industrial golf.

Joe Novak told of his conduct of golf classes at UCLA. He told of giving the students basic instruction for several lessons before they got clubs in their hands. His policy in this detail confirms the in-

troductory section of the National Golf Foundation's school golf slidefilm.

Lloyd Mangrum demonstrated his technique and said he'd fitted the methods of masters in their various departments of the game. Mangrum and Toney Penna gave an outdoor demonstration of the tournament swing clinic routine, with Horton Smith at the mike.

Ben Hogan was presented with the PGA "Golfer of the Year" plaque at the annual presidents' dinner at which Scotty Fesenden presided as toastmaster. Ben gave a fine talk on his experiences as caddie and playing pro.

The PGA considered, but didn't act on, the Golf Writers' Association request that a Hagen trophy instead of the Vardon award be made for the PGA of America player having the year's lowest tournament scoring average.

Delegates enjoyed the PGA National course and were impressed by the job Alex Cunningham has done in bringing that plant into fine shape. Cost of holding the meeting at Dunedin was approximately \$5,000 more than cost of holding the conclave as usual in central location. In view of PGA financial problems, including that of the association's course, canny businessmen among the delegates doubted that the association again should pay expenses of an annual meeting away from a central point.

Pro Was a Pal to These Members

Jack Wilson, pro at Salina (Ks.) CC for 19 years died last fall after a lingering illness in a Salina hospital. Jack was denied visitors while he was hospitalized and his members hired radio time to tell him how they were getting along at the club, along with other unusually thoughtful performances to cheer him.

When it became known that Wilson's illness might be of long duration the club voted him salary for life. Members also organized a party at which \$5000 was raised to enable Jack to meet expenses of his illness. When Jack died, his wife Alma, who had handled his job while he was in the army, was paid his salary until Jan. 1, 1949 and given a life membership in the club.

Jack was a grand, faithful and competent fellow of the sort that pros can be proud of as representative of their profession.

American Golf's History Well Told in New Book

The Story of American Golf — Its Champions and Championships, by Herbert Warren Wind; \$15; 490 pages; published by Farrar, Straus & Co., 53 E. 54th St., New York.

Wind's done an excellent job of research in getting together the story of major championships of American golf and championship play of American amateur and pro stars in Britain. In a few instances he has recorded entertaining old lies that even those who know better now, believe, because they make such lively tales, and considering the poring over old newspaper pieces and the interviewing that must have been done over bottles when fellows were in a relaxed reminiscing mood, Wind has achieved as nearly an accurate, full history of American golf championship highlights as ever will be written.

It's a good job of sprightly writing and is bound to stir up among the elders of the congregation a lot of thrilling memories.

Wind divides his book into five parts; the first mainly on the Apple Tree gang and other pioneers, especially the rugged Charley MacDonald, then on Walter Travis, Jerry Travers and Francis Ouimet. The second part deals with Chick Evans, Hagen and their contemporaries and the Jones break-through. The third part deals with the men and women who accounted for the headlines and development of the game during the reign of The Emperor. The fourth part featured the Sarazen revival, the great performance of Lawson Little, Harry Cooper's career as a National Open bridesmaid without becoming a bride, and the dawn of the big money tournament era with Bob Harlow taking the show on the road.

The fifth part handles the war and post-war period and summarizes the Nelson and Babe Zaharias conquests.

The book is very good \$15 worth of the stories of the backgrounds and competitive activities of the amateurs and pros who made golf this nation's most popular participants' outdoor game.

Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station, Kingston, R. I. summarizes development of fungicides for turf diseases in 1948 in recently released 9-page bulletin by John B. Rowell.