



PGA President's Dinner, honoring the retiring Horton Smith, gathered the clan at Hotel St. Paul.

Moffitt Elected PGA Head at Busy, Calm Meeting

By REX McMORRIS

HARRY L. MOFFITT, for eight years a PGA national official, was elected president of the PGA at its 1954 annual meeting at St. Paul. The Heather Downs CC, Toledo, O., pro's previous service with the PGA has been as its treasurer for two years, its secretary for three years, and a national vp for three years. He has been a pro for 23 years.

Harold Sargent, Eastlake CC, Atlanta, Ga., pro, was switched after three years as PGA treasurer. He was elected the association's secretary. Sargent is a son of George, former PGA president. The new PGA treasurer was primarily responsible for the production of the highly effective PGA-Life film, "Keep 'Em on the Fairway."

Wally Mund, pro at Midland Hills CC, St. Paul, for 18 of the 25 years he's been with the club, was elected PGA treasurer. Mund, long active in PGA local and national affairs, was elected on the fifth ballot of a race which also had as contestants George Lake, Jimmy Fogerty, Bill Gordon, Emil Beck and Warren Cantrell.

There were virtually no contests for national posts other than treasurer, and that election concluded amicably with the unsuccessful candidates and their supporters cheerfully conceding the duties, responsibilities and problems of PGA officials are not to be eagerly sought.

Newly elected as PGA vps are George Hall, Ithaca, N. Y.; Micky Riley, Salt Lake City, Ut.; and Charles Congdon, Tacoma, Wash.

Jerry Barber was elected chmn., Tournament committee. Others on the committee are Fred Haas, Jr., Cary Middlecoff, Shelly Mayfield, Jackson Bradley, Pres. Harry Moffitt and Sec. Harold Sargent.

Business Sessions Tops

The two-day pro department business conference which started the PGA general sessions were, in the opinions of attending professionals, the most profitable educational programs ever put on in golf business. George Lake, chmn. of the Business Operations session and Harold Sargent, chmn. of the Teaching committee set subjects and assigned speakers on programs covered elsewhere in this issue.

Lake and Sargent, according to pros present, established a pattern that should be followed in PGA sections in tremendously increasing pro service to clubs and pro profits.

The time-table presenting the pro business sessions first was devised by the PGA's retiring president Horton Smith and his administration last year in the hope that nation-wide newspaper publicity might be given to the work of club pros for all golfers.

However, the usual tough luck of the PGA with its tournament publicity wrecked the well-laid plans to get some of the sport section spotlight on the club professionals.

Tournament Headache Again

The hassle between the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce, sponsors of the L. A. Open at Rancho GC, Jan. 7-10, and the William B. MacDonald-PGA co-sponsored Pan-American Open scheduled for conflicting dates took the big play on the sports pages and gave the big headache to the PGA. Wires, letters and telephone calls from prominent Angelenos backed the case of the delegation of the LA Jaycees at St. Paul. MacDonald made a quick trip, offering to compromise.

Concessions also were made by the PGA and the LA Jaycees but not enough to bring them together on the LA tournament deal. The LA Open is one of the few remaining major events not co-sponsored by the PGA and although not in the same class with the National Open and the Masters' has a long history dating back to 1926, to when pros needed tournaments.

Discuss Tourney Minor League

Tournament affairs happily settled at St. Paul included a proposal to arrange southern exhibitions for the British Ryder Cup team en route to the Ryder Cup matches at Thunderbird CC, Palm Springs, Calif., Nov. 5-6, establishment of a championship at PGA National course, Dunedin, Fla., for those being PGA members 25 years or more, a recommendation of sectional qualifying rounds for George S. May's All-American tournaments, and endorsement of a minor league tournament circuit.

A tremendous amount of routine committee business was ably handled without any significant developments.

PGA MEETING SIDELIGHTS

B. H. Ridder, newspaper publishing notable, expert senior golfer and member of PGA Advisory committee, was host to PGA delegates and other guests at epicurean dinner at University club, St. Paul, prior to PGA sessions. Ridder's sons, Bernard, jr., and Dan, also are fine businessman golfers. Bernie is on Western GA board.

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PGA Advisory committee sessions, with Chmn. David Griffith at the helm, had Harry Radix as acting sec. in absence of George S. May. May's doctors ruled out

his attendance. Jerome Bowes, Chicago, formerly pres., Western GA and donor of the America's Cup; and Floyd Akers, Washington, D. C., were named new members of Advisory committee.

Macdonald Smith, who died in 1949, was elected to PGA's Hall of Fame, getting 121 votes from golf writers and officials.

Ed Furgol received the PGA's "Professional Golfer of the Year" award at the President's Dinner. Furgol had 417½ votes to Ben Toski's 367½ from press, pros and golf officials.

Wallie Mund was a smooth and competent toastmaster at the dinner honoring the diligent and invaluable Horton Smith.

Harold Sargent paid tribute to three grand ones who passed from the golfing scene recently, Grantland Rice, Robert E. Harlow and Fielding Wallace.

Walter Silkworth, of the Philadelphia section presented that section's plaque to Herb Graffis "in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the game of golf." The surprise of the presentation and his uneasiness at not being with his comrade of many years at PGA affairs, Bob Harlow, had the normally fluent Graffis stumbling in expressing his deep appreciation.

Golf Day Fund Distribution Approved at St. Paul

NATIONAL Golf Fund, Inc., in its annual meeting, held during PGA meeting at St. Paul, approved distribution of funds raised by National Golf Day, 1954. Fifty per cent of the Golf Day income goes to the USO. The \$65,943 check will be given USO officials at Chicago, Jan. 6.

The PGA Benevolent, Relief and Educational funds got \$12,740; the caddie scholarship funds \$25,000, turf research work got \$10,700, AWVS for Swing Club activities got \$3000, Possibilities Unlimited got \$4000, U. S. Jaycees for junior golf got \$9000, U. S. Blind Golf Assn, \$2,000 and the MidAtlantic Blind Golfers Assn. got \$2000.

Fred L. Riffin, sr. was re-elected pres., National Golf Fund, Inc.; J. Edward King was re-elected vp; Tom Crane, sec.-treas.; and Milt Woodard and Herb Graffis, directors.

New members elected are Arthur R. Murphy of Life, Lincoln Werden of N. Y. Times and pres., Golf Writers Assn. of America; and Joseph C. Dey, jr., of the USGA.