

Moffitt, Sargent, Mund Re-elected; 5-Year Rule Retained by PGA

*Tournament Policies Overhauled to Give Sponsors
Better Chance of Operating in the Black*

By HERB GRAFFIS

ABOUT the only excitement at the PGA's 40th annual meeting, held at the Fort Harrison hotel, Clearwater, Fla., Dec. 3-7, was brief and mild.

Top brass was re-elected in a routine manner. Harry Moffitt again is pres; Harold Sargent was retained as secy; and Wally Mund as treas. Changes in the line-up of vps saw Henry Poe succeeding Al Ciuci, Leonard Schmutte replacing Gene Marchi and Willie Whalen taking the place of Eddie Schultz.

There was controversy about the 5-year eligibility rule but no more than there has been about this old rule at many previous PGA meetings. Delegates voted down a proposal to reduce the 5-year eligibility to three years for club and tournament pros. The Advisory committee recommended that in view of progress made in business education three years on-the-job training could be adequate as minimum time requirement for a pro.

The 5-year-eligibility rule for circuit pros which has made the PGA championship subject to press criticism as a secondary tournament minus the competition and public interest provided by younger circuit stars was eased somewhat at the Clearwater meeting. Delegates recommended that PGA officials invite to the PGA 1957 championship as many non-PGA pros from

the first 25 tournament money winners of 1956 as the committee sees fit. The championship will be at the Miami Valley CC, Dayton, O., July 17-21.

On Percentage Basis

Through the compromise it is hoped to avoid repetition of the dull flop the 1956 PGA championship turned out to be and to come up with something that warrants the money the PGA requires for its championship. This year the championship goes on a percentage basis instead of the previous guaranteed purse policy which had host clubs dependent on getting considerable advertising into a program to come out financially even or ahead on the championship.

Other considerations for tournament sponsors, reflecting the discussions at the Tournament Sponsors' meeting in Chicago and designed to give the sponsors more of a chance of operating in black figures, were announced at the PGA meeting. Ed Carter, PGA tournament bureau mgr., announced an interesting point system, such as was devised and recommended to the PGA by Howard Capps during his service as bureau mgr., and is similar to the rating system of the Ladies' PGA. The system is designed to reward those who get entries in early for tournaments, those who return to defend their titles at the following

year's tournaments and those who are frequent tournament participants. Provision also is made to deduct points in penalizing the naughty boys.

Carter said his tournament bureau teammates will be Harvey Raynor, tournament supervisor, who works ahead of the show and sets up operating procedure; Tony Anthony, tournament coordinator, running details of the affair; and James Gaguin, field secretary, handling publicity during tournaments.

Bill Rach was appointed PGA public relations director, retained as editor of the PGA magazine and given a raise which the intense and industrious Rach certainly earned.

Thomas W. Crane, of course, was unanimously approved to continue as the PGA's executive secy. and counsel in which capacity he renders valuable and diligent service as the chief operating non-elective officer of the organization.

Numerous committee meetings attended to matters of detail.

The Ryder Cup matches were set for Oct. 4-5 at Landrick GC, Yorkshire, Eng.

Manufacturers Meet

Meeting of the PGA Manufacturers' committee and representatives of the golf club and ball manufacturers was uneventful. The subject of the manufacturers' assistance in financing the Ryder Cup event was delicately touched. Very little reference was made to the matter of the PGA label on which the lid continued to be clamped, barring the talk by Jack Moore at one of the educational sessions.

John Jay Hopkins who was not present at the meeting was elected chmn. of the PGA Advisory committee and Bob Goldwater was elected vice-chmn. Harry Radix, who was attending the Olympic games, was re-elected sec. Members of the Advisory committee present at Clearwater were, in addition to Goldwater, William McWane, Fred Brand, jr., Dave Griffith, Art Zebede, George S. May and Jerry Bowes.

Delegates recommended to the executive committee that the 1957 annual meeting be held at Long Beach, Calif. There was some informal discussion among several delegates about the cost of holding annual PGA meetings in various cities. No official figures were cited for or against the opinion of some PGA members that the association would save money by holding its yearly meeting at a central point.

Denny Champagne was toastmaster at the annual President's banquet at which Pres. Harry Moffitt presented the Bob

Harlow memorial award as the club pro of the year to Harry Shepard of the Mark Twain Community GC, Elmira, N. Y., and the PGA Golfer of the Year trophy to Jack Burke. Both recipients made nice acceptance talks. Jackie said, among other things, it was seldom anybody in tournament golf got to a mike ahead of Sam Snead. Moffitt presented a plaque signifying Craig Wood's election to the PGA Hall of Fame to Al Ciuci who accepted it in Craig's absence. Carroll MacMaster accepted for Pete Burke the Gene Sarazen trophy for victory in last year's PGA Seniors championship, Pete being unable to attend the festivities.

Dick Tufts, pres. of USGA, after expressing graceful appreciation of the pros' efforts in behalf of golf, was given a plaque from the Carolinas PGA in recognition of his long, great and cheerful service to golf in his part of the country, the whole nation and internationally. Dugan Aycock made the presentation for his colleagues.

The Michigan section received the PGA magazine award.

PGA "Pro of the Year" Award Goes to Shepard

Harry C. Shepard of the Mark Twain GC, Elmira, N. Y. was selected PGA Pro of the Year for 1956 by a national selection committee composed of outstanding amateurs.

Shepard was selected for the honor on the strength of his great work in promoting golf in his community. He has been extremely active in working with Juniors, high school students, YWCA groups, women's organization and industrial and service club sponsors in making Elmira a golfing stronghold.

For the last five years, Shepard has served as either pres. or secy-treas. of his PGA section. He is also a well known figure on the speaking circuit, being in constant demand to talk on his favorite subject before civic and fraternal groups and other organizations that call on his services.

The Pro of the Year award was given to Shepard at the PGA President's Dinner held in Dunedin, Fla. in December.

Club Managers' Convention

The 30th annual convention of the Club Managers' Assoc. of America will be held in the Hotel Commodore, New York, Feb. 13-16.