



The winning U. S. team of Arnold Palmer and Sam Snead is shown with Frank Pace, Jr., sponsor of the IGA matches.

International Pro Tourney Sets Records in Ireland

Success of the 8th International Golf Assn. pro championships, played at Portmarnock's magnificent links in suburban Dublin, Ireland, again demonstrated that golf is a pleasant common denominator of international big business and politics.

Galleries were by far the biggest that ever watched golf in Ireland and possibly the largest that attended a tournament anywhere. Ticket supply was exhausted. Portmarnock is not a fenced-in course and one side runs along the seashore from where thousands came over the dunes onto the course. Officially the gate count was slightly over 51,000. Estimates of the unpaid spectators increased the total to 60,000.

Emphasis on Golf

The 60,000 figure isn't as fanciful as it might seem to the American accustomed to generous guesses of golf gates. Ireland, with a population of about 2,800,000 and area half that of Illinois, has twice as many courses as the U. S. in proportion to population.

At the "Meet the Teams" banquet, Irish Republic and civic officials, headed by Prime Minister Sean F. Lemass, U. S. Ambassador Scott McLeod and other diplomats, representatives of major domestic and foreign business interests in Ireland, mingled with professionals of 30 nations. Frank Pace, jr., pres., International Golf

Assn. and head of General Dynamics Corp., presided over the banquet and with Dr. Wm. O'Sullivan, pres., Golf Union of Ireland, Portmarnock officials and officials of neighboring clubs, actively engaged in conducting the tournament.

World Press Coverage

Pace also works with officials of the host country's golf association and the host club in arranging for an American university scholarship, financed by the IGA and awarded to a student from the host country. Planning of the International pro event by Fred Corcoran, IGA tournament dir. and the host country tournament management involved a budget of about \$225,000. Press coverage at Dublin this year was handled on a worldwide basis with total space being in excess of any ever before given a golf championship.

Among innumerable details rarely considered at a major golf championship was presentation of substantial checks to the pro and course supt. of the host club. Pace personally attended to this matter.

Only one flaw occurred in the arrangements for the IGA tournament. It was discovered too late that sale of beer on Sunday is prohibited on the Portmarnock grounds. Irish golf enthusiasts managed to survive despite the arid ordeal of trudging over miles of Portmarnock's sand hills.

End of the Line

Historic action in quickening tournament play was taken when the South African team of Locke and Player, following complaints of other contestants, was placed in last place in starting time.

Notwithstanding the new attendance records and the favorable effect on Irish tourist traffic, Irish golf officials say they would have done even better at the gate if they'd had the luck of the Irish in scoring. Snead and Palmer won the Canada Cup by 8 strokes (565). Ireland's team of O'Connor and Drew finished in fourth place with 575. England (Weetman and Hunt) was second with 573 and Australia (Thomson and Nagle) was third with 574. Flory Van Donck of Belgium shot 279. Snead was second with 281 and Palmer and Weetman tied at 284.

Eller Heads Southern TGA

Harold Eller, pro at Old Hickory G&CC, Old Hickory, Tenn., is now pres. of the Southern Turf Grass Assn. Charlie Donner, Nashville, was elected vp at a recent meeting and Reg Perry, Memphis, is sec.-treas.