

# IGA Matches Get 50,000 Votes from Sports - Loving Aussies

By HERB GRAFFIS

FOR the fourth consecutive year a gallery record was set by the International Golf Assn. world professional championships. The IGA's seventh annual competitions, played at Royal Melbourne (Australia) GC, late in November, drew more than 50,000 during the four days of the 72-hole event in which pros representing 30 countries participated.

At Wentworth, Eng., at Tokyo and at Mexico City previously, the International tournament had established attendance records. At Tokyo and Mexico City the tournament started national golf booms.

It was logical that the Melbourne event in which two of the world's top salesmen, Frank Pace, Jr., and Bill Walkley, collaborated, would make records.

Pace, General Dynamics pres., and William Gaston Walkley, head of Ampol Petroleum, with Fred Corcoran working out tournament details, gave Australia a highly successful tournament that will be long remembered in a land about as large in area as the U. S. and which has a population of 10 million of the world's most fervent sports fans.

### Sports Angel

Walkley is the world's foremost amateur sports promoter. Besides his Ampol annual Open golf tournament, he is the angel of tennis, football, swimming and other championships. It was his idea to admit kids free to the International tourna-

ment. The kids set a world record. There were so many of them the first three days the free deal had to be called off on Saturday to make room for the players.

A hot, humid final day kept down the gallery total. Australia's team of Peter Thomson and Kel Nagle was paired with the U. S. team of Snead and Middlecoff for the fourth round. The quartet attracted

what experienced reporters believed to be the largest gallery that ever followed two teams for 18 holes.

### 10-Stroke Margin

Thomson and Nagle won the Canada Cup for 2-men team competition with 563, beating Snead and the ailing Middlecoff by 10 strokes and the Canadian team of Stan Leonard and Al Balding by 11 strokes. Leonard won the International trophy with a par 4 on the first extra hole after finishing in a tie with Peter Thomson at 275.

The course, 6853 yds., par 70, consisted of 18 of the Royal Melbourne's 36, selected by the tournament committee during consultation with Dick Wilson

who very slightly revised a few details of the excellent holes. Condition of the course was great. Greenkeeper Claude Crockford's greens were uniformly fast and true and players agreed that any complaints about them were the usual bellyaching of those whose putting wasn't as good as the quality of the surface.

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Frank Pace, Jr. William G. Walkley  
they put on the show . . .



Stan Leonard



Peter Thomson

. . . and this pair stole it

any lack of energy. "It's simply because if I go over there and cuff three or four in a row," Bob explained, "I start to try to figure out what's wrong. That leads to making a few alterations and it isn't long before I'm really in trouble. Practice like that is no good, so there's no point in exposing yourself to it."

#### Once Tried Vardon Grip

For probably the 100,000th time in recent years, Art Wall, Jr., explained how he came to adopt the four-finger (it used to be "baseball") grip. It simply comes down to the fact that he grew up with it. About nine years ago, Art said, he experimented with the Vardon grip but gave it up after three days because it felt too awkward.

As for his sensational putting success last season, Wall attributed it to a change from a blade to a mallet type putter. "The mallet," Art said, "is better for rough greens and we run into plenty of them. In addition, there is more of it to sight over." Then he added slyly: "The real reason for my success in 1959 was that in one stretch of three months I just couldn't miss a putt. There's no explanation for streaks like that."

#### How Masters Was Won

Wall concludes his remarks by giving an interesting rundown on those final nine holes in which he literally tore the Augusta National course to pieces last year to come from behind and win the Masters. He had an opportunity to do practically the same thing the year before, he said, but muffed it because he didn't play the second nine correctly. But 1959 was different. He profited from his mistakes of the previous year. This consisted of playing the fairway and approach contours on a number of holes more intelligently; of taking his caddie's advice on the 15th and playing a second shot 2-iron rather than a 4-wood and hitting the green; and of playing for a break on the 17th hole and dropping a 15 ft. putt, where in a practice round a few days previously he had missed from an identical spot because he hadn't correctly read the green's contour.

The 1959 player-of-the-year left on the note that winning on the circuit depends a great deal more on what the pros call "course management" than on mere mechanical execution of shots.

#### Midwest Conference

Spring conference of the Midwest Regional Turf group will be held at Purdue University, Mar. 7-9. The theme will be "Controlling Weeds in Growing Turf."

## 50,000 Votes from Aussies

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Due to a dry spell the course played short. There is no watering system at Royal Melbourne. Late Nov., being spring in southern Australia, meant that the course was green. The rough was interesting and rugged — too rough for the U. S. pro circuit or American club players.

#### Event Ably Handled

Organization and operation of the International tournament presented a multitude of tough problems. Fred Corcoran, IGA tournament dir., ably handled the complex task of planning and directing an event that involved far greater player travel distances than that of any previous tournament along with the usual housing problems and tournament operation. Officials of Ampol Petroleum, Inc., co-sponsors with International Golf Assn. of the tournament, operated expertly and energetically in making sure that the tournament was impressively publicized. Players and other guests got a full treatment of the Aussies' warm and superb hospitality.

The late John J. Hopkins, founder and first pres. of the IGA hoped that the international pro team tournament would result in getting assembled many government officials and big businessmen in a pleasant atmosphere of international sport. Frank Pace, jr., Hopkins' successor as IGA chief, has made Hopkins' hope a reality.

#### Capable Successor

The canny and personable Pace knows his way around in international government and business environs. At Melbourne one congenial item of the IGA tournament program was a reception given by Gen. Sir Dallas Brooks, governor of Victoria, at which diplomatic representatives of the 30 nations represented by professional golfers, the pros themselves and top level international businessmen mingled.

The International event again was fortunate in being played at a grand golf club where members are international champions as hosts and all-around great guys.

#### Chicago CMAA Officers

Greater Chicago CMAA has elected the following officers for 1960: Tony Wayne, Riverside GC, pres.; Ben Waskow, Brookwood, vp; and Paul Frederick, Knollwood, secy-treas. Directors are Al Ackerman, Al LaMonte, Gerry Marlatt, Austin Steeves, Agnes Toner, Alex Zagone and Ernest Flaim.