

PGA Removes Caucasian Clause from Constitution

Probably the most important decision made by delegates to the PGA's 45th annual meeting, held in November, was elimination of the "Caucasian race" clause from the organization's membership requirements. An amendment to the first paragraph of Sec. 1, Article III of the constitution let down the barriers so far as admission of Negro professionals to the PGA is concerned. This was an about-face from proceedings of the previous year in Scottsdale, Ariz., when delegates voted to withhold recognition of Negro pros until people of their race had established enough clubs of their own to justify their being taken into the PGA. Difficulties in making tournament arrangements because of the Caucasian clause had a good deal to do in prompting delegates to approve the amendment to the constitution.

A second membership amendment, adopted at the 1961 meeting, eliminated the clause, "residing in North or South America."

As a result of these changes, Sec. 1 now reads: "Pro golfers over the age of 18 years who can qualify under terms and conditions hereinafter specified, shall be eligible for membership." All other membership requirements remain unchanged, including the five-year experience rule.

Lou Strong Re-elected

At the Hollywood-by-the-Sea meeting, the delegates also voted to:

Install Lou Strong in a second term as president. Re-elected along with the 48-year old pro from Oak Hill CC in Rochester, N.Y. were: Wally Mund, St. Paul, sec., and George Hall, Ithaca, N.Y., treas. New vps are: E. E. Johnson, Nashville, Tenn., Dave Bonella, Sr., Ottumwa, Ia., and Dick Forester, Houston, Tex.;

Okay the reorganization of national headquarters and the establishment of an executive staff composed of Thomas W. Crane, Robert L. Russell and Lloyd F. Lambert;

Approve the appointment of Jim Caqum

as tournament bureau manager;

Approve the three-year lease the organization took on a new headquarters building, north of Dunedin, as well as the moving of the National Golf Club to Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.;

Continue development and expansion of the merchandising program.

Every person who attended the annual meeting in an official capacity received what could amount to reading for a lifetime. There was a 203-page report of the officers and committees; a 98-page treasurer's report; a 66-page opus on the foundation for education service; a 163-page treatise prepared by the executive committee with additional tournament committee minutes; and a 247-page proceedings book covering the 1961 annual meeting. If these weren't enough, various officers, chairmen and department heads supplemented their written reports with verbal discourses. All of this material, a PGA release pointed out, is to be assembled and digested by delegates so that they can disseminate it to section members.

The President's dinner, a traditional affair, was held in the Calcutta Room of the Diplomat CC and was attended by about 300 persons. Henry C. Poe of Reading, Pa. was the toastmaster. Among those he introduced were Don Padgett, Muncie, Ind., home-pro-of-the-year; Jerry Barber, PGA champion and player-of-the-year; and the three newcomers to the Hall of Fame, Johnny Farrell, W. Lawson Little, Jr., and Henry Picard.

Other resolutions that delegates approved were:

A time limit on applications for memberships that require that a pro apply within five years of the date he becomes eligible to make such application;

A provision giving Class A status retention to 25-year PGA members so long as they remain active in the golf profession;

Elimination of the H apprentice classification except for those who held or had applied for it on Nov. 9, 1961.

PGA Merchandise Show

The annual merchandise show of the PGA will be held at Dunedin, Fla., during the week of Seniors' Championship (Feb. 12-18). As in other years, the show will be housed in two tents. A total of 110 display booths are available to exhibitors. Frank Sprogell, pro-mgr. of the National GC, is in charge of arrangements.