

News

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Women admitted; jobs discussion is ethics violation, say PGA delegates

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There were no foghorn blasts from ferry boats slanting across Puget Sound to signal the accomplishments of the Professional Golfers' Association's 61st annual business meeting. The association did receive publicity across the country when the executive committee decided December 3, one day before the meeting began, to allow women to register for the apprentice program. The delegates inside Seattle's Olympic Hotel, however, worked to bolster the pros who are already in the association; they passed resolutions protecting head pros in their jobs and to move quickly to insert one of their own members when a club pro position becomes open.

The women's issue was set for a vote by the delegates, but withdrawn once the executive committee made their decision. A number of reasons for admittance into the heretofore men's-only group was given: women are enrolled in the golf management program at Ferris State College, apprentice men can't receive credit while working under a woman, and some applications from women are beginning to filter into the PGA offices.

The delegates hoped to strengthen head pros in their jobs by voting to forbid any member or registered apprentice to even discuss the possibility of a job opening without knowing the position is vacant. Written notice is

needed from their Section, or from their club or course before an application can be made. One delegate asked if a pro's freedom of speech would be violated by including the word "discussion" in the resolution. "There is a possibility it's an abridgement of the freedom of speech," said Lloyd Lambert, PGA executive secretary and legal counsel. "The delegates apparently thought it was worth taking the risk."

More responsibility for filling a vacant position with a PGA member was also placed on head pros. The delegates voted that pros must inform their Section within 10 days once they know they are leaving their position. The delegates felt that each Section must know almost immediately about any openings so the employment committees can help keep or negotiate Section standards in the new pro's contract. The move will also prevent non-PGA members from getting the position, the delegates feel.

Two other proposals aimed at pressuring incoming and inactive pros were defeated. The Metropolitan New York Section wanted to penalize members who accept jobs without notifying the Section within 30 days of a contract offer. The current provision only requires a pro to "first notify" the Section of his proposed contract. The proposal was defeated, 48-46. A resolution to place a pro on inactive status 180 days after he is

unemployed and drop his membership after one year was introduced by the Tennessee Section and voted down, 87-6. Numerous delegates thought the proposal did not give the pro enough time to find a job.

Other changes included on granting to students enrolled in the Ferris State program six additional credits toward PGA membership by attending one week of workshops and seminars following graduation. Since the college program rewards them with 24 credits, the students need just six more credits for membership following completion of the week-long training program.

Appeal procedures for applicants and registered apprentices were also established. Previously, each Section made the only decision for applications or when asked to terminate an apprentice. Persons in either category can appeal to the board of control, which can overturn a Section's decision by a two-thirds vote. If the board agrees with the Section, an appeal can be taken to the executive committee, which also must provide two-thirds approval to reverse earlier decisions.

There were a number of requests by delegates for the executive committee to consider before next year's business meeting in Atlanta, including a change in the meeting's format. About 80 percent of the delegates

Jim Applegate (below), head pro at Washtenaw Country Club in Ypsilanti, Mich., voices an opinion before delegates vote on a proposed resolution. The Northwest Section's William Aliment, who served as chairman during the informal business meeting (right), recognizes a delegate from the Florida Section.



want a significant expansion of the educational program. The committee will also consider changing the playing test scale for apprentices after remarks by Bob Badger, a Northern California delegate, that course ratings set by the United States Golf Association are established by amateurs. Badger called the scale "out of proportion" and said the ratings should be determined by PGA pros.

Possibly the most encouraging news of the session was the announcement that the Tournament Players Division has signed a new contract for rights to televise tournaments on the PGA Tour with CBS. Prize money on the tour totaled \$9.7 million this year, but the TPD will earn more than \$10 million just during 1979 from the lucrative new pact. TPD Commissioner Deane Beman predicted that the prizes should reach between \$14 and \$15 million by 1982. Beman also said that the companies sponsoring the tournaments have been asked to set discount ticket prices for juniors next year and must give them lower prices in 1979.

The top association awards

were also given out at a \$20-a-plate dinner on December 6. Tom Watson was named Player of the Year, Don Soper, pro at Royal Oak Golf Club in Royal Oak, Mich., club professional of the year, and Paul Runyan, winner of the Horton Smith Award. Don Padgett was re-elected to his second term as PGA president. Frank Cardi and Joe Black were re-elected secretary and treasurer.

ASSOCIATIONS

National association formed for juniors

A national association for junior golfers has been established and its headquarters will be set up in Decatur, Ga., an Atlanta suburb, the new group has announced.

The American Junior Golf Association "has been organized to promote the game of golf on the junior level throughout the nation," said its president, Mike Bentley.

The group has set a number of goals, including one to serve an information center, especially concerning the scheduling of

events.

"Too many times, major junior events are scheduled at the same time on the same dates," said Bentley. "General information is also a problem as the young people who play the game have trouble finding out about certain tournaments, how to qualify, etc. We hope to end those days with a constant flow of information from our headquarters."

The association also hopes to establish strong junior programs in areas that are not well organized.

Sponsoring national tournaments is also on its list of priorities. The group's first tournament, the American Junior Golf Association Tournament of Champions, will be held August 21-25 at Inverrary Country Club in Lauderhill, Fla. State champions and others who have won various junior tournaments will be among the 150 players invited to the tournament.

Masters and British Open champion Tom Watson will serve as the association's honorary chairman, and a 15-man National Advisory Board has also been named.

The members include David R. Foster, board chairman of the Colgate-Palmolive Co.; John Darr, coach at the University of Florida; Lou Miller, vice president of golf operations at Pinehurst Country Club; Don Padgett, PGA president; and National Golf Foundation Executive Director Don Rossi.

Persons wishing to contact the association should write Mike Bentley, AJGA, P.O. Box 33565, Decatur, GA 30033.

Lyons new president for public courses

Bill Lyons, owner of the Lyons Den Golf Course in Canal Fulton, Ohio, and member of the GOLF BUSINESS Advisory Board, has been elected president of the National Association of Public Golf Courses. Russ Wylie of Washington, Pa., is the vice president, and Art Young was elected secretary-treasurer.

The election of officers was held in conjunction with the National Golf Foundation's annual November management workshop.

Allied Associations meet in Chicago

The upturn in golf course construction and remodeling,

programs to attract juniors and women, and techniques to conserve water and energy were among the topics discussed at the second annual meeting of the Allied Associations of Golf on December 1 at the O'Hare Hilton in Chicago.

Representatives from each of the 10 golf-related organizations at the meeting spoke about different aspects of the game.

New USGA officers to be elected

Frank D. Tatum Jr., a San Francisco attorney and amateur winner of the Bing Crosby National Pro-Amateur tournament in 1961, is expected to be elected president of the United States Golf Association at its annual meeting January 28.

Tatum has been picked for the position by the association's nominating committee. Incumbent president Harry W. Easterly Jr. of Richmond, Va., is retiring after two one-year terms.

The nominating committee has also proposed that new persons fill three officer's positions and three seats on the executive committee, and that a new general counsel be appointed.

Will F. Nicholson Jr., of Denver, Colo., has been nominated as a new vice president; James R. Hand of Ossining, N.Y. as secretary; and William C. Campbell as treasurer. The fifth officer, Eugene S. Pulliam of Indianapolis, Ind., has been nominated for a third one-year term as a vice president.

The new executive committee members are expected to be William C. Battle, Eden, N.C.; Howard L. Clark and William J. Williams, Jr., both of New York, N.Y.

The association's new attorney will be C. Grant Spaeth, who is a deputy assistant secretary in the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

CMAA task force asks for authority

A task force committee of the Club Managers Association of America has recommended that overall club management should be the responsibility of a single professional with the title and authority of general manager.

The managers hope the recommendation will help reverse the findings of a survey taken at the

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association's national conference in Chicago. It found that while 85 percent of its respondents have the general manager title, only 35 percent have the sole authority to manage their club.

"The most successful clubs tend to follow the general manager concept, while smaller clubs tend to cling to the more traditional concept of more than one manager reporting to the club officers," the task force said.

The CMAA board of directors has endorsed the task force's findings. This is the first time the single manager concept has been officially recognized by the national association.

Building, remodeling seen by architects

Golf course development and remodeling "is expected to gain momentum in 1978," say the officers of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

President Bill Amick said there is a resurgence of interest in building new golf courses by developers of housing developments and resorts, an area

that has been sluggish recently. "Overbuilding of condominiums in some areas, primarily the Southeast, brought new development course construction to a virtual standstill for several years," he said.

Amick said the high cost of land has also made leasehold agreements popular in some communities. This arrangement allows a government agency to lease property to a group of investors. The lessee pays the government a fixed fee, percentage of income, or combination for the use of the land.

Further information on all aspects of golf course planning and remodeling can be obtained from the American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601.

PESTICIDES

DBCP can be used; safety standards set

After four months of tests, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has ruled that pesticides containing

dibromochloropropane, known as DBCP, can be used on golf courses. Persons using the pesticides, however, must be certified applicators.

The applicators must also wear respirators and protective clothing which won't allow the chemical to permeate the skin while handling the pesticide. The clothing must be approved by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, but persons should check with companies that make the products for information on the kinds of clothing, said an EPA spokesman.

The only time course workers are not required to wear respirators is when they are driving vehicles that inject the fumigant underground, the spokesman said.

Jeff Kempter, EPA project manager for the DBCP review, said workers can use any pesticides containing the chemical bought before the government issued a temporary ban, but they must follow the new safety standards.

Pesticides with the chemical must list the safety regulations on its label before it can be sold. Kempter said the Amvac Chemical Corp. of Los Angeles was the only firm that made the label change by

mid-December.

The agency also ruled that the chemical cannot be used on a number of fruit and vegetable crops.

TOURNAMENTS

Club pro series gets new entry rules

Two changes in the entry requirements for pros and registered apprentices in the Professional Golfers' Association of America's club professional tournament series will become effective when the next round of tournaments begins January 5 in San Diego.

Persons applying for each series may send \$100 to reserve a spot and pay the remaining \$950 just before teeing off. The rule for the initial three series required players to pay the full entry fee before coming to the tournament site.

The PGA has also decided that a golfer does not have to play in each of the four 36-hole

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tournaments in a series if he finds another pro or registered apprentice to play in the tournaments he will vacate. For instance, one pro may want to play in the two tournaments January 5-6 and 9-10 at Singing Hills Country Club in San Diego and another pro at Carleton Oaks Country Club on January 12-13 and 16-17. The PGA will only require that the \$1,050 entry fee be paid for the series.

PGA spokesman Joe Hill denies the changes were made because of the low turnout in the series held in Florida. The first series had to be canceled since only 28 players signed up for the tournaments scheduled at Vero Beach and Jacksonville October 24. Hill said it was discovered later that this date was too early for many pros in the Midwest and Northeast to leave their duties at home clubs and courses.

A total of 72 persons played in the second series and 102 in the third series, Hill said.

TRANSACTIONS

Host Enterprises sold to Pick Hotels

Host Enterprises, Inc., which includes the Host Farm & Corral luxury resorts with 27 holes in Lancaster, Pa., has been purchased from Westinghouse



Jack Craver, president

Electric Corp. by Pick Hotels Corp., Chicago. The sale price was not revealed.

The properties purchased include two adjoining resorts with 510 guest rooms, plus an 18-hole course and executive 9-hole course with resort and convention facilities.

Jack Craver will continue as president of Host Enterprises. He has been there three years.

GOVERNMENT

Import duties wanted on Polish cars

While the U.S. Treasury Department considers how much import duties should be charged to Poland for importing its Melex brand golf cars, representatives of Harley-Davidson have taken their case to the Congress.

Donald A. Webster, vice president for government relations of AMF, Inc., the parent company of Harley-Davidson, has told the House Ways and Means Committee that the Treasury "has unnecessarily delayed resolution of issues" relating to the Melex case.

There has been no duty placed on the golf cars since August 1975. It is estimated by David Mueller, operations officer with the U.S. Customs Service, that between 6,000 and 9,000 Melex cars are sold annually in the United States. Webster did not know the price difference between Harley-Davidson and Melex cars, but said the latter has been "substantially lower."

Webster sees two reasons for the delay. The Treasury is having a difficult time deciding what the "fair value" of the Polish-made electric cars since they are only sold in the United States, giving officials no other countries to compare prices. But he also sees the decision as a touchy foreign policy issue that could effect East-West relations.

AWARDS

Agronomy award given to Toro vp

Dr. James R. Watson, vice president for customer relations of The Toro Co. has been named the 1977 recipient of the Agronomic Service Award by the American Society of Agronomy.

The society, a 9,400-member scientific educational organization, established the award to recognize the development of agronomic programs and practices, and effective public relations that promote the understanding and use of agronomic science and technology by the public.

Dr. Watson's research programs have concentrated on adaptability of species and strains of turfgrass, fertilization practices, snowmold prevention, and winter protection techniques.

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