Sotheby's Spring Sales

£1,500

Sotheby's Spring series of sales in Sussex will this year include a sale of Golfing Clubs and Associated Works of Art, to be held at Summers Place, Billingshurst on March 31st 1988.

Enthusiasts of the sport and collectors may be interested in a variety of early golf clubs by Paxton, McEwan, Simpson and Auchterlonie.

A set of eight prints by Hassall, entitled 'Seven Ages of Golf' depicting figures in comic situations on the golf course has an estimated value of £1,200-1,500, and a Doulton vase decorated with golfing scenes is expected to realise between £700-£900.

Among other items in the sale include a number of interesting golfing books, quality paintings and unusual novelty pieces associated with the game.

Sotheby's Collectors Department will also be attending the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham on March 4th-6th 1988 to advise on buying and selling golfing items through Sotheby's.

COSFORD GOLF LANDSCAPES

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New book on the History of Golf

Hot on the heels of Europe's historic victory in the recent Ryder Cup in the USA, comes publication of a new book on this most fascinating and frustrating sport: GOLF: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY by Robert Green which Collins Willow publish on October 29 at £14.95.

Starting with the probable origins of the game (from the Flemish sport of choc played in medieval times), the book looks at all aspects of its history - the Scottish connection; golf equipment; great champions and great championships; the US Tour and its equivalents worldwide; the Ryder Cup; and amateur golf and ladies golf.

In addition there are chapters on St. Andrew's, the cradle of the game, the other best courses around the world, and on an often overlooked breed - the architects. How many courses in Britain match up to Alister Mackenzie's (the Augusta National designer) 'essential features of an ideal course' found on page 167?

Author Robert Green also bravely picks his 30 household names of golf, with some contentious inclusions and omissions. Johnny Miller is in, but Hale Irwin, Fuzzy Zoeller and Larry Nelson are not. From an earlier age, both Willie Park (winner of the first Open Championship) and Willie Anderson are excluded, as is Jim Barnes, the emigrant Cornishman who in 10 seasons from 1916 won two PGAs and an Open on either side of the Atlantic. Readers, no doubt, will make up their own minds as to their all-time greats of golf!

As its title suggests, the book is handsomely and extensively illustrated with many vintage black & white photographs and etchings plus the best of today's colour shots of players and courses. All in all, Robert Green has written a lively and rich survey of this very great game.

ROBERT GREEN is a young writer who has worked for Golf World magazine and was the London Daily News golf correspondent. Born in Manchester, he lived in Derbyshire before attending university at Sheffield. A keen golfer himself, he is now based in north London and plays at Highgate Golf Club.
HOwARD SWAN HAS LEFT GOLF LANDSCAPES TO ESTABLISH A PRACTICE IN HIS OWN NAME SPECIALISING IN GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

Born in the North of England and intensely proud of his Geordie heritage, Howard Swan successfully completed two University degrees in the early seventies. From a domestic base in Essex, where his father had relocated because of his work, he decided that initially, at least, he would follow his chosen academic subjects and commenced employment with an American pharmaceutical company, in the corporate planning department.

After two years, however, the business which had been started by his father, and in which he had taken an interest, had begun to grow rapidly and in 1972 he joined the Board as a contracts director and began to build his first golf course at Mowsbury Park, Bedford, to the design of Hawtree and Son. He was also a director of Golf Landscapes Limited for the past sixteen years and has seen them develop into one of the most experienced and respected specialist contractors in golf course construction in the United Kingdom and abroad.

During that time he had led the Company into many design and build projects, as well as establishing an irrigation division as a regional distributor for Toro products in golf and turf generally.

As a confirmed internationalist, he has created many opportunites to travel abroad in pursuit of his career and is a regular contributor to the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America, both in providing editorial material for the magazine 'Golf Course Management' and giving presentations at the Annual International Convention in 1985 and 1987.

In 1986 he was commissioned as the golf course consultant for Bowls International Ltd. and has been working for the company in managing the construction of the new championship course of Sao Lourenco, at Quinta do Lago, Portugal, its completion, and now its ongoing maintenance. Examples in Portugal are retained by Shell Portuguese, McInerney Lda. and Quinta da Marinha Golf and Country Club, as golf course consultants, as well as in Corfu, Greece.

He sees the development of a specialist role in construction management of great importance in his future years, linked with advisory work in golf course design, irrigation and ongoing maintenance.

In 1984 he was elected to The Chair of The National Turfgrass Council, a representative body for the amenity industry, acting as an umbrella organisation for trade and public bodies alike and specialising in all kinds of turf. This has enabled him to be particularly active in the development of NTC conferences, workshops and seminars throughout the United Kingdom, presenting a wide range of technical subjects, from sand constructions to wild flora, from recreational use of farmland to voluntary groundsmanship. Some Special Associations are represented on the Council, and with them he is presently developing a 5 year funding programme to establish a permanent secretariat.

On the Council, he represents the British Association of Golf Course Constructors. In an attempt to improve the industry in which he works, Howard Swan founded the group for contractors specialising in golf course construction, drawing together representatives from sixty contractors. Meetings are regularly held and three Education Sessions have been organised with international participation. Presently eight construction companies and some fifteen suppliers are members of the Association.

Aising from his Chairmanship of the National Turfgrass Council, he has given papers to the European Landscape Contractors Association in Malmö, Sweden, on Sports Ground Provision, and to the American Society of Golf Course Architects, in Limerick, Ireland, on the building of traditional golf courses. This latter presentation led directly to his commissioning as golf course consultant to Tom Watson and Robert Trent Jones II in the construction of the new championship links at Spanish Bay, Pebble Beach, California.

Outside his business activities, he enjoys sport and travel and plays golf enthusiastically but says inconsistently.

Golf Award for the STRI

Following the successful launch of the National Turfgrass Council’s new initiative designed to revitalise industry awareness and set a progressive strategy for the future, the Sports Turf Research Institute has donated £800 to become a ‘Gold Patron’.

The N.T.C. are seeking donations from the sports turf industry to finance the Council’s new initiative designed to raise awareness within the horticultural trade has been recently doubled the size of their Budbrooke Trading Estate warehouse and offices in Warwick.

Owen Jones, 35 years in the horticultural trade has been appointed the depot’s Sales Office Manager.

Quote of the Month

Pro golfer Carl Mason asked for his impressions of the new Emirates Golf Club, built in the desert outside Dubai he thoroughly enjoyed the course, but thought there should be a little less sand in the bunkers!

Mason, Horton, Marchbanks, Longmuir and Gregson were part of a Pro-Am team who played two tournaments at the first all grass golf course to be built alongside the Arabian Gulf.

New Turfgrass Manual from British Seed Houses


The twenty-one chapters over sixty pages represents a slightly enlarged reference book compared to the second edition and this year includes information on grass species recommended for coastal and derelict land ralclamation as well as wild flora seed.

With a publication offering wide advice to the turf maintenance it was most surprising to find this advice was directed at Lawn Management, Race Course Management, Cricket, Football, Hockey, Bowls and Tennis, but nothing specifically for the golf course.

Perhaps the authors believed they could not teach the golf greenkeeper anything about maintaining greens, tees and fairways!

Copies may be obtained from BSH Ltd., Pett Street, Warrington, WA5 5LE, enclosing £3.75.

Rigby Taylor, the Bolton based supplier of fertilisers and accessories for the golf course industry has recently doubled the size of their Budbrooke Trading Estate warehouse and offices in Warwick.

HEDLEY...NEWS BRIEF... 5

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