

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS TO PRESENT DONALD ROSS AWARD TO GEOFFREY CORNISH

Geoffrey S. Cornish, one of North America's leading golf course architects and co-author of "The Golf Course", has been named the 1982 winner of the Donald Ross Award presented annually by the American Society of Golf Course Architects to a person who has made significant contributions to the game of golf, especially golf course architecture.

Cornish received the Donald Ross Award, named in honor of the "father of American golf course architecture", at a special dinner during the ASGCA annual meeting at The Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach, Florida Feb. 22.

Previous recipients of the Donald Ross Award include Robert Trent Jones, Herbert Warren Wind, Herb and Joe Graffis, Joe Dey, Gerald Micklem, and Gov. James Rhodes of Ohio.

Although "The Golf Course" has just been published, it already has been hailed as the most comprehensive book on golf course architecture, primarily because it includes biographies of several hundred golf course architects and a list of 10,000 golf courses and their architects.

Cornish was president of the ASGCA in 1975, is an honorary member of the British Association of Golf Course Architects, and received the Distinguished Service Award from the Golf Course Superintendents of America in 1981.

A native of Winnipeg, he received a bachelor's degree from the University of British Columbia and a master's degree from the University of Massachusetts, both in agronomy. His interest in golf course architecture was generated in 1935 when he was hired to evaluate soils and find topsoil on the Capilano Golf Course under construction in West Vancouver, B.C.

He then trained for four years with golf architect Stanley Thompson. During World War II Cornish served with the Canadian Army overseas, returning to become an associate of Stanley Thompson in 1946-47. He then associated with Lawrence S. Dickinson, pioneer turfgrass scientist, at the University of Massachusetts until 1952, when he entered private practice as a golf course architect. He now resides in Amherst, Mass.

By 1980 Cornish has planned more courses in the New England area than any other designer in history. He had also designed and remodeled layouts in other parts of the United States, Canada, and Europe.

Among his most famous golf courses are York Downs Golf and Country Club, Toronto; Halifax Golf and Country Club, (The New Ashburn), Nova Scotia; The Connecticut Golf Club, Easton, Conn.; Cranberry Valley Golf Club, Harwich, Mass.; and Blue Rock, South Yarmouth, Mass.

Cornish is the author of numerous articles on course design and turfgrass subjects.

WHY NOT SAY WHAT YOU WANT?

"Do you want to go skating tonight, or would you prefer to go to the movies?"

"Whatever you want, dear."

"Shall we have a drink before lunch?"

"What do you think?"

"Would you rather fill in for me on Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday afternoon, Hilda?"

"Whatever is better for you, Marie."

Conversations of this kind take place every day. In each case, one person asks another to express a preference. And, in each case, the desired answer is not forthcoming. The individual who is questioned simply refuses to commit himself or herself.

People who give this kind of equivocal answer will usually tell you they were trying to be "nice." Since they don't have a strong preference, they think it is appropriate to let the other person make the decision. But the people who receive such a reply often don't see anything "nice" about it. Some say that they feel it is a brushoff—the other person doesn't care enough to think about the question. Others feel put down. They have asked someone to make a choice, only to have that person refuse. The decision, then, is thrown right back to them.

Pertinent Answers. So it turns out that it would usually be "nicer" to be more responsive when you are asked such questions. If you have a preference, say so. You can do so directly, of course ... "I'd much rather go to the movies." But you don't necessarily have to be so positive about it. Instead, you can express your answer in a way that leaves room for the other person to share his or her feelings ... "Skating sounds like fun, but I am a little tired tonight. Maybe the movies would be a better choice." The other person can then go along with your preference—or try to persuade you to go skating.

You can use the same kind of approach when you don't really have any preference, but want to make sure the other person feels free to state one. Sometimes, of course, you may know the answer your questioner wants, as in "Shall we have a drink before lunch?" In that case, it's really "nice" to supply the desired answer.

The point is that people who ask you to state a preference are usually asking for more than information. They are making an effort to establish contact with you. Your response should reward that effort by showing that you welcome this attempt to reach out to you. In doing so, you demonstrate that you really value the person as well.

Observation: Of course, human nature being what it is, expressing a definite preference won't work every time. For example ...

"Would you prefer filling in for me on Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday afternoon, Hilda?"

"Wednesday, Marie."

"All right, but there will be a few problems. I'll have to change one of my appointments—I thought sure you'd pick Tuesday—but I can probably manage it."

In this instance, "Whichever is better for you, Marie" might have been the better answer, after all. Still, you haven't lost anything by being honest—and you can always change your mind.

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Research Institute Personal Report
January 29, 1981