Golfing public again grows

The number of golfers grew by more than 7 percent for the third straight year in 1988, according to a survey done for the National Golf Foundation.

In the survey not yet published, the NGF also reported that 211 new golf courses were opened in 1988.

The survey found that the number of golfers was played at least one round last year rose from 21.7 million to 23.4 million, up 7.8 percent.

Rossi happy

Golf Course Builders of America Executive Director Don Rossi is supportive but cautious of the call to build 500 new courses over the next 10 years.

"I think it's great," Rossi said from his Florida headquarters. "No question there's a demand with more and consistently better work.

Jones

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Jones noted that environmental groups have targeted golf courses. "Everyone in the golf course design business is an environmentalist," said Jones, once the chairman of the California State Parks and Recreation Commission and the designer of more than 150 golf courses around the world.

"But there are others who call themselves environmentalists, who can make a golf course sound like a toxic waste dump or a polluting factory.

"We need those who love the game of golf to be as solidly and loudly proclaim that a golf course is an animal habitat. It is a bird sanctuary. It is open space. It is a greenbelt. It is that most important factor that lessens the density of new real estate developments."

Jones pointed to the oxygen-renewal process at work through trees on golf courses. "A golf course is enjoyed by those who pass by as well as by those who play on the fairways."

Jones called for the architects to join with the NGF, Golf Course Superintendents Association, U.S. Golf Association, Professional Golf Association, the NGF, Golf Course Superintendents Association, U.S. Golf Association, Professional Golf Association, the NGF, Golf Course Superintendents Association, U.S. Golf Association, Professional Golf Association, the

Pete Dye

Dye: Expect busy 1989

Golf course architects can expect the busiest year in a quarter century this year, according to Pete Dye, who in April completed a year as president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

Interest in new golf courses and remodeling projects continues to build, Dye said.

"Our members report an increasing number of inquiries for all types of projects," he said, "and society members project that 1989 will be the most active year in golf course construction and remodeling that they have seen in the past 25 years."

A recent ASGCA survey indicated that 305 new courses and 268 remodeling projects are in progress.

Dye said that while most new courses are still being built as part of residential developments and resorts, more municipal and public courses are on the drawing boards.

"Our members are working diligently with municipalities and individuals interested in building good public courses to come up with cost-effective designs that will attract golfers and provide a long-term recreational benefit to the communities involved," Dye said.

Dye added that well-designed and maintained public courses, if properly managed, will generate substantial profits for municipalities and owners.

Moscow

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develop with CCI (ClubCorp. International) something that would be a nice facility which would be comparable to nice facilities here in this country where Americans could when they're in that country — whether it's for a week, a month or a year — and be able to do some of the things they do here at home; and golf is one of those things. We would like to see a facility that golf course is enjoyed by those who pass by as well as by those who play on the fairways.

Pellizi added, "The idea is not to have a facility just for people with Dialogue. The idea is to put a hotel there as well as to develop something that would be comparable to the things that we have in the U.S."

"It's kind of a catchy deal but I wouldn't say that's the most optimum place to put a golf course if I were starting all over there. We would have to do something that's a nice facility which would be comparable to nice facilities here in this country where Americans could use it when they're in that country — whether it's for a week, a month or a year — and be able to do some of the things they do here at home."

"A 'catchy deal' is a fairly high demand, particularly among the expatriates living there, not necessarily tourists coming in."

"It's not particularly a conducive environment for American style of living; you have to find something to spend your money on, and that's a difficult situation."

"If we're going to do a conference center as part and parcel of our village development then this would give it some unique cachet."

"The 7,000-acre collective is 'anxious to expand its income sources, so is selling or leasing land for free housing for both Russians and expatriates,' Poole said, adding that the Russian head of JV Dialogue, Pyotr Zrelov, asked CCI to work with the company to develop a golf course.

Robert Trent Jones Jr.

"Would the land be suitable, how much land does it take, how should it be designed and built, that's how our discussions have been going," Poole said. "We would manage and/or own the property to the extent that anybody owns property in the Soviet Union."

"We would like to see a facility that golfers will enjoy, six months a year at best; then the complex would feature three or four months of cross-country skiing."

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