

# ASGCA to tackle construction costs

Dan Maples of Pinehurst, N.C., the new president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, pledged that ASGCA members would focus on controlling construction and maintenance expenses so the cost of play will not become prohibitive.

"The game of golf has experienced a strong surge of interest in the past five years," Maples said, "and everyone associated with the design, construction and maintenance of golf courses must work to keep the cost of play within reach of the general public."

"We cannot slip back into the image of an elitist sport."



Dan Maples

Maples is the third generation to be active in golf course development.

His grandfather, Frank, was the superintendent of construction for famed golf architect Donald Ross at Pinehurst, supervising more than 150 men who used mules to work with the natural contours of the Carolina sandhills.

"My grandfather designed much of the early equipment and was very aware of how the design could be coordinated with maintenance.

He taught my father, Ellis, who soon recognized that severe slopes and deep bunkers required hand maintenance, which can escalate costs in today's environment," Maples said.

Ellis Maples, who was a life mem-

ber of the Professional Golfers' Association and Golf Course Superintendents Association of America as well as president of the ASGCA in 1974, knew all facets of golf course design, construction and maintenance.

"Donald Ross told my father," Dan Maples related, "that he probably made a mistake by designing so many courses without an opportunity to review the construction. He told my father that if he had it to do all over again he would only design courses that he could actually oversee. That's something that all of us should consider in this booming era of golf course development."

## NEWS

### Use current research

The new ASGCA president pointed out that society members have been meeting more frequently with builders and superintendents, as well as the USGA Green Section, to work out technical problems and take advantage of the turf and equipment technology that is now available.

"We are well aware of environmental concerns and are taking every precaution to make sure that our golf courses blend in with the environment. If wetlands are used for a golf course, other wetland areas are developed so the natural habitat will not be disturbed," Maples added.

In addition, the ASGCA Foundation has sponsored research at Cornell University to determine if chemicals affect ground water on golf courses. The research showed that there is no adverse effect if the chemicals are managed properly by the golf course superintendent.

### Morrish out of hospital

Golf course architect Jay Morrish, 53, is home and expected to fully recover from a heart attack and quadruple bypass surgery that occurred in late May, according to his wife, Louise.

Morrish suffered his attack May 19 while doing yard work at his Tulsa, Okla. home. He was taken to nearby St. Francis Hospital where surgery was performed May 25.

"The doctors said he was very fortunate," said Louise, who took her husband to the hospital immediately after he complained of chest and arm pain. "If we'd waited another hour he might not be around today."

"We were planning to leave for Africa May 27. If we'd been over there when this had happened, it definitely would be all over. Jay feels like he's been given a second chance and he's going to do the things he's supposed to do."

Jay and Louise are part of the small, but very successful Tom Weiskopf/Jay Morrish design team. The Morrishes' son, Carter, and a draftsman complete the five-member company.

Last year may have been the best for Morrish and Weiskopf, who first teamed up in 1983. The pair were recognized as the designers of Golf Digest's top two new, private courses of 1989 — Shadow Glen in Kansas City, Mo., and Forest Highlands in Flagstaff, Ariz.

Louise Morrish said they are working on Harbor Club on Lake Oconee near Atlanta, Ga.; Loch Lomond in Scotland, making them the first American architects to design a course in golf's native country; and the Country Club of St. Albans in St. Louis.

Jay Morrish is expected to be back at work full-time by mid-July. He will be able to resume all his duties, although he's likely to delegate more responsibility to the rest of the staff, his wife added.

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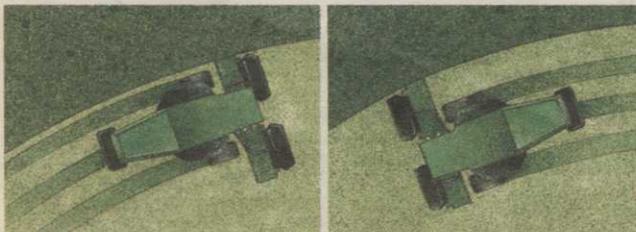
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