Dean of Maine’s supers, Jimmy Jones, dies at 82

Jimmy Jones of Cape Elizabeth, long regarded as the “Maine Greenkeepers’ Greenkeeper,” died Jan. 31. He was 82. Jones, a native of Litchfield, Maine, started his golf career in 1917 as a caddie at the Augusta Country Club. He was active in state professional tournament competitive ranks until 1960, held several competitive course records and was third low pro in the 1936 Maine Open.

The first president of the Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association, in 1949, he received that group’s Distinguished Service Award in 1986. Jones’ golf connections, other than winter service in the Panama Canal Zone and as aide to brother George at Mountain Lake Country Club in Lake Wales, Fla., remained strictly Maine. His last course superintendent post, from 1971 to 1990, was at Salmon Falls in Bar Mills. He also had lengthy service at Augusta Country Club, Bath Country Club and Purpoodock Club in Cape Elizabeth.

Modified golf survey finds players would do it again

The third International Modified Golf Open held at the Britannia course, Grand Cayman Island, British West Indies, should provide further insight and information on the specially-designed ball which carries less yardage.

The tournament consists of 18 holes of medal play modified golf both days. Women will use “equalizing” forward tees. Britannia, designed by Nicklaus, is laid out to take one quarter of the land of a traditional golf course and half the time to play.

The International event is a followup to the recent inaugural Bay Island tournament at Brun Golf Course, Jack Nicklaus Sports Center, Kings Island, Ohio. Scores of the 51 competitors at the $4,750 executive course ranged from 66 to 91. A club selection chart helped golfers in shotmaking.

A questionnaire survey at Bay Island elicited largely favorable reaction to the unique ball. Playing the “MacTec 50” golf ball had these advantages, golfers said:

- Easier to keep track of ball, faster playing time, able to keep ball in play, less tendency to swing too hard to get ball out of trouble, more confidence in making shots, more competition for everyone, ball floats, ball somewhat easier to hit, smooth swing produces better flight, and not stressed out after the round.

Disadvantages were: ball scuffs easily, not able to_backspin ball on greens, ball affected somewhat by wind, and difficulty adjusting to distance hit.

All but two in the field of 51, or 96 percent, said they enjoyed playing the “MacTec 50”, and 39, or 76 percent, found the ball an advantage over the regulation ball.

Thirty-three said they felt less inhibited playing modified golf, and all said the “MacTec 50” was easier to follow in flight.

The scale of the “MacTec 50” * drew a 9 rating. Long irons, short irons and pitch shots had an average of 8, driving and putting 7 and durability 6.

Forty-two said playing modified golf was as enjoyable as regulation golf, 48 liked the faster playing time, and 18 the action of the ball.

Forty-two approved the larger 6-inch cups, 27 said they were able to fade or draw the “MacTec 50” satisfactorily, and 46 said they were interested in playing modified golf again.

Other comments included:

**Great change of pace in golf, would like a list of courses available, need more publicity on the game, where can golf balls be bought, never have seen modified golf advertised in golf magazines, and are lighter golf clubs available for modified golf.**

N.J. landfill to undergo transformation

EGGHARBOR TOWNSHIP, N.J. — The Pinelands Park landfill soon may be transformed from a dump to a golf course.

Mayor James J. McCullough’s citizens committee has recommended a golf course as the best use for the site and is interviewing potential builders.

Jeff Curtin, Atlantic County’s Division of Parks and Recreation director, said a 1984 study indicated the need for a public course.

“Then,” he said, “there were 10,000 rounds going out of Atlantic County to find a course to play on.”

Since 1984, Curtin added, some formerly public courses have become semi-private, no new golf courses have been built, and the county’s population has increased.

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