Public Golf '93: An event you won't want to miss

Readers of Golf Course News may have noticed the recent articles and advertisements concerning Public Golf '93. Indeed, similar advertising appears on page 39 this month, while a story announcing our speakers' program can be found in the Management section.

If you didn't attend Public Golf '92, this column is for you. Your first question might well be: What the hell is Golf Course News doing holding conferences? Well, my boss tells a tired old story about the railroad industry, which failed because it never realized it was in the transportation business, not the railroad business. Tired or not, this is an interesting example of what Golf Course News is trying to do for the golf course industry.

We're in the communications business and, quite frankly, our success depends on the success of golf, the transportation operations all over the country. It's not getting any easier to turn a profit these days, but there are success stories. There are examples of innovation and efficiency that can be duplicated, even improved upon.

In reporting the news of our industry, we come into contact with these successes (and failures) every day. We've handpicked the successful people and invited them to speak, answer questions and communicate their experiences at Public Golf '93.

No mention of Ron Dodson, president of the New York Audubon Society, and his Golf Course Wildlife Sanctuary Program. No mention of Dr. Tom Waterman, professor of entomology at the University of California at Davis, who does research on pesticide use in the environment. No mention of Ron Dodson, president of the New York Audubon Society, and his Golf Course Wildlife Sanctuary Program. No mention of Dr. Tom Waterman, professor of entomology at the University of California at Davis, who does research on pesticide use in the environment.

The bread & butter items for any daily-fee owner are probably green fees and cart rental. Ken James, vice president of the Gateway Section of the PGA of America. No mention of Clemson University's Dr. Ron Kendall and his research at Kiawah Island's Ocean Course.

No mention of Dr. Stuart Cohen, who, when at the Environmental Protection Agency, oversaw the Cape Cod Study on the effects of pesticide use on ground water.

No mention of Dr. Tom Waterman, professor of entomology at the University of California at Davis, who does research on pesticide use in the environment.

The list is lengthy of people with "PhD" after their names whom he did not interview in his quest to prove that, as he put it, "Nature pays a price for our love affair with golf." In fact, the reporter's "scientific" source was a man who seemed to distributing their hazards through the course, so that every player was affected on different holes, based on the topography and on how far they hit the ball.

It seems to me a lot of great courses have managed to survive with only two or three tees per hole — places like ... and all their bunkers precisely the same distance from the tee, the architects of these courses gave a lot of thought to distributing their hazards through the course, so that every player was affected on different holes, based on the topography and on how far they hit the ball.

The idea is to have a wedge around trees in the corner, while longer hitters playing from the fairway tees don't know just how far to lay up. But architects build these holes more holes today, because they've convinced themselves that multiple tees will deliver more players to the danger point, every time. Unfortunately, average golfers don't hit their drives consistently for distance or direction. It seems to me that a lot of great courses have managed to survive with only two or three tees per hole — places like Merion, Cypress Point and the National Golf Links of America — and their shot values still hold up pretty well for everyone. Instead of building forced carries and all their bunkers precisely the same distance from the tee, the architects of these courses gave a lot of

Letters

DO WE REALLY NEED FIVE SETS OF TEES?

To the editor:

As a fellow golf architect, I read with interest Dr. Michael Hurdzan’s letter in your last issue. His idea of five sets of tees is novel, but I have a few concerns.

Certainly with the increased traffic which has resulted from the golf boom, more teeing space is needed. Many architects have designed daily fee layouts especially. And there has been a trend among quite a few practicing architects toward distributing this area over four or five sets of tees per hole.

However, I question the need for such a wide selection of tee grounds. In particular, the back tees I’ve seen on a lot of modern courses are totally unnecessary, put in just to boost the course rating for advertisement purposes and the course's “Resistance to Scoring” in Golf Digest competitions. The only people who play those tees are six handicappers who insist on "playing the whole course," and the course’s "Resistance to Scoring" in Golf Digest competitions. The only people who play those tees are six handicappers who insist on "playing the whole course," and the course’s "Resistance to Scoring" in Golf Digest competitions. The only people who play those tees are six handicappers who insist on "playing the whole course," and the course’s "Resistance to Scoring" in Golf Digest competitions. The only people who play those tees are six handicappers who insist on "playing the whole course," and the course’s "Resistance to Scoring" in Golf Digest competitions. 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Leslie comment: The Sierra agenda

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susceptible to chemical leaching than fairways or roughs because beneath that thin layer of turf is a base of 70 to 90 percent sand. Chemicals sometimes leach through sand, especially after heavy rainfalls. If those chemicals eventually migrate into, say, a stream filled with brook trout, which have a low tolerance for pollution, the fish may die."

Should have made that call to Dr. Cohen, friend. And you might like to know that the "success stories" of developers and superintendents who respond to environmental concerns can be summed up neatly in one paragraph near the end of the article. The winners? David Stone at the Honors Course in Ooltewah, Tenn.; Tom Cassat at Pine Ridge Golf Course in Towson, Md. (sorry, Tom, we know you're actually in Lutherville, but who's counting mistakes?); and Eagle's Landing near Ocean City, Md.

You'll get more out of this week's National Enquirer than Sierra. Hey, at least everyone knows better than to believe what you read in the Enquirer — though probably more of it is truth. And the Enquirer editors and writers must be much less uptight — what with not having to save the snail darter from cruel mankind.

Some day an unbiased article may appear in Sierra. Until then, they are preaching to a choir of happily misinformed-and-wanna-stay-that-way folks. As for me, I'm going to watch who I share my innermost silences with. Bruce, you're forgiven even if you don't ask. That's my duty.

Hurdzan comment

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plain golfers who would be willing to staff a Peace Corps of Golf. Willing to travel to a land or region without golf — be it eastern Europe, Mexico, South America, or an American Indian reservation to establish golf. I am not so naive as to think that this would be a simple undertaking. But with cooperation of the U.S. ambassador corps and personal invitations from best nations, the big guys in golf could make it happen.

What is the long-range incentive for each of us beyond personal fulfillment? First, there is a financial reason that if golf becomes a national pastime it opens up new markets for professional expertise and equipment.

Second, it enhances the possibility of a world tour. Third, it would foster peace between nations. It would make golf a universal sport and not just the idle, rich, white man's game it is perceived to be now. Golf would have little opposition to being an Olympic event.

And lastly, many of us would have a lifetime memory of sharing and giving to a nobler cause... a game we love called golf.

Public Golf '93

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assembled a blockbuster program that will more than interest you — it will help you make money. Public Golf '93 is scheduled for Nov. 14-17, at Wild Dunes in Charleston, S.C. Yes, there will be a tournament held at the Tom Fazio design on the 14th. Not just any tournament, mind you — the first annual Editors' Tourney, where Golf Course News editors Mark Leslie, Peter Blais and myself will display the form that earned us three places in the nation's Top 10 People You Don't Want In Your Scramble.

In any case, we think Public Golf '93 will be worth your while. For more information, contact the Golf Course News Conference Group at 207-846-0600.

AGC spinoff

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able for purchase on attractive terms.

"Further, management believes that a substantial number of these courses are managed by ad hoc organizations of golf professionals and property managers that lack the expertise and centralized management capability to operate, market and maintain such courses efficiently.

"The Company believes that by acquiring such golf courses and installing experienced golf course managers and management systems, its revenue and income from acquisitions can increase." Apparently, investors agree. The 9.7 million shares of common stock hit the New York Stock exchange Aug. 10, selling at $20.375 per share. Two weeks later, it closed at $20.625, a 1/4-point jump.

NGP is very happy with the reception investors have given its initial public stock offering, according to a company official. "It's gone very well," said Executive Vice President and CEO Ed Sause. "The underwriters are very happy. It was well priced and successfully marketed."

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