Dye receiving Ross Award

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland — Pete Dye, who developed a new style of golf course architecture during the past 25 years, has been honored by the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) to receive its 1995 Donald Ross Award.

Dye is the third ASGCA member to receive the award. In 1976 Robert Trent Jones was honored with the initial Ross Award, which is presented annually to an individual who has made contributions to the field of golf course architecture. Geoffrey Cornish, who like Jones and Dye served as president of the society, was honored in 1982.

The Ross Award will be presented to Dye at a banquet here on Tuesday, April 25, at the Russacks Hotel during the ASGCA's annual meeting in Scotland.

"It is fitting that we honor Pete Dye in Scotland," noted ASGCA President Don Knott. "Since he has long admired Donald Ross and has formulated much of his design philosophy and design characteristics from the great links courses of Scotland. Pete Dye, through his designs, has reintroduced the American golfer to the "true" game of golf."

In order to thwart today's pros, who get longer distance each year from high-tech golf clubs and balls, Dye creates hazards on his courses that require constant thinking and precise shotmaking. Dye and

Free-standing ranges up 236

MIDLOTHIAN, Va. — The number of free-standing golf ranges (those not associated with a golf course) in the United States has grown by 236 facilities, according to preliminary results from Forecast Golf Group.

The total number of free-standing golf ranges in the United States as of Dec. 31, was 2,184. This represents a 12.1 percent increase over the 1993 numbers of 1,948 facilities. The industry statistics reflect Forecast's preliminary results from its year-end research and analysis. Final results are expected this month.

According to James E. Turner, vice president of Forecast Golf, "Based on the number of inquiries we receive from new golf range developers, we expect the development of new ranges to continue. Therefore, the number of golf ranges will continue to increase, but not at the double-digit growth rates we have seen over the past few years. This indicates a slower rate of growth for future years.

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Range growth expected to slow
Continued from page 45

that more markets are achieving a balance of supply and demand. With some markets becoming saturated with golf ranges, it is becoming even more critical for the developer to perform the proper market research. This research will indicate whether the market can support a new facility.

Buyers, meet sellers
Continued from page 45
Forecast Golf
For buyers, Forecast can identify ranges for sale in any geographic area in the United States. For sellers, Forecast can identify potential golf/range purchasers in the immediate market area, or any region of the country. Forecast will qualify interested buyers through a screening process. This service will save the golf range owner from having to deal with unqualified buyers. Forecast can also act on behalf of the range seller, allowing the owner to maintain confidentiality. For more information, contact Forecast at 804-379-5760.

Joneses — Rees and Bill — unveil links layout on the Atlantic Ocean
By MARK LESLIE

SEA ISLAND, Ga. — The Jones Connection has proven a fortuitous one here. Enter the principals: Cloister Hotel president and owner Bill Jones III and golf course architect Rees Jones. Witness the results: Ocean Forest Golf Club — a links-style track reminiscent of the first courses in Scotland and possessing their elements.

"I think it's going to be regarded as one of the great golf courses in the world some day," Rees Jones said. "Mainly because it's on the type of land the game evolved from. It has all the elements: the ocean, the river, dunes, saltwater marsh and, on top of that, some magnificent stands of hardwoods and pine trees."

"It will intrigue people because every hole will be different even though it's on a piece of ground that doesn't change dramatically in elevation."

The Joneses, who had collaborated on a renovation of nine holes at the Plantation course at Sea Island, expected a winner — for golf, the environment and financially. The 300 club memberships were all sold before the March 30 opening, and Bill Jones III plans to build 180 townhouses.

The 380-acre property sits on the tip of the small island where the Hampton River meets the Atlantic Ocean — a parcel "that the Joneses wanted to preserve," said Rees. And preserve, they did. Working with the Army Corps of Engineers, Rees routed the layout to fit and not ruin the environment. "We used all the natural elements to the utmost," he said. "In the old days, they used sites to their optimum, because they could not move dirt. When you get a site like this, you have to use what you have. We left every dune in place, like they would have done in the past."

Rees likened the course to Cypress Point, taking the golfer through various terrain and finishing on the ocean. It starts in the woods, comes out to the river on the 5th hole, goes back through dunes, then back by the salt water marsh on 10, then to the river on 12 and 13, back to marsh, and across a beautiful expanse of saltwater marsh at 16. The 17th hole is back to the ocean and the 18th is spectacular, right on the beach.

Its hallmark, Rees said, is its "links-style design with a lot of open entrances. When wind is blowing you can hit the ramps and run the ball on. If the wind isn't blowing, you can fly it in. It will play differently every day, depending on how dry and windy the course is. It has a lot of ramps, especially on longer holes, and on the short-ones, the greens are better protected."