Dear Mark Leslie,

Thank you for your very perceptive commentary in the March issue. Based on many recent articles in other publications, one might think that, all of a sudden, and over the public courses, one might think the game and experienced golfers back more often.

Sincerely,
Chuck Bennett
General Manager
Birds Eye Golf Course
North Canton, Ohio

With an appeal to those who are responsible for TV golf commentary, please listen!

Anyone who watches TV golf has heard Johnny Miller and other commentators say, "This putt is going "down grain.""

I am not sure the TV audience understands what this means. The word "grain," as used by TV analysts, is grossly overused and misused. Perhaps you could explain the term if you are interested in a follow-up story.

Sincerely,
Chuck Bennett
General Manager
Birds Eye Golf Course
North Canton, Ohio

Letters

Everybody's talking junior golf

When I first set sail for my trip around the golfing world — itinerary for nearly eight or so days in previous columns — I was dead sure I'd return with a file full of trend stories to vividly detail the "state of the industry" in the countries of Europe and Asia. What I found was quite surprising.

At Fairways '98 in Munich and Golf Asia in Singapore, two top conferences, besides shows for the global market, the underlying theme was junior golf and how to attract more kids to the game. I was almost certain that the talk in Munich would be about the solid growth of golf in Germany, the proposed "mini boom" coming in Greece or the fallout of Textron's purchase of Ransomes. Instead, the cocktail party chat I was able to ease into revolved around the need for Europe to move away from the pricey signature course and into the affordable, sustainable project.

Sound familiar? Getting sick of hearing it?

The consensus at Golf Asia was that the wild economic roller coaster ride would obviously calm in two to four years, leaving golf to ease its way back into the consciences of developers and players after a temporary hiatus. If one overriding message emanated from the Golf Asia conference it was that once economic tensions have eased, golf will come back stronger and smarter — and hopefully with a slew of kids ready to pump new golf programs.

Day one of the conference, which featured a country-by-country analysis of the golf market in Asia, started out as a broken record.

A.S. Khamis, managing director of ASK Golf Management Sdn Bhd, is about to open and manage Malaysia's first public golf course. Scheduled to open at the end of May, the course will be located in the Klang Valley near the International Airport in Kuala Lumpur and will host Malaysia's first full-time golf academy.

The key to golf's future in Indonesia, said Bob Horan, general manager at Klub Golf Bogor Raya, is aggressive marketing and the development of youth golfers. Peter Goh, general manager of Laguna National Golf & Country Club in Singapore echoed Horan's sentiments, commenting that Singapore needs to improve its infrastructure for facilities that can further stimulate growth, including driving ranges and public courses. Singapore will also have to capitalize on the recent growth of women players.

I was ready for a country-by-country gloom-and-doom report, but what I heard was cautious optimism and positive plans for building golf for Asia's future.

I wanted to forward a few thank-yous to our Hawaiian friends at Turtle Bay Golf Course, Kahuku, Koolau Golf Course, Kaneohe, and the Sheraton Makaha Resort & CC, Makaha, for their hospitality while I was on Oahu taking a much-needed break. As you may know, Koolau has been rated the hardest course in the United States. While stunning, that "hardest" rating needs to be reconsidered.

Everybody's talking junior golf

When I first set sail for my trip around the golfing world — itinerary for nearly eight or so days in previous columns — I was dead sure I'd return with a file full of trend stories to vividly detail the "state of the industry" in the countries of Europe and Asia. What I found was quite surprising.

At Fairways '98 in Munich and Golf Asia in Singapore, two top conferences, besides shows for the global market, the underlying theme was junior golf and how to attract more kids to the game. I was almost certain that the talk in Munich would be about the solid growth of golf in Germany, the proposed "mini boom" coming in Greece or the fallout of Textron's purchase of Ransomes. Instead, the cocktail party chat I was able to ease into revolved around the need for Europe to move away from the pricey signature course and into the affordable, sustainable project.

Sound familiar? Getting sick of hearing it?

The consensus at Golf Asia was that the wild economic roller coaster ride would obviously calm in two to four years, leaving golf to ease its way back into the consciences of developers and players after a temporary hiatus. If one overriding message emanated from the Golf Asia conference it was that once economic tensions have eased, golf will come back stronger and smarter — and hopefully with a slew of kids ready to pump new golf programs.

Day one of the conference, which featured a country-by-country analysis of the golf market in Asia, started out as a broken record.

A.S. Khamis, managing director of ASK Golf Management Sdn Bhd, is about to open and manage Malaysia's first public golf course. Scheduled to open at the end of May, the course will be located in the Klang Valley near the International Airport in Kuala Lumpur and will host Malaysia's first full-time golf academy.

The key to golf's future in Indonesia, said Bob Horan, general manager at Klub Golf Bogor Raya, is aggressive marketing and the development of youth golfers. Peter Goh, general manager of Laguna National Golf & Country Club in Singapore echoed Horan's sentiments, commenting that Singapore needs to improve its infrastructure for facilities that can further stimulate growth, including driving ranges and public courses. Singapore will also have to capitalize on the recent growth of women players.

I was ready for a country-by-country gloom-and-doom report, but what I heard was cautious optimism and positive plans for building golf for Asia's future.

I wanted to forward a few thank-yous to our Hawaiian friends at Turtle Bay Golf Course, Kahuku, Koolau Golf Course, Kaneohe, and the Sheraton Makaha Resort & CC, Makaha, for their hospitality while I was on Oahu taking a much-needed break. As you may know, Koolau has been rated the hardest course in the United States. While stunning, that "hardest" rating needs to be reconsidered.

Time to stop global whining!

Stop Global Whining!

Warning! No Whining? We've heard enough. Enough of what, you ask? I've got a list a scroll long, but I'll keep it to a choice few.

Listen, if you think your personal circumstances are bad, look around. Look at Pebble Beach's Mark Michaud, who walked out onto the course one day to find the access road to golf carts and maintenance vehicles to the 15th tee washed away, along with about 20 feet of subsurface. Or look at the many superintendents in Maine where the Ice Storm of the Century snapped; cracked and broke gazillions of trees, leaving a carnage that reminded one of London after the air raids.

Now do you want to Whine?

OK. Then look at the superintendents in Florida who have lost their jobs — not trees, but livelihoods — because they could not control the weather. They couldn't command the clouds to part and let some sunshine on their turfgrass so that it would grow. And an executive committee here, or an owner there, determined the dead grass was the superintendent's fault.

A reporter of mine once was a paraplegic. While in college, he had fallen from a tree, and since then had used two crutches to get around. Yet he was always pleasant beyond belief. I was close to him when he finally was able to kick his crutches and take a few steps with just a cane. The day he finally could walk. How many handicapped people will ever have the talent or the money to walk?

The key to golf's future in Indonesia, said Bob Horan, general manager at Klub Golf Bogor Raya, is aggressive marketing and the development of youth golfers. Peter Goh, general manager of Laguna National Golf & Country Club in Singapore echoed Horan's sentiments, commenting that Singapore needs to improve its infrastructure for facilities that can further stimulate growth, including driving ranges and public courses.

Singapore will also have to capitalize on the recent growth of women players.

I was ready for a country-by-country gloom-and-doom report, but what I heard was cautious optimism and positive plans for building golf for Asia's future.

I wanted to forward a few thank-yous to our Hawaiian friends at Turtle Bay Golf Course, Kahuku, Koolau Golf Course, Kaneohe, and the Sheraton Makaha Resort & CC, Makaha, for their hospitality while I was on Oahu taking a much-needed break. As you may know, Koolau has been rated the hardest course in the United States. While stunning, that "hardest" rating needs to be reconsidered.

Time to stop global whining!

Stop Global Whining!

Warning! No Whining? We've heard enough. Enough of what, you ask? I've got a list a scroll long, but I'll keep it to a choice few.

Listen, if you think your personal circumstances are bad, look around. Look at Pebble Beach's Mark Michaud, who walked out onto the course one day to find the access road to golf carts and maintenance vehicles to the 15th tee washed away, along with about 20 feet of subsurface. Or look at the many superintendents in Maine where the Ice Storm of the Century snapped; cracked and broke gazillions of trees, leaving a carnage that reminded one of London after the air raids.

Now do you want to Whine?

OK. Then look at the superintendents in Florida who have lost their jobs — not trees, but livelihoods — because they could not control the weather. They couldn't command the clouds to part and let some sunshine on their turfgrass so that it would grow. And an executive committee here, or an owner there, determined the dead grass was the superintendent's fault.

A reporter of mine once was a paraplegic. While in college, he had fallen from a tree, and since then had used two crutches to get around. Yet he was always pleasant beyond belief. I was close to him when he finally was able to kick his crutches and take a few steps with just a cane. The day he finally could walk. How many handicapped people will ever have the talent or the money to walk?

The key to golf's future in Indonesia, said Bob Horan, general manager at Klub Golf Bogor Raya, is aggressive marketing and the development of youth golfers. Peter Goh, general manager of Laguna National Golf & Country Club in Singapore echoed Horan's sentiments, commenting that Singapore needs to improve its infrastructure for facilities that can further stimulate growth, including driving ranges and public courses.

Singapore will also have to capitalize on the recent growth of women players.

I was ready for a country-by-country gloom-and-doom report, but what I heard was cautious optimism and positive plans for building golf for Asia's future.

I wanted to forward a few thank-yous to our Hawaiian friends at Turtle Bay Golf Course, Kahuku, Koolau Golf Course, Kaneohe, and the Sheraton Makaha Resort & CC, Makaha, for their hospitality while I was on Oahu taking a much-needed break. As you may know, Koolau has been rated the hardest course in the United States. While stunning, that "hardest" rating needs to be reconsidered.
**INTRODUCING THE REELMASTER 5200-D**

**WITH A 28-HP KUBOTA DIESEL ENGINE**

The demands of your job cover a lot of ground, so you need equipment you can count on—like the reliable Reelmaster 5200-D fairway mower. It features a rugged Kubota diesel engine for years of dependable performance, backed by an industry-leading 2-year warranty. Plus, we added manually adjustable reel speed controls, so you get a cut that’s as reliable as the Reelmaster 5200-D itself. And there’s more. Call your Toro distributor to demo a Reelmaster 5200-D, or visit us at www.toro.com/golf. Because picture-perfect fairways should never be an uphill battle.

---

**WILLIAM "PETE" JONES**

1933-1998

RALEIGH, N.C.—William P. "Pete" Jones, longtime golf writer and co-founder of the Donald Ross Society, died here in his apartment at the age of 64.

Born March 1, 1933, Mr. Jones retired in 1990 and became very active as archive historian for the Ross Society and had completed much work on a biography of Ross when he passed on.

His wife, Lois, and a son, Bruce, passed on before him.

He is survived by a son, Keith, and daughter-in-law, Jane, of Garner; a sister, Bobbie Medland of San Jose, Calif; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

---

**OBITUARIES**

**DR. C. RICHARD SKOGLEY**

PROVIDENCE, R.I.—Dr. C. Richard Skogley, a pioneer in the turfgrass industry and long-time professor at the University of Rhode Island (URI), has died.

Given the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSSA) Distinguished Service Award in 1989, Dr. Skogley had retired from URI, where he was a professor of turfgrass agronomy and a turfgrass researcher.

He focused on management and plant improvement in his research and spoke at many seminars and conferences on such topics as bentgrass species and varieties for golf turfgrass.

An honorary member of New England area golf course superintendents' organizations, Dr. Skogley served as a chapter newsletter editor and on GCSSA national committees. He held bachelor's and master's degrees from URI and a PhD from Rutgers University.

---

**Leslie comment**

Continued from page 10

I thought I had heard it all. Then, a couple years ago earthworm diggers in Maine went on strike. United they stand, those earthworm diggers. I'm reminded of Doug and Wendy Whiner of Saturday Night Live fame. Even they never Whined like this short list of Whiners.

So, I ask them: Please stop Warming the Globe with your hot-air Whining!

***

Several members of Sugarloaf Golf Club superintendent Ed Michaud's golf maintenance crew are in Sugarloaf USA ski area's grooming department with Michaud, and have taken a new name. "They're calling themselves 'Guest Surfaces' rather than 'Guest Services,' " Michaud laughed. (See more on Michaud on page 16.)

***

Speaking during the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference on how shade kills grass, U.S. Golf Association agronomist Dave Oatis said: "Trees are wonderful. Where else would we get furniture?"

***

Accepting the Donald Ross Humanitarian Award for Arnold Palmer from the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA), his partner Ed Seay mentioned the first time he spoke to the GCBA and his topic was specifications. "I said, 'I have one thing to say: 'Read the spec sheet.' That's the end of my presentation. Now do you have any questions?'"

***

Before I sign off, a plug for a neat little tool called The Greenskeeper from the golf clothing and accessories manufacturer Churchill. It's a heavy-duty ballmark repair tool with a ball marker and shaped to hold a golf club or cigar off the turf. Check it out, but you can't have mine.