Sandy Lyle has his designs on course architecture

Alexander Walter Barr Lyle, MBE - AKA Sandy Lyle - knows a thing or two about golf. Having turned professional in 1977, he has since won the British Open and the U.S. Masters as well as 21 other tournaments on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, not to mention five Ryder Cups. Having dipped his toes in the art of designing golf courses some years ago, he is now ready to take a deeper plunge. Golf Course News International Bureau Chief Trevor Ledger caught up with Lyle during his preparation for the 128th British Open Championship at Carnoustie in July.

Q & A

GCN: Tell me about your partnership with Strategic Golf Design of Colorado, which has formed Sandy Lyle Golf Design.

Sandy Lyle: It started last year. It was something that had been on the sidelines that I wanted to do, other than just playing tournament golf. The guys at Strategic Golf were keen to team up, also to use my name I suppose, and I was keen to get more into the design side of golf. It's a very competitive market, obviously, with [Greg] Norman, [Nick] Faldo, [Arnold] Palmer, [Jack] Nicklaus and [Tom] Weiskopf out there. But we are looking to do a few "facelits" and we'll try and make something work out of.

GCN: Does this increased design activity mean you will play in fewer tournaments?

Lyle: I don't think it will do that actually. I'm not playing the maximum amount of tournaments as it is. I'm not playing 34, 35 tournaments per year. I'm down to the low twenties and there is less pressure every week trying to make the cut.

GCN: So, when you finally quit the Tour, will you go full tilt into golf course design?

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Honours jumps into golf market

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — With an eye toward becoming an immediate, active force in the golf industry, Honours Golf Co. LLC officials say they will move toward development, acquisition and management of first-tier golf course facilities.

Principals are Bob Barrett of Birmingham and Rob Shults of Atlanta. The company will maintain offices in both cities. Chairman of the board is Robert E. Julian of Omaha, Neb. Julian retired from Peter Kiewit Sons, Inc., in 1995 as executive vice president and chief financial officer. Julian continues to be involved in his business investments and serves on the board of directors for Level Three Communications.

The company has raised $50 million in equity, which it will use to acquire and develop golf courses. It will focus on high-end daily-fee facilities in metropolitan markets and resort areas.

Barrett has had a long career in golf, as a professional, manager, and developer.

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Yale grad Rulewich restoring alma mater's course

C.B. Macdonald's original bunkers get new life, facelift

By Mark Leslie

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Yale University Golf Course, the last project completed by the "Father of American Golf Course Architecture," C.B. Macdonald, is undergoing a facelift of its 42 bunkers after decades of neglect.

"We have none of Macdonald's drawings or plans, but we do have 1924 construction photos and some old aerials," said golf course architect Roger Rulewich of The Rulewich Group, a Yale alumnus who is overseeing the project.

Saying university officials "do not know what they have here" in a design by one of the great classic architects, Rulewich said of Macdonald: "I love him. The Yale course is the first I ever played golf on."

The Rulewich Group restored this greenside bunker on the par-4 4th hole at Yale University Golf Course. The bunker had eroded over the years, time "eating up" the slope. Rulewich installed 500 cubic yards of material and "flashed" the sand on the bunker.

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SEASIDE AMONG FASTEST-GROWING

Seaside Golf Development, Inc. Founder and President Scott Pate reported that his firm was recently listed in the June issue of Entrepreneur Magazine as the 44th fastest-growing small businesses in the nation. The rankings were listed in the June issue of Entrepreneur Magazine. Seaside Golf Development, Inc. is a golf course construction company that was formed in October 1997. It is currently working at The Mountain Brook Club and Shoal Creek, both in Birmingham, Ala.; Limestone Springs in Ononta, Ala.; and Spanish Oaks in Brooksville, Fla.

JOHNSON SIGNS S.C. DESIGN DEAL

FORT MILL, S.C. — Clyde Johnston has been retained to design an 18-hole daily-fee golf course here, called Springfield Golf Course. The course is owned and will be managed by Leroy Springs & Co., Inc., which has three other courses within a 30-mile radius of Springfield. Clear Springs Development Co. is making available the land for the course. In designing Springfield, Johnston will work along the banks of Sugar Creek, a swiftly moving, 70-foot-wide waterway that drains rainwater from much of the metro-Charlotte area. Springfield Golf Course is expected to open in the fall of 2000 or spring of 2001.

PLAYER OPENS WOLVERINE

GRAND TRAVERSE, Mich. — Gary Player has opened the Wolverine, an 18-hole layout at KSL-owned Grand Traverse Resort here. The front nine is routed through a landscape that incorporates the large wetlands that have line many of the fairways. The Wolverine's bunkering is some of the most dramatic of all Michigan courses with bold faces and bright white sand, which is in contrast to the darker-colored sands that more often are used in the state's designs.

SHARK HIRES HORBOW

JUPITER, Fla. — Great White Shark Enterprises has retained Rick Horbow as its development advisor. The announcement was made by Greg Norman and Great White Shark President Bart Collins.Horrow is president of the South Florida-based Horrow Sports Ventures.

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