

NEWS OF THE INDUSTRY

Land Costs Versus Course Design

The skyrocketing cost of land has changed the face of golf, according to Robert Muir Graves, newly elected president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

Good land is hard to find. Just ask anyone that is trying to build a golf course today.

Shorter courses are the thing of the future, as real estate costs prohibit the availability of acreage. "There's no doubt about it, today's course is more compact than 10 or 15 years ago," said Graves.

Graves sees shorter courses adding something to the game, though. Finesse and accuracy could return, instead of brute strength which longer courses force players to strive for.

Surveys by the ASGCA indicate that the course of the 70s will be shorter, but not necessarily easier. Fairways will become shorter, but probably more narrower. Greens will also shrink in size, but more protection will come from traps and bunkers.

Some architects suggest that minimum green size could vary from 4,500 to 5,000 square feet. At that

size, putting will retain its proper emphasis.

Possibly, on some par 4s and 5s, many players will be tempted to leave their drivers in the bag. More holes will be designed to reward the well-placed tee shot, instead of the long blast slightly off line.

Spray hitters of the future will be beset with fairway widths of 30 yards. Golf architects will now be putting tough things into smaller packages.

Besides its current report on short courses, the ASGCA also has a few opinions on slow play and how it affects courses and their membership.

Playing pace has the major part in determining the speed of play. Many have advocated golfers pass an etiquette test and shoot below a certain score before being allowed to play during heavy traffic periods.

Architects hope to speed play by the sequencing of holes by length and degree of difficulty. Most architects try to avoid penal holes, which cause the average golfer a great deal of trouble and cause slow play.

The show will be Jan. 26-29, and will be headquartered at the Contemporary Hotel in Disney World near Orlando, Fla.

The new indoor site for the show is considered to be an improvement over last year's tents in Port St. Lucie, Fla., which provided no air conditioning and problems with wind and rain. However, most pros last year were happy with the conducive buying atmosphere of the show, and look forward to the same this year.

A PGA spokesman told GOLF-DOM attendance is expected to top last year because there is no concern over the energy crisis. Also, it is ex-

pected many pros will be combining business with pleasure because of the attraction of Disney World, and the abundance of accommodations in the area.

5,000 Are Expected At New Orleans Turf Show

Chris Schenkel, ABC sports commentator, will be the keynote speaker at the 46th Annual Golf Course Superintendents Association of America International Turfgrass Conference and Show Feb. 16-21 in New Orleans.

For the first time in the event's history, concurrent sessions will be held focusing on various areas of education for superintendents.

Over 5000 persons are expected to attend the conference, and there will be more than 110,000 square feet of exhibit space.

There will also be a series of seminars during the pre-conference weekend. They will be classroom sessions with about 50 students each in such areas as pesticides, financial management, etc.

The GCSAA will also offer its certification examination at the conference.

Officers to be Elected At PGA Annual Meeting

Early arrangements are being made for the Professional Golfers Association's 58th Annual Meeting, Dec. 3-6, at the Regent Hotel in Honolulu.

New officers will be elected at the meeting which will be presided over by President William Clarke, Secretary Henry Poe and Treasurer Donald Padgett.

Highlights of last year's meeting in Dallas were plans for a new home for the PGA, discussions of the image of the club professional and discussions of job status.

Ball, Club Manufacturers Set Fall, Spring Meetings

Rancho Bernardo Resort near San Diego, Calif., will be the site of the fall meetings of the National Association of Golf Club Manufacturers and the Golf Ball Manufacturers Association Oct. 13-16.

The two organizations will meet in conjunction with sports equip-

PGA Show Indoor Location Gets High Pro Response

Initial response from pros planning to attend January's Professional Golfers' Association Merchandise Show has been high due to the new indoor location of the show for the first time this year.

The PGA reports contracts were sent out late last month, and it should be known how many companies will attend the show and exhibit. Early estimates indicate attendance may top last year's totals of 200 exhibitors in 420 spaces and approximately 4500 persons.