

DEVELOPMENT

American continent, but here mainly in control of local authorities. The survey did not seek to examine the

success rate of current applications in the pipe line from commercial undertakings, but offered advice and technical guidance to those contemplating the development of golf courses.

Perhaps it is time that a coordinated national organisation be formed, representing the Sports Council, the EGU, the PGA, the Greenkeepers Association and the Nature Conservancy Council, in a national outcry against those people, who for reasons of self interest, are opposed to improved facilities for the game that started on this island. It is the attitude of uninformed planning authorities, backed by influential pressure groups, who are currently winning the day.

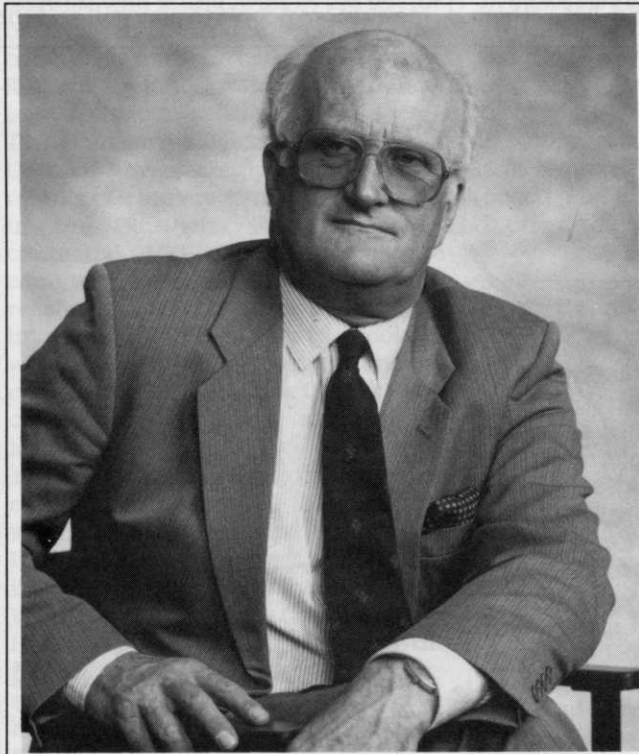
Hard facts on rejec-

tion rates are difficult to obtain. However, it is common knowledge that a well-known Yorkshire club, with a ten year waiting list has had two applications for a new clubhouse rejected and an enforcement noticed threatened because they used a small area of scrub land, adjacent to their existing car park to accommodate extra vehicles at weekends.

An example of a club anxious to improve facilities for the local golfing community, but stymied by a few selfish residents enjoying free scenic views over the course, paid for by the very people they are attempting to deprive.

**Providing Golf in the Southern Region. Published by the Sports Council (Southern Region) 51a, Church Street, Caversham, Reading. Priced £5.00.*

**A Strategy for the Provision of Golf Facilities. Published by the Sports Council (South Western Council) Ashlands, Crewkerne, Somerset. Priced £5.00*



Peter Dutton, President EGU, looking for 500 extra courses

So you think that being a golf course architect is easy?

A reaction from David Pottage, managing director of John Jacobs Golf Associates Ltd

I don't know how my competitors are coping with the current golf boom. Very well, I am sure. It is, as far as this company is concerned, a wonderful period, filled with many glorious opportunities to provide golf at all levels and for players of all abilities.

It is also a period of great frustration, sometimes because one cannot always see the 'goldmine' to end a struggling farmers nightmare, hoped for with the winning of planning permission. There are also the frustrations of the local authorities, who do not automatically accept that "we know what is best for the land", or that "what is best for our client is automatically best for the community in general". Having spent 20 years in local government myself, I have to admit that I sometimes tend to see their point of view.

The biggest frustration, however, is the length of time one waits trying to go places. Airport lounges, railway stations,

traffic jams in general and especially the M25, that wonderful short-cut, that free car park, that cause of more delayed appointments than perhaps anything in the South of England - it can, however, provide a good excuse of just being plain late! Over the relatively short period since its completion, one has at some time been stationary along almost all of its 120 odd miles!

To balance the frustration is the tremendous variety of site, project and indeed individual who wants to "do a golf course". The projects vary from driving range, through par-3 course, executive golf course to public pay-to-play golf centres. They range from new member's club courses and alterations to existing courses to corporate golf, from nine-hole through eighteen to thirty-six holes, from "to build it myself" projects "to money no object". The combination is endless. The locations are worldwide. Whether or not there is any soil or water, or whether

mountains need to be moved, or even whether there are people nearby who even know what golf is, does not seem to matter.

The individuals concerned are equally as varied, just as interesting and always madly enthusiastic, demanding reports, feasibility studies, plans and meeting, usually yesterday or at the very least, this week sometime! They range from the farmer, who may be finding life increasingly difficult, because of milk quotas or general agricultural policies, to the young professional who sees the driving range as a way of breaking free though every possible combination of individual to the chairman and managing directors of the multi-national companies. Their reasons may be different (superficially at any rate) but their aims are the same. They all want GOLF.

The whole situation is still bubbling along, for how much longer who can say. Government policy and maybe continued European success in the World's golf tournaments will be factors. Future government policy is anybody's guess, I would, however, like to put in a plea to Tony's lads "Please fellows, win the Ryder Cup and help keep the boom going". The actual golf course architecture? - Oh I leave nearly all that to John Jacobs, he is very good at it.