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Publisher
Michael Coffey

Executive Editor
John Lelean

Contributors
Jim Arthur BSc Agric.
John Campbell

For all advertising enquiries
phone
0255 507526
Fax: 0255 508483

Advertising Production
Linda Baker

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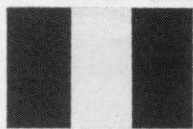
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Tel: 612 888 8801
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RÉSUMÉ



FRENCH

La pression incessante exercée pour que de nouveaux terrains de golf soient créés afin de satisfaire le nombre croissant de personnes désireuses de se mettre au golf a incité le Royal and Ancient Golf Club de St. Andrews à produire un autre document-conseils intitulé: "The Demand for Golf".

Bien que le rapport se concentre entièrement sur la situation au Royaume-Uni, une grande partie de son contenu est applicable aux autres pays. Néanmoins, notre collaborateur, Jim Arthur, n'est pas entièrement d'accord avec le document: traditionaliste avoué, il déplore la suggestion qu'il vaudrait mieux, vu le prix élevé de la terre, construire des parcours à neuf trous suivant des spécifications moins exigeantes et les améliorer éventuellement à une date ultérieure.

Il insiste que ce n'est point la façon de faire face à la demande car il pourrait s'ensuivre d'innombrables problèmes d'entretien des parcours pour le responsable ainsi que des coûts proportionnellement plus élevés.

La plupart des terrains de golf de Grande-Bretagne appartiennent uniquement aux membres: il y a quelque quatre-vingts ans de cela la terre s'achetait à bas prix. Comme les meilleurs golfs sont situés sur un sol de mauvaise qualité, sur des landes, des brandes et des dunes, les propriétaires de ces terres étaient ravis de trouver des acquéreurs.

Maintenant, dit Mr. Arthur, il ne reste plus de terres de ce type à acheter, d'où l'achat de terres agricoles qui conviennent mal à des terrains de golf - des architectes non qualifiés en font le dessin et la construction en est entreprise par des personnes qui ne connaissent pas grand chose en matière de parcours de golf.

Cependant, le document "The Demand for Golf", comme le document précédent "The Way Forward", causeront, selon Mr Arthur, quelques 'remous dans la mare' et, comme il l'avoue, il est connu pour y jeter plus de pavés que la plupart!

Il est aussi communiqué que la USGA doit se défendre dans un procès intenté par la Karsten Company - fabricants des clubs Ping-Eye 2 qui font l'objet du différend - au sujet de la décision de la USGA et du Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews à savoir que ces clubs ne sont pas conformes aux spécifications des Règles de Golf.

La somme en jeu serait de l'ordre de 100 millions de dollars. La USGA met en question la position de la Karsten Company déclarant que si les fabricants peuvent vendre des clubs qui ne sont pas conformes, elle n'aura pas d'autorité quant à la conduite du jeu.

Dans ce numéro également: les expériences de l'entrepreneur de parcours britannique, Stephen Goldthorpe, qui a délaissé sa ville natale de Sheffield il y a deux ans pour prendre un poste de gestionnaire de parcours près de Munich. Il ne regrette pas cette décision mais fait remarquer que son salaire, plus élevé, ne lui vient pas sans effort dans un pays où les contrôles stricts concernant l'environnement peuvent rendre l'entretien d'un terrain de golf beaucoup plus difficile qu'en Grande-Bretagne.



SPANISH

La continua presión para que hayan más campos de golf y así satisfacer al creciente número de personas que quieren iniciarse en este deporte, ha hecho que el Royal and Ancient Golf Club de St. Andrews produzca otro documento de consulta titulado "The Demand for Golf" (La demanda de golf).

Aunque el informe se centra en la situación en el Reino Unido, mucho de lo que se dice se podría aplicar a otros países. No obstante, el documento no goza de un comentario del todo favorable de nuestro colaborador, Jim Arthur. Tradicionalista confeso, él lamenta que se sugiera que debido al alto costo de la compra de terrenos, es mejor construir campos de nueve hoyos siguiendo menores especificaciones, para posteriormente realizar mejoras en el campo.

Esta, según afirma, no es la manera de satisfacer la demanda, ya que puede conducir a problemas imprevistos para el encargado del "green" en lo que respecta al mantenimiento del campo, y a la vez puede generar proporcionalmente mayores costos. La mayor parte de los campos de golf británicos son de manera inconfundible propiedad de sus miembros. Los terrenos se compraron a bajo precio hace unos ochenta años y debido a que los mejores campos de golf se encuentran en terrenos de poca calidad, terrenos baldíos, brezales y dunas, los propietarios originales se alegraban de encontrar a alguien que quisiera comprar dichas tierras.

En la actualidad, declara el Sr. Arthur, no queda este tipo de terreno para construir, por lo tanto se utiliza terreno inapropiado que pertenece a tierras agrícolas, el diseño corre a cargo de arquitectos no calificados, y quienes lo construyen saben muy poco sobre la construcción de campos de golf.

Sin embargo, tanto "The Demand for Golf" como el anterior documento "The Way Forward" (El camino a seguir), causarán - en palabras de Mr Arthur - unas cuantas olas en el charco; y como él mismo lo dice, a él se le conoce por ser un buen "lanzador de piedras al agua".

También se informa que la USGA va a confrontar un juicio iniciado por la compañía Karsten, los fabricantes de los polémicos palos de golf Ping-Eye 2, relacionado con la disposición, tanto de la USGA como del Royal and Ancient Golf Club, en el sentido de que dichos palos de golf no están conformes con las especificaciones señaladas en el Reglamento de Golf.

Se dice que el dinero en cuestión asciende a más de 100 millones de dólares. La USGA cuestiona a la compañía Karsten ya que, según dice, si los fabricantes pueden comercializar palos ilegales, aquella no cuenta con autoridad para dirigir la conducción del juego.

También aparecen las experiencias de Stephen Goldthorpe, encargado de un "green" británico, quien dejara su Sheffield nativo hace dos años para dirigirse a Munich donde pasó a ser Gerente de un Campo de Golf. No se arrepiente del cambio, pero resalta que su mayor sueldo es el fruto del esfuerzo, en un país en el cual los controles del medio ambiente son tan estrictos, que mantener un campo resulta más difícil que en Gran Bretaña.



GERMAN

Die ständige Forderung nach mehr Golfplätzen, um die wachsende Anzahl derjenigen zu befriedigen, die Golf spielen wollen, hat den Royal and Ancient Golf Club von St. Andrews dazu veranlaßt, eine weitere Beratungsschrift mit dem Titel "The Demand for Golf" (Die Nachfrage nach Golf) herauszugeben.

Obwohl sich der Bericht ganz auf die Lage im Vereinigten Königreich konzentriert, läßt sich viel von dem Gesagten auch auf andere Länder anwenden. Diese Schrift findet jedoch nicht die volle Zustimmung unseres Mitarbeiters Jim Arthur. Als selbsterklärter Traditionalist mißbilligt er den Vorschlag, wegen der hohen Kosten des Landkaufs besser jetzt neun Löcher nach einer niedrigeren Spezifikation zu bauen und den Golfplatz später zu verbessern.

Dies, so behauptet er, ist aber nicht der richtige Weg, um die Nachfrage zu befriedigen, da er zu unzähligen Problemen für den Golfplatzverwalter bei der Instandhaltung des Grüns als auch zu entsprechend höheren Kosten führen würde.

Die meisten Golfplätze Großbritanniens gehören ausschließlich den Mitgliedern, da man das Land vor ungefähr achtzig Jahren billig kaufen konnte. Da die besten Golfplätze auf schlechtem Boden wie Heide, Moorland und Sanddünen liegen, waren die ursprünglichen Besitzer begeistert, einen Käufer zu finden.

Jetzt, so sagt Mr. Arthur, steht von diesem Bodentyp nichts mehr zur Entwicklung zur Verfügung, und daher wird ungeeignetes landwirtschaftliches Gelände in Benutzung genommen, von nicht qualifizierten Architekten als Golfplatz entworfen und von Leuten gebaut, die wenig vom Bau von Golfplätzen verstehen.

Doch sollen "The Demand for Golf" und das vorausgehende Dokument über die Grün-Verwaltung - "The Way Forward" (Der Weg nach Vorn), mit Mr. Arthurs Worten ein paar leichte Wellen im Teich verursachen, und wie er sagt, ist bekannt, daß er mehr Steine wirft als die meisten!

Es wird ebenfalls berichtet, daß die USGA eine Klage bekämpfen werden, die von der Karsten Company, dem Hersteller der umstrittenen Ping-Eye 2 Golfschläger, über die Entscheidung sowohl der USGA als auch des R & A, daß diese Schläger nicht den in den Golfregeln niedergelegten Spezifikationen entsprechen, angestrengt wurde.

Die in Frage stehende Summe soll sich auf mehr als \$100M belaufen. Die USGA greifen die Karsten Company an und sagen, daß sie keine Autorität haben, die Führung des Spiels zu bestimmen, wenn Fabrikanten illegale Schläger auf den Markt bringen können.

Ebenfalls veröffentlicht wird die Erfahrung des britischen Golfplatzverwalters Stephen Goldthorpe, der vor zwei Jahren seine Heimatstadt Sheffield verließ, um eine Stelle als Golfplatzmanager in der Nähe von München aufzunehmen. Er bedauert diesen Wechsel nicht, doch betont er, daß in einem Land, in dem eine strenge Umweltkontrolle die Instandhaltung von Golfplätzen schwieriger macht als in Großbritannien, sein höheres Gehalt verdient werden muß.

GREENSIDE COMMENT

The consultancy document from the Greenkeeping Panel of the R & A, was officially launched at the beginning of November with the expected 'bombshell reaction' from the national press.

The Way Forward, reviewed in part in last month's edition of *The Golf Course*, by Jim Arthur is a hard hitting criticism of the management and maintenance programmes of most of Britain's 1,800 member and public courses.

Much of the blame is laid fairly and squarely on the antiquated club management practices in member run clubs, who have persisted in keeping a Committee structure, which has proved inefficient, ineffective and quite unable to cope with the vast increases of play.

It is said committees are in the main far too large, particularly the Green Committee, whose technical knowledge is described as "either non-existent or at best woefully primitive". It is suggested they should consist of a maximum of three - The Head Greenkeeper, Green Chairman and the Club Secretary.

The panel also suggests that many Committee members take office more as a step on the social ladder, rather than in an attempt to make a meaningful contribution to the well being of the course and the interests of their fellow members.

They also accuse committee attitudes to greenkeeping as "astonishingly disorganised, penny pinching and arrogant".

Committee interference by those whose qualifications consist of a farming connection or an interest in gardening, together with low inadequate budgets are blamed for the increasing problems of course condition. It is suggested that even in winter it is possible to have mud-free fairways and firm fast greens, but all too few courses experience these conditions because of the lack of expertise.

The heart of the problem, which the panel under the Chairmanship of Tim Taylor see as the root cause of much of the troubles on British courses is the attitude of golfers, who expect their course to look like Augusta.

Club members and their elected representatives have failed to take into consideration different climatic conditions and maintenance costs, and in an attempt to produce target type greens have over-fertilised and over-watered. This has led to an increase in annual meadow grass, thatch build-up and wet, muddy conditions.

The recent 2p per head levy by the Golf Course Unions on club membership to

finance Greenkeeper Training is described as "totally inadequate" and they recommend it should be increased to 50p, rising to £1.

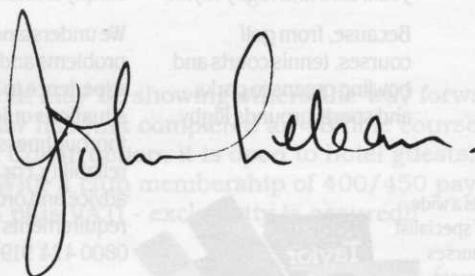
What should be worrying to any golf club is the allegation that some suppliers are using business methods which at best are described as "questionable". It is suggested that greenstaff are offered various inducements from some trade companies to purchase materials.

It is common knowledge that there are suppliers, who both through advertising and their representatives, offer clothing, glassware and other personal items to gain large orders, at the expense of bulk discounts, which should be passed on to the club. This practice according to the document is only excusable because of the "penny pinching attitude to greenkeeper salaries".

The R & A are to be congratulated on the publication of this document, which has appeared "warts and all", as the R & A have not escaped criticism themselves. They have incurred the wrath of their own greenkeeping panel for continuing to allow host clubs, together with championship committee agronomists to prepare for major events.

The new generation of golf course architects, mainly professionals with no architectural qualifications also receive a side-swipe. Reservations are expressed that too many of the new course developments will be difficult to maintain by greenstaff, because the constructions are unsound and sited on unsuitable land.

There is much to read in *The Way Forward*, together with a great deal of common sense. One can only hope that the criticisms will be regarded as constructive, those involved will take heed before it is too late and a conscious determined effort will be made to correct at least some of the problems.



EDITOR

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CLIPPINGS

By The Mower

Odds-on Sale for Race and Golf Course

Lingfield Park, best known for horse racing, but which also contains a golf course within the complex, is up for sale. Leisure Investments plc, who made a disastrous move into the casino business both at home and overseas are inviting offers for the freehold of Lingfield Park. Shareholders should also note that one casino has been sold and two others are at the contract stage, though how anyone can lose money when they own the wheel, beats us.

New Golf Course for Wisley

We hear that Southern Golf, the construction company headed by Ray Wilson, are about to sign up a £3m deal with Marlin Estates plc to build an 18 hole golf course at Wisley near Woking. Designed by Robert Trent-Jones Jnr, this will be the first UK course for Bob Junior. Let us hope he does't follow the principles of his father, on his first venture in Britain. When Moor Allerton, near Leeds was opened in the seventies, the greens were unreadable and the course so difficult, most professionals had to perform a minor miracle to break par.

Vacancies for Golf Writers

As the golf scene 'booms' so the serious golf writers decline. Doyen of the current bunch, Peter Dobereiner, is expected to put down his pen for the Observer in the New Year, which leaves Michael Williams on the Telegraph and Mitchell Platts for The Times as the two established names among a diminishing handful of readable and informed national scribes.

We hear golf course architect, Donald Steel, who writes for the Sunday Telegraph is also to cease his contributions, due to a staff editorial merger.

ICI's Media Day

ICI's Professional Products Division took a number of those hard-working amenity turf reporters to the Northamptonshire County Golf Club in October to test their skills with the little white ball.

Most would say it was purely in the line of business to inspect the bents and fescues (there were plenty of those), the golf was incidental!

However, The Golf Course publisher, Michael Coffey steered his ball nearest the pin for a bottle of Black Label - with borrowed clubs we might add, and 'The Mole' popped up from Turf Management and used his new Hogans to good effect, to also make the prize table.

Record Broken

Remember the article in March this year on the Yorkshire course at Shipley Beckfoot, where Head Greenkeeper, Pat Murphy, re-built a green from the drains upward and had it back in play within a month? Well, we hear he has slashed the time taken on his latest project by almost half!

Pat lifted the par-3, 17th green in September and had it playing in a major tournament in just 18 days. Not only that, but during the month the club were without a steward so he ran the bar in his spare time.

The Way Forward?

The owners of Hintlesham Hall in Suffolk may be showing others the way forward, for this exclusive hotel, once owned by chef Robert Carrier has just completed an 18 hole course. Designed by Hawtree & Son and built by Land Unit Construction, it is open to hotel guests, individual and corporate members only - no visitors. With a club membership of 400/450 paying £1300 entrance fee and £750 a year subscription (both plus VAT) - exclusivity is assured!!

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