

NEWS ROUND-UP

PEOPLE, PRODUCTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

IN THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY



Sotheby's Spring Sales £1,500

Sotheby's Spring series of sales in Sussex will this year include a sale of Golfing Clubs and Associated Works of Art, to be held at Summers Place, Billingshurst on March 31st 1988.

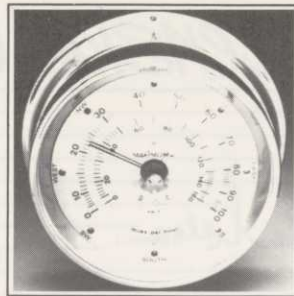
Enthusiasts of the sport and collectors may be interested in a variety of early golf clubs by Paxton, McEwan, Simpson and Auchterlonie.

A set of eight prints by Hassall, entitled 'Seven Ages of Golf' depicting figures in comic situations on the golf course has an estimated value of £1,200-1,500, and a Doulton vase decorated with golfing scenes is expected to realise between £700-£900.

Among other items in the sale include a number of interesting golfing books, quality paintings and unusual novelty pieces associated with the game.

Sotheby's Collectors Department will also be attending the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham on March 4th-6th 1988 to advise on buying and selling golfing items through Sotheby's

NEWS 1



Wind Instruments

Met-Check, the leading meteorological equipment manufacturer and supplier, has been appointed sole UK agent for the Maximum range of wind and weather instruments made by Maximum Inc of Boston, Massachusetts.

Maximum's instruments are designed and manufactured to the highest professional standard; they are available with silver or black dials and are guaranteed for five years.

Products available from Met-Check include the Maestro which is an anemometer with either standard or standard and expanded scales, gust recorder and eight LEDs to show wind direction and the Vigilant anemometer which has similar standard and expanded scales but does not show wind direction. Both instruments are mounted in quality brass cases.

The Sirocco is a simple, self-powered wind speed indicator with a compact gauge mounted on a wooden block and is very competitively priced. The Mini-Max is a remote-reading dual scale electronic thermometer with high and low recording pointers.

A number of golf courses have purchased wind speed instruments, including Hunstanton on the East Anglian coast.

NEWS 2

New book on the History of Golf

Hot on the heels of Europe's historic victory in the recent Ryder Cup in the USA, comes publication of a new book on this most fascinating and frustrating sport: GOLF: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY by Robert Green which Collins Willow publish on October 29 at £14.95.

Starting with the probable origins of the game (from the Flemish sport of chole played in medieval times), the book looks at all aspects of its history - the Scottish connection; golf equipment; great champions and great championships; the US Tour and its equivalents worldwide; the Ryder Cup; and amateur golf and ladies golf.

In addition there are chapters on St. Andrew's, the cradle of the game, the other best courses around the world, and on an often overlooked breed - the architects. How many courses in Britain match up to Alister Mackenzie's (the Augusta National designer) 'essential features of an ideal course' found on page 167?

Author Robert Green also bravely picks his 30 household names of golf, with some contentious inclusions and omissions. Johnny Miller is in, but Hale Irwin, Fuzzy Zoeller and Larry Nelson are not. From an earlier age, both Willie Park (winner of the first Open Championship) and Willie Anderson are excluded, as is Jim Barnes, the emigrant Cornishman who in 10 seasons from 1916 won two PGAs and an Open on either side of the Atlantic. Readers, no doubt, will make up their own minds as to their all-time greats of golf!

As its title suggests, the book is handsomely and extensively illustrated with many vintage black & white photographs and etchings plus the best of today's colour shots of players and courses. All in all, Robert Green has written a lively and rich survey of this very great game.

ROBERT GREEN is a young writer who has worked for Golf World magazine and was the London Daily News golf correspondent. Born in Manchester, he lived in Derbyshire before attending university at Sheffield. A keen golfer himself, he is now based in north London and plays at Highgate Golf Club.

NEWS 3

COSFORD GOLF LANDSCAPES

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Ryder Cup Video

The BBC have launched two golf videos covering the memorable victories of the European Ryder Cup at the Belfry in 1985 and at Muirfield Village last September.

The re-released Belfry tape runs for 120 minutes and the 'Victory in America' video for 90 minutes, which just goes to show how much we all suffered on this side of the Atlantic from the constant breaks for advertising.

It is interesting to compare the coverage between the two events, which shows there is just "no contest" against the camera and production crews of the BBC when reporting golf. We all know they are brilliant - this proves it.

Both cassettes can be obtained from BBC Enterprises, 80, Wood Lane, London W12 0OT priced £9.99 each.

Q.E.2's propellers into golf clubs

Swilken of St. Andrews in conjunction with Sandhill (Bullion) Ltd. have bought one of the thirty-two and half ton marine bronze propellers from the Q.E.2 to melt down and turn into high quality golf clubs.

The metal which has the colour of platinum with a hint of gold will produce a distinctive set of irons for the golfer who is seeking the ultimate and is prepared to pay for it.

Gold Award for the STRI

Following the successful launch of the National Turfgrass Council's new initiative designed to revitalise industry awareness and set a progressive strategy for the future, the Sports Turf Research Institute has donated £800 to become a "Gold Patron".

The N.T.C. are seeking donations from the sports turf industry to finance the Council's activities in education, training, research, promotion of amenity turf in general and lobbying support within the corridors of power.

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Midland expansion for Rigby Taylor

Rigby Taylor, the Bolton based supplier of fertilisers and accessories for the golf course industry has recently doubled the size of their Budbrooke Trading Estate warehouse and offices in Warwick.

Owen Jones, 35 years in the horticultural trade has been appointed the depot's Sales Office Manager.

Quote of the Month

Pro golfer Carl Mason asked for his impressions of the new Emirates Golf Club, built in the desert outside Dubai said he thoroughly enjoyed the course, but thought there should be a little less sand in the bunkers!

Mason, Horton, Marchbanks, Longmuir and Gregson were part of a Pro-Am team who played two tournaments at the first all grass golf course to be built alongside the Arabian Gulf.

New Turfgrass Manual from British Seed Houses

The third revised edition of the BSH Turfgrass Manual, first published in 1980 will be available from 1st January, priced £3.75, postage paid.

The twenty-one chapters over sixty pages represents a slightly enlarged reference book compared to the second edition and this year includes information on grass species recommended for coastal and derelict land reclamation as well as wild flora seed.

With a publication offering wide advice to the turf maintainer it was most surprising to find this advice was directed at Lawn Management, Race Course Management, Cricket, Football, Hockey, Bowls and Tennis, but nothing specifically for the golf course.

Perhaps the authors believed they cannot teach the golf greenkeeper anything about maintaining his greens, tees and fairways!

Copies may be obtained from BSH Ltd., Pitt Street, Warrington, WA5 5LE, enclosing £3.75.



HOWARD SWAN HAS LEFT GOLF LANDSCAPES TO ESTABLISH A PRACTICE IN HIS OWN NAME SPECIALISING IN GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

Born in the North of England and intensely proud of his Geordie heritage, Howard Swan successfully completed two University degrees in the early seventies. From a domestic base in Essex, where his father had relocated because of his work, he decided that initially, at least, he would follow his chosen academic subjects and commenced employment with an American pharmaceutical company, in the corporate planning department.

After two years, however, the business which had been started by his father, and in which he had taken an interest, had begun to grow rapidly and in 1972 he joined the Board as a contracts director and began to build his first golf course at Mowsbury Park, Bedford, to the design of Hawtree and Son.

He has been a director of Golf Landscapes Limited for the past sixteen years and has seen them develop into one of the most experienced and respected specialist contractors in golf course construction in the United Kingdom and abroad. During that time he has led the Company into many design and build projects, as well as establishing an irrigation division as a regional distributor for Toro products in golf and turf generally.

As a confirmed internationalist, he has created many opportunities to travel abroad in pursuit of his career and is a regular contributor to the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America, both in providing editorial material for the magazine 'Golf Course Management' and giving presentations at the Annual International Convention in 1985 and 1987.

In 1986 he was commissioned as the golf course consultant for Bovis International Ltd. and has been working for the company in managing the construction of the new championship course of Sao Lourenco, at Quinta do Lago, Portugal, its completion, and now its ongoing maintenance. Elsewhere in Portugal, he is retained by Shell Portuguesa, McInerney Lda. and Quinta da Marinha Golf and Country Club, as golf course consultant, as well as in Corfu, Greece.

He sees the development of a specialist role in construction management of great importance in his future years, linked with advisory work in golf course design, irrigation and ongoing maintenance.

In 1984 he was elected to The Chair of The National Turfgrass Council, a representative body for the amenity industry, acting as an umbrella organisation for trade and public bodies alike and specialising in all kinds of turf. This has enabled him to be particularly active in the development of NTC conferences, workshops and seminars throughout the United Kingdom, presenting a wide range of technical subjects, from sand constructions to wild flora, from recreational use of farmland to voluntary groundsmanship. Some 24 National Associations are represented on the Council, and with them he is presently developing a 5 year funding programme to establish a permanent secretariat.

On the Council, he represents the British Association of Golf Course Constructors. In an attempt to improve the industry in which he worked, Howard Swan founded the group for contractors specialising in golf course construction, drawing together representatives from, initially, three other companies. Meetings are regularly held and three Education Sessions have been organised with international participation. Presently eight construction companies and some fifteen suppliers are members of the Association.

Arising from his Chairmanship of the National Turfgrass Council, he has given papers to the European Landscape Contractors Association in Malmö, Sweden, on Sports Ground Provision, and to the American Society of Golf Course Architects, in Limerick, Eire, on the building of traditional golf courses.

This latter presentation led directly to his commissioning as golf course consultant to Tom Watson and Robert Trent Jones II in the construction of the new championship links at Spanish Bay, Pebble Beach, California.

Outside his business activities, he enjoys sport and travel and plays golf enthusiastically but says inconsistently.

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