

fairways; a timber bridge and rock waterfall between the 2 new lakes; and a small narrow green in a former quarry.

An aspect of the development of this championship style golf course which may be considered by some to be controversial was the extensive use of MSC labour. In the event this has worked well, and is worthy of note.

The vast majority of MSC work has been in connection with general site clearance and in providing a land drainage system to the whole site. This has involved establishing mains, and then laterals where site conditions were found to be poorly drained, apart from the herringbone system in the greens.

The MSC team have also been involved in the work to the existing woodlands and in afforestation, including clearing and burning brush and waste timber and removing tree roots from site. They have erected all the protective timber fencing and planted and maintained forestry transplant areas, as well as the half-standard planting in the critical areas of the course.

Other works carried out by the MSC team include: erection of security fencing and gates around the perimeter of the site and temporary fencing around the decaying structure of Oulton Hall; stone picking using agricultural equipment and pond dredging.

CONCLUSION:

This article illustrates the way, in difficult economic times, how construction of a golf course can become financially feasible when the approach is toward a linked Community Programme and a Local Authority Scheme with further support from Forestry Commission and Fisheries grants.

To work on such a major recreational scheme is a real training opportunity for those seeking employment through MSC.

Lastly, the method of working illustrates how a local authority can maximise the use of its own resources and use specialist consultants and contractors in a most cost-effective way.

The Editor is most grateful to John Morgan, The Chief Landscape Architect to Leeds City Council who has tackled this enterprising project with a great deal of enthusiasm, and injected a similar feeling among those working with him.

The information contained in this article has been obtained from a paper prepared by John Morgan for a forthcoming presentation.

TECHNICAL 2

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New 50m Golf Complex for Northampton

1976 Open Champion Johnny Miller is to design his first 'own name' golf course at Northampton. Miller made a come back this year, winning the A.T.&T. at Pebble Beach, his first tour victory since 1983

Work on a £50 million golf complex in central England designed by Open Champion Johnny Miller, based on the concept of combining health and leisure facilities on one integrated site has started outside Northampton. It will be the first development of its kind in Britain.

Collingtree Park is the first integrated complex to be built by Health and Leisure International in Britain and is based on the concept of setting top quality executive homes into the beautifully controlled landscaped environment of a championship golf course similar in many ways to both Wentworth and St. George's Hill.

The Company intend to go several stages further by incorporating onto the golf course, Britain's first purpose-designed golfing academy to teach golf to people of all ages and abilities. This will be complemented by further leisure and health facilities designed to give tuition in many other sports. This concept is aimed particularly at senior business executives and professional people and includes a sports injury clinic capable of providing full rehabilitation facilities for top sports men and women. A luxury hotel and homes for retired people are also planned.

Planning authority has been granted by Northampton Borough Council for HLI to develop the 275-acre site a few minutes off the M1 motorway, near Collingtree village, between the motorway and the A508. The total development will cost approximately £50m and take up to five years to complete. Work on the golf course - the first phase

of the project - commenced in May and is scheduled to be open for play by the Autumn of 1989.

The site will contain 185 luxury houses on about 60 acres of grounds in a landscaped environment, set between eight lakes. The championship golf course built to USPGA specifications, with a club house, a four-star hotel, and 45 homes for retired people. Later the site will include a forward health sports teaching academy and health centre as well as a 60-bed nursing home.

Collingtree Park was chosen as the site for HLI's first golf complex because of its geographical position at the crossroads of central England and the access to it by motorway. It is within easy reach for executives and professional people to drive to for a day's golf from the Midlands and Home Counties. Watford and the outskirts of Greater London are only an hour or so's drive away. Access is a few minutes off Junction 15 of the M1 just three miles from the centre of Northampton.

The landscaping of 275 acres involves the moving of more than 350,000 cubic metres of earth and the formation of eight lakes with a surface area of approximately 11 acres. The water features will contain some 25 million gallons and will eliminate the occasional flood problems associated with Wooton Brook which runs through the park. Considerable sums of money are being spent on the woodland management scheme which will preserve existing trees and plant new areas.

The 18-hole golf championship course covering 160 acres will be one of the most spectacular in Europe. It is the second in Britain to be designed to full USPGA specifications - the first being at St. Mellion in Cornwall. Extensive drainage and irrigation will guarantee superb golf play throughout the year.

The course is the first to be designed by Johnny Miller under his own name. Johnny will be responsible for the golf course strategy and has the back-up of Golforce Inc. for the technical

design aspects. The course has been specially designed so that the driving tees lead away from the houses making gardens safe from stray or sliced golf balls. Outlying houses will also be protected by the design of the course.

The club house will include dining rooms, bars and rooms for private functions and provide a personal service which will take care of golfers' needs from the moment they step out of their car until they leave the club.

The academy facilities will include three practice holes of golf - a par 3, a par 4 and a par 5 not provided anywhere else in Europe. There will also be the more usual facilities of a double edged driving range, chipping bunkers, practice greens and putting green.

This specially designed academy will run residential and non-residential courses for complete beginners through to advanced players in both golf and later tennis. A sports hall with squash, indoor tennis, cricket and bowls is scheduled for the latter development stages.

The 185 exclusive 4 to 5 bedroom detached homes will stand in a third of an acre looking on to the golf course. Contracts for building some of the homes have already been agreed with Bovis and Wimpey. It is expected that they will be completed and ready for occupation by 1991.

Negotiations are at an advanced stage for the four-star hotel which will have 150 bedrooms and aimed at both the strong mid week commercial corporate market and the weekend resort guest.

The health centre will be one of the most advanced in the world for dealing with stress among executives, treating sports injuries and sports rehabilitation.

A partner company International Resort Holdings, a golf development consultancy, represents Jack Nicklaus Golf Services in Europe and was the development consultancy involved in the St. Mellion golf course in Cornwall. Shanning Group the other partner is an international healthcare organisation, based at Berkhamsted in Hertfordshire. It has been responsible for hospitals, clinics and nursing homes around the world. Finance for the Collingtree Park project is being provided by Gammelstaden - the Swedish bank.

Mr. Graham Fisher, Chairman of Health and Leisure International said: "Collingtree Park will put Northampton on to the world's golfing map. Collingtree Park has been chosen as the site for HLI's first golf complex because of its geographic position at the crossroads of central England and the access to it by motorway and rail.

TECHNICAL 1

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FEATURE



Seve Schmitz tastes the 'Good Life' in Minneapolis

.....Seve Schmitz is Head Greenkeeper at Ellesborough Golf Club near Wendover Berks.



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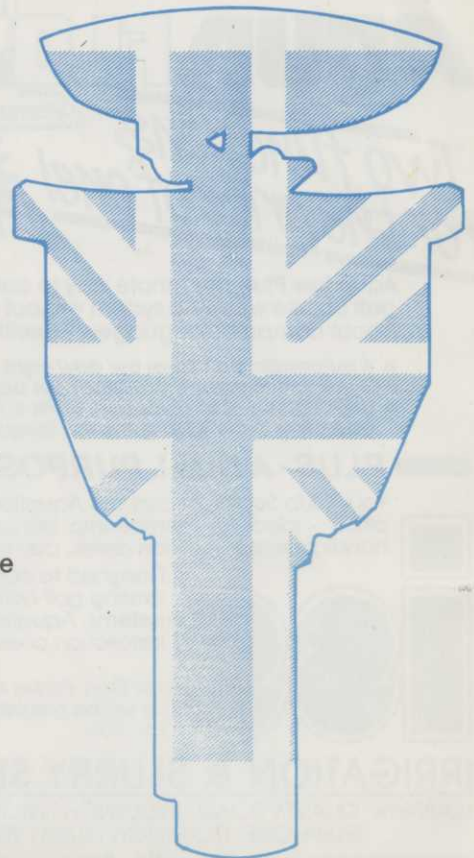
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Recently I was fortunate enough to be asked to attend the Toro Turf Professionals Conference held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.A.

Travelling with me were Peter Wisbey from North Foreland Golf Club, Kent, Kevin McNiven from Effingham Golf Club, Surrey and Bob Wiles, R.A.C. Golf Club at Epsom, Surrey. Accompanying us were Graham Dale, Sales Manager Lely Imports UK and Ian Kerry, Ian Kerry Machinery, Guildford, Surrey.

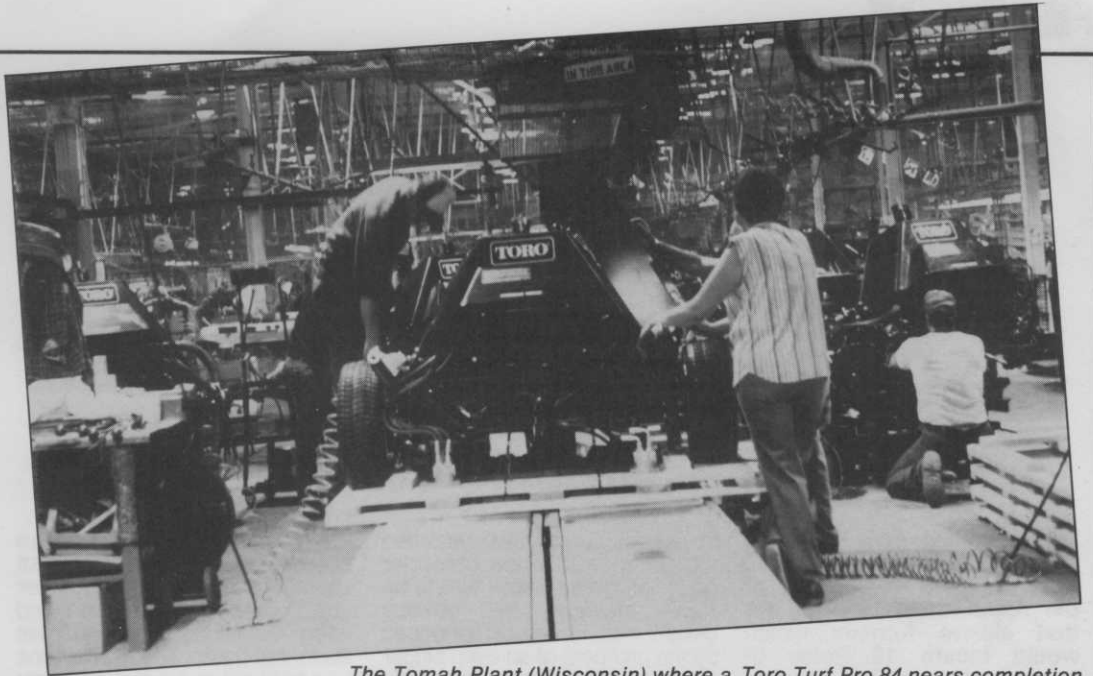
Having only ever flown once before, I found getting in a 747 for an 8 hour flight exciting in itself. We landed in Minneapolis to find beautiful weather. In summer the temperature can go up to 85° but because of a large climatic swing, winters can be very harsh, as low as 30°C with four feet of snow. The Golf season runs from approximately April through to the end of November when most Superintendents spray their greens with Fungicide and cover them throughout the winter.

Our trip was for 9 days, but not all of it was conference and tours, far from it. Our hosts went out of their way to give us a great time. I had oysters and caviar until I could eat no more. Champagne flowed (I developed quite a taste for it) and a Burger Place we were taken to was first class. All the Burgers were made from sirloin steak. My only problem now is shedding some surplus pounds in weight. But enough of our gallivantings, on to the serious side.

We visited Hazeltine National Golf Club where the 1991 American Open is to be held. Chris Hague the Superintendent is already well ahead with his plans out on the course. Last year \$380,000 was spent on refurbishing all 18 greens with Penncross Bent; the turf was specially brought in refrigerated lorries to keep it in tip top condition. The greens are now excellent and the turf looks like it has been there years - a true credit to Chris and his team.

During our visit the fairways were being verti cut with Toro GM3's. All the fairway cutting is also done with the GM3's at 7/16" and all clippings removed. Chris says that the fairways have shown remarkable improvement from this treatment, especially in controlling Poa Annua.

We visited two other golf courses, these being The Golden Valley Country Club and The Edinburgh U.S.A. Golf Course which was a new course due to be open on 1st May 1987. This course is a Robert Trent Jones design. One of the greens which is used as a triple green, measures 44,000 sq. ft., just over 1 acre. It also has a bunker round it to match. That one bunker probably holds more sand than all the bunkers on my course put together.



The Tomah Plant (Wisconsin) where a Toro Turf Pro 84 nears completion

During construction of the course 1 million tons of soil were moved to contour the fairways and greens, also the water table has lowered some 8 or 9 feet. How I would love to come back in 5 years time to play that course, it was one of the most impressive public courses I have ever seen.

So, onto the Conference, there were about 50 participants apart from us few Brits. We were taken to the Toro Shakopee Plant where everything from GM3 cylinders to rotary blades down to small sundries are produced. The tour round this plant was fascinating if a little noisy. Next we were taken to Lyndale Avenue to see the design facilities. Toro are world leaders in this field because computers are used extensively during the design stages. Not being a computer buff I found this all a bit technical but Ian Kerry was in his element.

Next stop were the testing bays where every machine, before going to production, had to go through very extensive testing, for example engines are run for great lengths of time so that carbon build up and internal temperatures can be monitored.

The next morning saw us all on a coach at 6.00 a.m. ready to catch a train to Tomah, Wisconsin where Toro's production plant is situated. The journey was very scenic and meandered beside the Mississippi. We spent most of the day at the plant where the motto of the Company is Pride in Excellence so much so that in certain parts of the factory quality inspectors have been removed and the responsibility is on the assembly team who provide a guarantee from every worker. Each worker can stop the production line at any time if they feel anything is wrong.

The last day of the conference was spent in round the table discussions, which surprisingly I found very interesting and rewarding. Toro also gained information in these talks from us.

I think other manufacturers could learn a lot by holding such a conference and then listening to those people who use their machinery day in, day out.

Finally there was a true American Razzamataz style Farewell Banquet. It was extremely well organised. We were shown a slide show that evening from pictures that a photographer had been taking of us during the entire conference, we were also all

presented with a group photo.

To summarise my trip I feel the Toro Company are fully committed to trying to understand our problems.

I think American Superintendents are extremely professional and are in total command of their courses although I should like to have their yearly budget to use on my course.

FEATURE 1

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HUGS & KISSES

Golf's big love affair

... by Fred Hawtree

Spring comes early in North Carolina. Hawtrees II and III were tramping the foothills of the Appalachians looking for that elusive formula which would locate 18 holes in exactly the right places. A sharp wind still blew off the snow higher up but the sun blunted its edge and four days of 12 miles a day seemed like no more than two. As a matter of fact, they really were two for H. Senior. He decided that enough damage had already been done at the halfway stage and left the younger division to get on with the tramping. A plan on the bonnet of the jeep needed a lot of static thought.

As you go farther south, Spring comes earlier still, until I suppose it disappears altogether, but for golfers at least it is heralded by the March tournament at Orlando which coincided with the Hawtrees' perambulations farther north. Thus on returning to Asheville's Grove Park Inn which has recently moved its 18th green to accommodate another 200 bedrooms and is currently adding another 200 somewhere near the 1st tees, we were able to catch up with a real day's golf on T.V. after one entirely imaginary.

The event was won by the elegant Payne Stewart whose plus fours and cap I had first admired over here in the Open in 1985. Apart from a touch of tartan here and there (entirely justifiable with a surname like that) his conservative attire suggested an imperturbable, undemonstrative personality, a Bobby Locke indeed, and not so differently attired. Well that's how I saw him. How was he?

His final longish putt for a birdie to win would have been difficult enough at the best of times. When it went in, the spectators surrounding the 18th green were delighted. Mr. Stewart also seemed delighted. He stood on one leg, punched the air a few times in the approved fashion, then embraced his caddy very affectionately. The caddy too was clearly delighted at the prospect of a handsome cut from the winner's cheque.

The cameras next recorded the entrance of a new character on to the green. I took him to be P.S.'s manager. His obvious delight was no doubt enhanced by the prospect of an even bigger cut from the winnings. He and his protégé went into a big clinch with a certain amount of in-fighting, but no instructions to 'Break' that I could hear.

Prior to these demonstrations of mutual esteem, the cameras had been picking out a lady in the crowd and recording any visible evidence of her emotions at all critical times. I assumed that this was Mrs. P. Stewart, although she only came No. 3 in the pecking order, and that the child in her arms was Miss P. Stewart, No. 4

Little Precocia (not, I imagine, her real name) got in the way of the full marital embrace which viewers like to see but they got it sorted out eventually and Little Miss P. was transferred to the victor's strong left arm. She too seemed not entirely displeased, though her cut was unlikely to make a dent in Dad's new balance at the bank.

If the T.V. cameras had been at Hoylake in 1913 J. H. Taylor would have had to embrace seven 'tinies', one by one.

After a short interview with Arnold Palmer, who mercifully refrained from close contact, another NBC commentator took over the show while an official brought on a cheque measuring about 6 feet by 3 feet and made of wood (not rubber) with 'Payne Stewart' already inscribed in handsome italics as the payee. Lumbered as he was with Little Precocia on one arm, the winner had difficulty in adding this piece of plywood to his impedimenta and stood up against his right leg as the interviewer began his routine interrogation

'How did you feel when....?'
'When did you first think perhaps you....?'
'What about that recovery from the trees at....?'
'That must have been a bad moment when you...?'

While answering these questions Mr. Stewart was, not unnaturally, trying to get a firmer grip on the cheque and even tried abortively to hoist it up under his disengaged arm. The microphone was held out at full stretch to get past the cheque and Little Precocia who was getting bored, took a fancy to the sponge rubber ball on the top of it. So the routine questions to her father were interspersed with asides to her:-

'Just a moment, darling, you'll get your turn....?'
'Now just wait till Daddy has finished sweetheart....?'
'Just be a good little girlie will you....?'
'O.K. honey. You can have it when we've finished....?'

And she persevered until she did get it, whereupon her interest evaporated.

I fell to thinking what would have happened if the TV cameras had been at Hoylake in 1913 when J. H. Taylor won his fifth Open. Mrs. Taylor would have been pretty sharp with the interviewer if he had tried to investigate her personal feelings. Then, one by one, J. H. would have had to hoist up about seven tinies each with an individual embrace to maximise the emotional impact. But what would the great man have had to say himself? And how big would the cheque have been? While you ponder these weighty matters I will press on.

When did all this embracing begin? No event is now complete without a big hug. No television serial is complete without frequent variations on a theme where father embraces son and they vigorously pat each other's back while the following laudable sentiments are expressed.

Dad: 'I love you son'
Son: 'I love you too, Daddy'

The principal variation on this dialogue takes a some what different form.

Son: 'I love you Daddy'
Dad: 'I love you too, Son'

On the whole the second one always seems to play better but I cannot for the life of me think

why. In fact I cannot think why they have to do it at all.

I first came across the big hug in El Salvador in 1954. I had gone out there to design a new 9 holes for the Country Club which was moving out of town (the first of many elsewhere) to allow development on its existing urban site. Ed Fox was their professional. He had been engaged at Northwood in Middlesex when he met his wife St. John and they went out to Central America, after the war.

Ed had always enjoyed company and conviviality. For example he never knew where he was when his unit was stationed on the South Coast before leaving on D-Day. He swore this was because they had taken all the signposts down. Even so....

When I met him in San Salvador, the local brewery was running a promotional stunt much to his liking. Inside a certain number of bottle tops was printed a red heart. A certain number of hearts or 'corazones' brought you a cash prize. To find the heart you needed to prise the cork disc from the metal top.

Ed regularly complained of feeling dehydrated in the Central American climate and his corrections of this dangerous condition placed him among the leading qualifiers for the top prizes. The climate was sultry, the sun remorseless and there was a revolution every four weeks. Ed maintained that these fortunately coincided with the rain storms which built up like radical passions in the dry periods. When it rained, everybody went indoors until the revolution was over. Alas this happy arrangement seems to have been abandoned.

A keen observer of the local scene, Ed had also picked out the 'embrasso' which had presumably come from Spain with Christopher Columbus. This form of greeting between old chums involved circling the shoulder of the opposite number with the arm not engaged in shaking his hand and warmly beating the dust out of the back of his jacket while uttering cries of delight at your good fortune in coming across him. It is also used when parting, but with heart rending howls of regret.

Ed had a wonderful gurgling laugh and could perform both welcoming and parting embrassos to perfection, give or take a certain artistic licence. When we parted at the airport after a detailed examination of a certain number of bottle tops, our own embrasso actually out-shone the tragic scenes being enacted at the departure gate by much closer acquaintances.

Then, damn it, I forgot about it when he came to England, as he often did during the winter to visit his mother and frighten the moths out of his overcoat which she kept for him. Far worse, on a later occasion I never got the

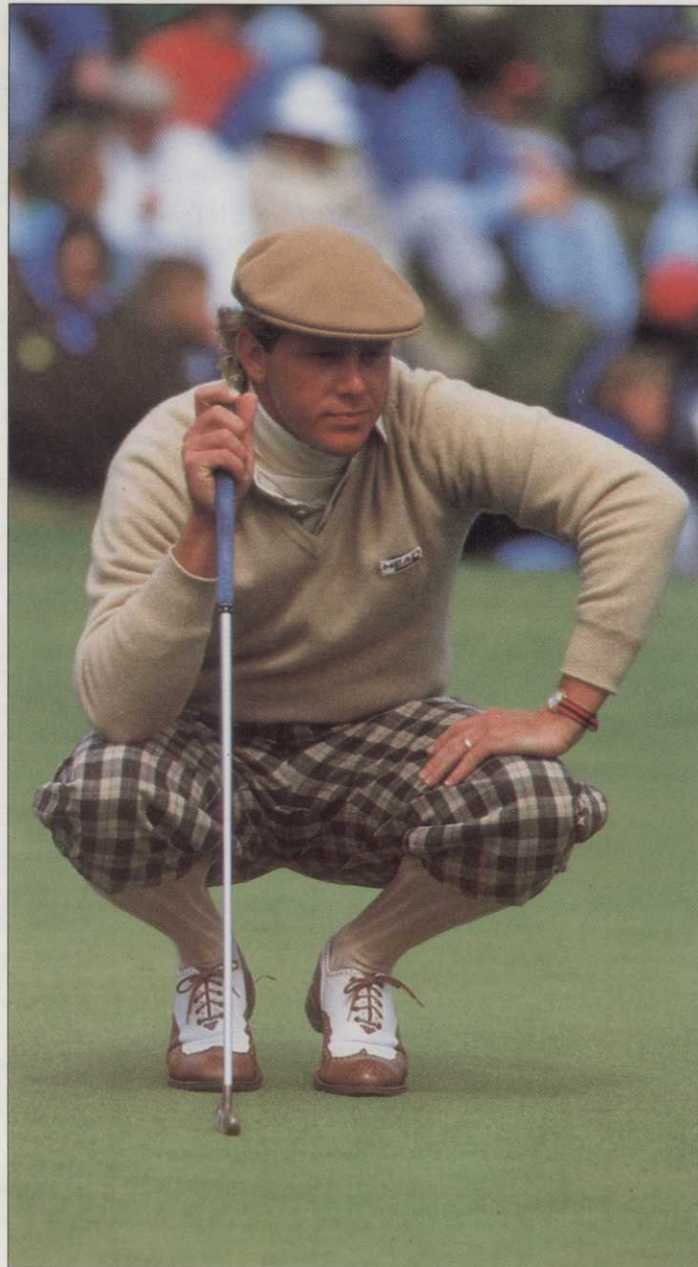
Payne Stewart

message when he telephoned my office from hospital in London. I only found out about six months afterwards. When the woman responsible walked out on her husband, her son, and on the job, I found the note. But by then it was too late. Sorry, Ed.

Now clearly the embrasso has crept north from the Mexican border just as the kissing of all and sundry has crept across the English Channel. There was a time when the bestowal by French generals of military decorations with appropriate facial contact, raised a tolerant smile north of Dover. At least we have not abandoned our natural reserve in that respect. But in social affairs, the polite or 'air' kiss has progressively invaded normal civil contacts. More has been brought back from those Spanish and French holidays then the odd bottle of Fundador or Pernod. Memories of carefree sunny leisure at the pool-side are perhaps revived by acting the part of the natives and giving evidence of international social graces.

In the United States a continuation of these changes has led to a greatly enhanced warmth in greeting old friends. I noticed on the Spring trip mentioned earlier that some of the ladies whom in my advanced years I felt able to kiss lightly in the air space just forward of their left ear (or should it be the right ear, I am never very sure) were now clasping me tightly in an embrasso of which Ed Fox would certainly have approved. I am not vain enough to imagine that this is due to any improvement in my general appearance in the three years elapsed since we had last met. Indeed in some respects, my 1987 model verges on the portly and makes a close embrace just that much more tricky.

It is not only outside the Latin countries that greetings and farewells have become even more cordial and demonstrative. Even as late as the sixties, my early relations with the French were still formal and always correct. One never used a Christian name. Even a friend only addressed another as 'Charlie' if they had been at school together and known each other at least thirty years since. That is all in the past. Last year I was invited to kiss my hostess, after no more than four years, and then reprimanded for leaving the job half done with just one cheek. Christian names are banded about as often as 'Monsieur' and 'Madame' formerly. Those who were never allowed to peck at all may now peck twice; family peck at least three times and watching a party of no more (I guess) than acquaintances, greeted each other yesterday at Cherbourg, everybody gave everybody else two lefts and two rights as a matter of course. Again one can



The elegant Payne Stewart, whose tartan plus fours have brought back to golf a reminiscence of Max Faulkner and Bobby Locke

only wonder - what next? As the Brits start to peck in earnest, the originators redouble their efforts in order to keep at least two pecks ahead.

One grand-daughter recently in Normandy reported up to four busks, two on each cheek, but the precise number was unpredictable, she said she simply had to remain on her toes ready for any number.

Another grand-daughter currently in Stuttgart with a family where both Mr and Mrs are pastors, reports nil significant Teutonic osculations but makes no diagnosis of the causes.

I have always held aloof from the embrasso after the débâcle

of my second meeting with Ed Fox. Unless it is an inborn and automatic habit as in Spain, it becomes necessary to run a card index listing those whom you normally pat on the back and those whom you don't. I was once surprised into initiating an embrasso with the President of a Spanish Golf Club when I came across him unexpectedly in the locker room at San Cugat. Not being too sure who he was, outside his normal environment but realising that something more cordial than a handshake might be expected, I snapped into the full works in line with Ed Fox's Mark I, (Meeting at airport after long separation).

I have to admit that after recovering his composure he seemed very pleased and in fact referred happily to the occasion to a friend in my hearing some months later. But it had obviously shaken him for it to stand out like that in his memory. I wished I had been in full charge of events when it happened.

There was another occasion in Dublin after a particularly good dinner at Malahide when I was misguided enough to join in the fond farewells between old acquaintances and found myself giving the one/two to a lady I had only just met. I wish I hadn't done that either but that is precisely the trouble, once you start, where does it end? And is it all as genuine as we think? Let's go back to Payne Stewart.

To his great credit he looked thoroughly uncomfortable throughout the performance I have detailed. His initial display of jubilation must have come naturally, the rest of the programme, I suspect, was elaborately prepared by the N.B.C. Team, once he was clearly a possible winner. How else would the cameras be picking out his wife repeatedly in the crowd? How come that Little Precocia was on hand so nattyly attired. She should have been getting into bed after a last prayer for Dad's birdie putts. And what comes next? The hero's parents? His grandparents? More distant relatives with a few anecdotes about his early childhood...the little scamp?

I am pretty sure it was rehearsed because a month later when Larry Hogan Mize hit his second shot to the 74th Hole 50 yards wide of the green, thus ensuring that he would win the Masters on this supposedly well-contrived test of golf, Mrs. Mize only appeared once and that was long after he had done his leap into the air and taken several running jumps, (though not at himself) with other acrobatics made up on the spur of the moment.

And while we were at Augusta National do you remember last year when J. Nicklaus holed all those putts including the one that counted. What could be more natural than his embrasso of his caddy since his own son was carrying his clubs? But can you imagine the conversation? I think I can. If you can't, go back to the beginning and start again.

FEATURE 2

NEXT MONTH

more on the 'K' file.

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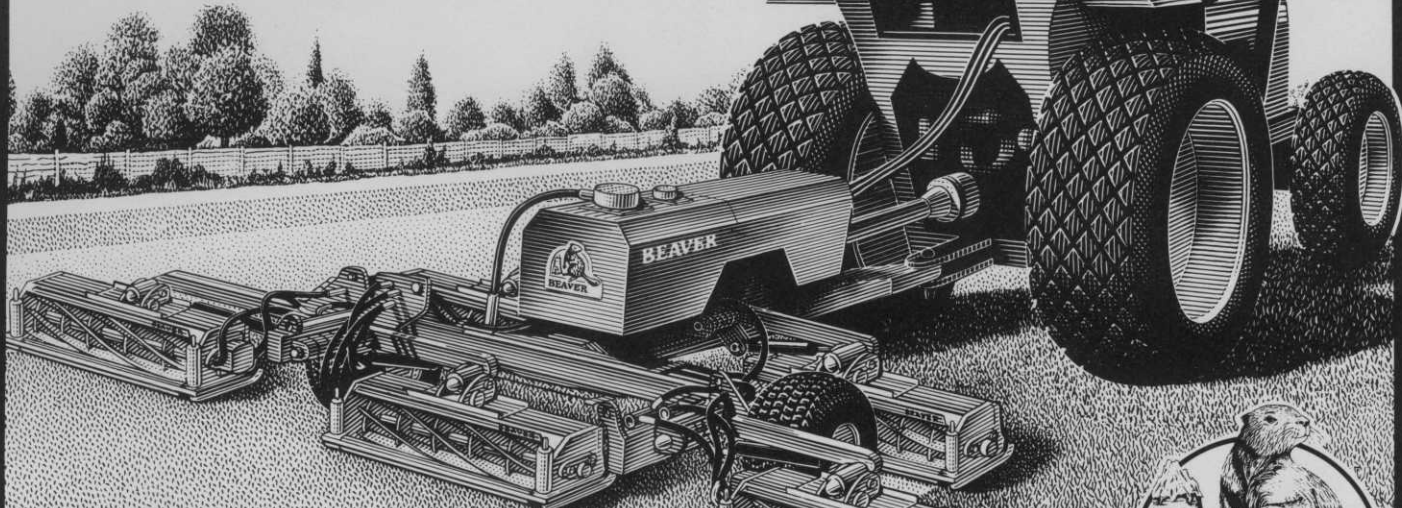
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