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by DAVID WHITE

The new STRI publication, *The Care of the Golf Course*, is a compilation of many of the articles written by members of the STRI advisory staff, the vast majority published over the last five years in bulletins and leaflets issued by the Institute.

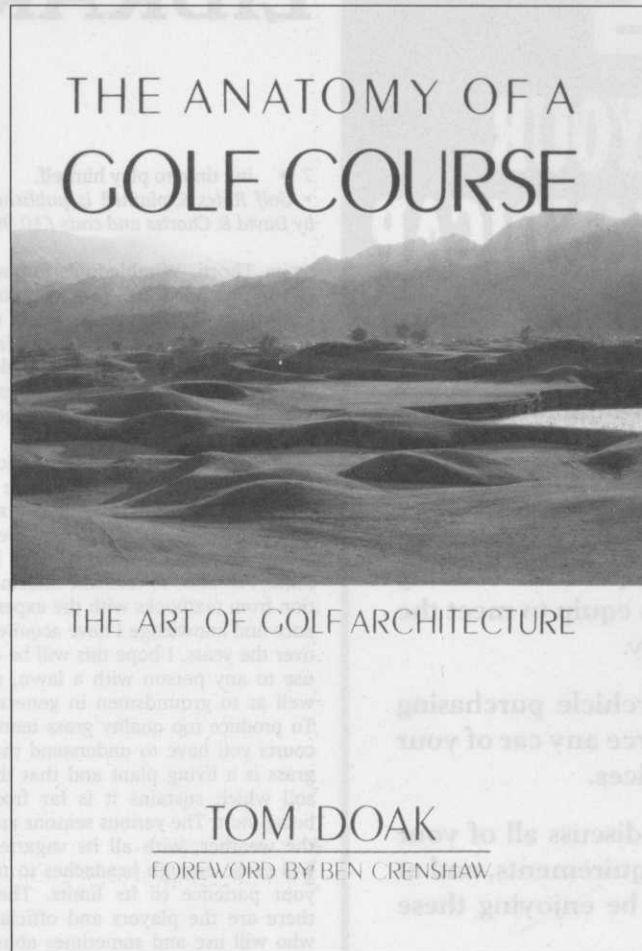
Thus it must be understood that there is nothing entirely new within its pages, though as a source of reference it will certainly find new and appreciative readers, including college students, those of mature understanding and those seeking to grasp the intricacies of greenkeeping.

In truth, the need for such a book is well overdue, for it contains all that the student, greenkeeper or green chairman will need to ensure that practical husbandry is conducted according to accepted and proven practice, leaving nothing to chance.

To quote from the introduction, "Much has appeared in print, but scattered through various books, greenkeeping magazines, scientific journals and conference proceedings. The greenkeeper or chairman of green seeking a comprehensive source of background information on golf course management has therefore so far been deprived of an obvious single publication. This present volume seeks to correct that deficiency and provide a ready reference which can hopefully be relied upon to provide answers to the innumerable questions which arise during the day to day care of the golf course.

"The above should not be taken as implying that no useful book on modern greenkeeping currently exists. A number of invaluable works have indeed been published and to give a comprehensive picture of available literature, an extensive bibliography has been included at the end of the present volume. As an outstanding work on the subject, one might cite as an example Professor James B. Beard's "Turf Management for Golf Courses", published by the USGA in 1982. From a British point of view however, the value of this definitive textbook is limited by the climatic, environmental and managerial differences which exist between the US and UK golf course scenarios, and a specifically British contribution to the literature is therefore an obvious requirement...

"The editors of the current work, however, feel that a general (and not too technical) book giving reasonably detailed information on the range of greenkeeping problems which arise in British golf course management will be of value to all individuals involved in this exacting



and demanding task".

In providing such a splendid compendium of articles – features that prove not only invaluable but offer ammunition that can disprove the many 'crackpot' theories voiced by 'knowledgeable members' – the editors have succeeded in doing just that, and as such the book can be thoroughly recommended.

If I have one major criticism, it is the tiresome (and inconsistent) misapplication of capital letters to place unqualified self importance on certain unnamed persons, eg. Members; Editors; Ladies; Chairmen; Green Committees; Ecologists; Conservationists; Architects; Agronomists and the rest, though greenkeepers and assistants (notably not head greenkeepers) apparently warrant no such elevation. I am an editor, you are course managers; head greenkeepers; greenkeepers or assistants, no capital warranted, the use incorrect. This anti-capitalist demands the return of 'capital' punishment.

• *The Care of the Golf Course* (262pp) is available from the STRI, Bingley, W Yorkshire. BD16 1AU. Price £17 plus £2.50 p+p.

The Environmental Health Officer (writes Jon Allbutt) is the inspector for golf clubs whose job it is to enforce aspects of environmental health. He/she has been given the power to enforce the Health and Safety at Work Act and COSHH in

particular. From April this year he became responsible for enforcing the 'Pesticides Regulations'. This is a very new area of work and to help the inspector prepare for these new duties the Health and Safety Executive have prepared this excellent *Open Learning Course*.

The course is designed as a self learning package; set out in 17 sections of information with self assessment questions at the end of each section. It becomes a step by step guide to the Act and Regulations and would be ideal for the student, course manager, or indeed anyone who needs a good working knowledge of this important piece of Law.

The course manual contains flow charts, diagrams and charts that help with tricky areas – such as deciding which chemicals are subject to the Regulations; the routes for disposal of chemical waste and empty containers and the options available for the safe storage of pesticides.

The inspector will of course follow the detail of this course 'to the letter' – at least until he/she has enough experience to use judgement when conducting an inspection. This is potentially bad news for the club that is not conforming to the Regulations; has not completed staff training; does not have a sprayer that meets the requirements; no proper pesticides store that meets the criteria set out in guidance note CS19, and has not

completed Risk Assessments as required by the COSHH regulations.

This open learning package is not a substitute for the Code of Practice for the use of Approved Pesticides in Amenity Areas, rather it is a practical guide on how to comply with the Regulations.

• *The Open Learning Course* is available from HMSO bookshops and costs £16.

Many a 19th hole argument will be solved by searching the pages of the new edition of *Golf Rules Illustrated*, which is now updated to cover the new 1992 rules, revised in January.

An official publication of the R&A, this book presents the rules together with over 90 clear illustrations and is designed to provide an easier understanding of the rules. It concentrates in particular on those situations which cause most difficulty for the typical club golfer.

Obstructions, bunkers, out of bounds, lost balls, unplayable lies, water hazards, loose impediments, casual water – *Golf Rules Illustrated* will give a visual answer to these and many other problems. Quite simply, every golfer should be aware of the rules – why not carry a copy in your bag?

• *Golf Rules Illustrated* is published by Hamlyn at £7.99.

Golf Rules Explained, a highly acclaimed book now in its eighth edition, is widely acknowledged as the definitive work on the explanation and understanding of the rules of golf. This latest update includes commentary on the new 1992 rules.

'There are few games', wrote Country Life of the first edition, 'in which ignorance of the rules is so widespread as in golf. This is an observation on the game by one of its shrewdest observers and most gifted writers. He makes cogent comments and any golfer, however humble or eminent, could profit from reading it.'

The author enlivens his explanations (and warnings) with anecdotes from his long international experience, making 'Golf Rules Explained' an amusing and helpful aid to retain the rules in your memory. In his readable and enlightening clarification of the finer points of the rules of golf, Peter Dobereiner provides enough information to settle any dispute on the course.

Peter Dobereiner is one of our leading golf writers. He is equally well known in America as a correspondent of *Golf Digest*. In the UK he writes for *Golf World*. He travels the world reporting on major championship events, seldom hav- ➤ 8

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7 → ing time to play himself.
• *Golf Rules Explained* is published by David & Charles and costs £10.99

Jim Thorn, Wimbledon's famous turf specialist, has over 40 years experience in the preparation of grass tennis courts. His interesting little book *The Lawns of Wimbledon* may well be of interest to head greenkeepers, for it contains much that complements golfing turf.

He writes: 'All the information required for success in turf culture is already available in excellent textbooks, but no book applies itself solely to tennis. Bearing this in mind, I decided to combine information from textbooks with the experience and knowledge I have acquired over the years. I hope this will be of use to any person with a lawn, as well as to groundsmen in general. To produce top quality grass tennis courts you have to understand that grass is a living plant and that the soil which sustains it is far from being inert. The various seasons and the weather, with all its vagaries, will cause enough headaches to try your patience to its limits. Then there are the players and officials who will use and sometimes abuse your efforts. At Wimbledon we don't pretend to know everything: but we are professionals who take great pride in producing and presenting grass tennis courts which, in the world at large, are second to none.'

• *The Lawns of Wimbledon* by Jim Thorne costs £5.75 including p+p and is available from the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum, Church Rd., Wimbledon SW19 5AE.

Keeping the best until last, the new book *The Anatomy of a Golf Course* by Tom Doak deserves an honoured place amongst the classics of golf literature, alongside such architectural masterpieces as Hunter's 'The Links', Simpson and Wethered's 'The Architectural Side of Golf', Cornish and Whitton's 'The Golf Course' and Fred. W. Hawtree's 'The Golf Course'. All these are accepted classics in a sector of golf literature miserably lacking in quantity, though thankfully compensated for by works of the utmost quality.

Readers in this country may be forgiven for asking 'who is Tom Doak?', though we may be assured that he served his golf course design 'apprenticeship' under the watchful gaze of Pete Dye's legendary architectural staff and is now a high regarded architect in his own right, having designed and built courses throughout the United States.

What is more important, he won a scholarship from Cornell University to study 'the great golf courses

of the British Isles' and spent time as a caddie on the Old Course at St Andrews, the better to understand the thinking behind this great layout. Tom visited 172 different courses in Britain all told, photographing and notetaking as he went. To give but one example, a chance conversation with Walter Woods led Tom to visit Holinwell and Walter recalls that the end result, a private showing of Tom's slides, showed every nuance of this fine course. "It was", Walter told me, "a most enlightening demonstration of Tom's ability to see beyond the mere layout, for he had captured the whole strategy and spirit of the place in a single visit".

I will not spoil the reader's pleasure by giving too much away, but as an appetiser consider the following from a chapter titled Fair Play: 'The most common example of unfairness is the course designed under the assumption that there is some magic distance at which fairway bunkers should be placed, based on the average driving length of the Tour professional or the average golfer of the day. No matter the calibre of player involved, individuals at the same overall level of skill hit the ball different distances off the tee. It is absurd to place fairway bunkers to penalise one player more than the other. The only fair solution to the positioning of fairway bunkers is to avoid any repetition of distances. To illustrate the point, imagine a best-ball match in which the reader and Jack Nicklaus are pitted against Nancy Lopez and Lee Trevino. In theory, this ought to be a fairly even match; if it was played on a course which required 200-yard carries from every tee, the reader would be at a disadvantage, and if played on a course requiring 240-yard carries, it would be unfair because only Nicklaus could drive that far. Does not the same consideration apply to a course where all the fairway bunkers are 225 yards from the tee? And if our fictitious match were played on a Robert Trent Jones-designed course, with fairway bunkers pinching the landing areas 240-270 yards from every tee, would not the reader cry 'foul' because the course does not allow his partner to use the driver?'

Knowing why a golf course is laid out is critical to how the course should be played. Knowledgeable golfers, would-be architects, indeed anyone who ever sets foot on a golf course, will find the book fascinating - don't miss it!

• *The Anatomy of a Golf Course* by Tom Doak is available in Britain from Grant Books, Victoria Sq., Droitwich, Worcs. WR9 8DE, price £18 including p+p.

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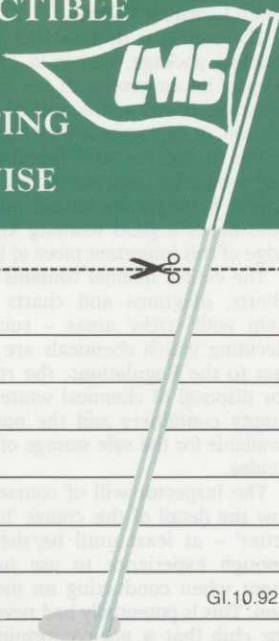
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