

Tour's gone overboard: roughs too tough

I've probably commented all too often on course conditions at PGA Tour events. I even commented on the British Open. For the most part, my thoughts have been positive. Not so this time.

With all due respect to superintendent James Simmons, the PGA directives for course conditions were much too severe at Shoal Creek.

A local sports writer said it just wasn't exciting watching (in person or on television) players of this caliber chop the ball 20 to 100 yards out of the rough to get it back in play, then hit the green, only to have the ball run through the green into more



C. von Brecht

thick rough.

I even saw a Payne Stewart shot hit a metal encroachment barrier and deflect onto the green — in better position than had

it not hit the barrier.

Wayne Grady played great golf, but the golf course was too severe. It wasn't enjoyable for the contestants or the spectators.

I hope all tournament governing bodies will take a hint from this

1990 PGA Championship and realize that a 7,200-yard layout with tight fairways and firm greens is tough enough without man-eating rough.

As we head into the busy fall season, *Golf Course News* is planning for 1991 to give you an even better publication for the golf industry.

Even though the economy seems

somewhat unsteady, plans for golf facilities are moving ahead — and so is *Golf Course News*.

In the next couple of issues I'll let you know what's in the hopper for next year. In the meantime, enjoy this issue and be sure to pass it along to industry friends who may wish to receive a monthly issue.

Sincerely,
Charles E. von Brecht
publisher

COMMENT

All are equal

Discrimination. Segregation. Prejudice. Bigotry. Whatever you call the mindset that has ruled at exclusionary country clubs, it is distasteful. It should leave a foul taste in the mouths of everyone in golf which, since its inception, has been a game for the masses.

Before we were Americans, or Russians, or Irishmen... before we were Protestants, or Catholics, or Jews or Hindus... before man became any of those things that divide us in bigotry today, we were men and women, all of us, created by God.

"The Lord is no respecter of persons," the Bible tells us, so who do we think we are to treat a person of one race better, or worse, than, a person of another race?

It is good that the PGA Tournament Policy Board has established that no PGA Tour, Senior PGA Tour or Ben Hogan Tour event will be held at any golf club that has membership practices or policies that discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sex or national origin.

We can hope and pray that the



Mark Leslie

words of Rev. Abraham Woods will come true. The local SCLC president said that with the agreement by Shoal Creek to allow

black members, the start of widespread changes was under way. "It seems as so goes Birmingham, so goes the nation. The ripples have gone around the country and this sounded the death knell to exclusionary clubs..." he said.

Otherwise, we can learn a lesson by rereading the chapter in U.S. history about the Ku Klux Klan, which claimed it was not exclusionary with words like: "We antagonize no man's religion more than they do ours; it's an honest plea for equal recognition. We are not anti-foreigners; we simply require that our members be native-born Americans."

— Mark Leslie



Only a few experts will miss this one.

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