

Coeur d'Alene course faces dredging permit woes

By Bob Spiwak

A request by Hagadone Hospitality of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho to dredge a portion of Lake Coeur d'Alene is still wending its way through a permitting process.

The request was made to allow the resort course's floating green to reach its closest-to-shore location of 75 yards out during periods of low water.

The 5 million pound green draws 5 1/2 feet and was designed to be moored from 75 to 175 yards from the shoreside tees. However, it was

discovered that in the months essentially from September to June, the lake level drops and leaves only about 4 feet of water near the shore. The developer has sought permission to dredge an underwater trench up to 5 1/2 feet deep, 180 feet wide and 430 feet long to accommodate the shoreward location of the green.

According to Will Pitman, Lake Protection Act manager of the Idaho Department of Lands, the permitting process has gone before the Army Corps of Engineers. De-

velopers have proposed putting large angular rocks on the slopes of the intended dredged area to prevent sloughing of the sides. As this constitutes "introduction of fill material," it comes under Corps jurisdiction.

The rock fill was one of the precautions advised by the Kootenai Environmental Alliance, a citizen group which works independently, as well as with state environmental and wildlife agencies, to protect the local ecology.

Art Manley, an alliance member,

said his organization is not "standing in the way of the project." He added that if the group had its choice, "it would rather not see (the dredging) done." He feels it sets a dangerous precedent, and cites individuals who have been refused dredging permits to deepen the water at their docks. "It's a matter of protecting the lake," he said.

On a recent newscast on KREM television, Spokane, Wash., John Barlow, who oversees the golf project at the Coeur d'Alene resort, stated that the original design (of

the course) had the green some 400 yards from its final location, inferring that in the change of location the depth of the water was an unforeseen factor. Attempts to contact Barlow were unsuccessful. Likewise, an associate of course architects Scott Miller Design, Scottsdale, Ariz., would not comment for the record.

There was the feeling, in conversations with several persons involved with the golf course, that the local media were blowing the problem out of proportion, and particularly blamed Spokane's Spokesman-Review daily paper of a vendetta against developer Duane Hagadone, who controls rival newspapers across the state line in Idaho.

Pitman said the Kootenai Environmental Alliance had made a list of requests to be met before a permit to dredge was granted. These included: chemical analysis of the water to check for toxic chemicals or minerals, placement of the large rocks on the slope of the dredged area, drilling of core samples to be certain the lake bottom will be gravel and not silt, and the maintenance of a silt curtain around the dredged area.

All of these, according to Manley, have been, or are being done. He said the request for the rock fill was to ensure that dredging would not have to be done repeatedly in the coming years.

While attention has been drawn to the floating 14th green, Miller Design and Hagadone have taken great pains to protect the environment throughout the entire course. There is no doubt in the minds of anybody involved that what needs to be done on number 14 will be done properly.

The question that pervades the minds of golfers and officials alike is, "Why didn't they measure the water first?"

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USGA honors Ben Crenshaw

MINNEAPOLIS — Ben Crenshaw received the 1991 Bob Jones Award for distinguished sportsmanship at the U.S. Golf Association annual meeting Jan. 26.

In establishing the award, the USGA wished to honor not Jones's accomplishments as a player, or his contributions to the game, but rather his spirit, his qualities as a human being, and his attitude toward the game and its players.

One of the finest players the last 20 years, Crenshaw's love of the game's history and traditions is reflected by his service for the last 11 years as a member of the USGA Museum and Library Committee.

Crenshaw wrote the introduction to "The Art of Golf," the second offering in the USGA Rare Book Collection, in 1982, and wrote an article for the 1988 U.S. Open program.