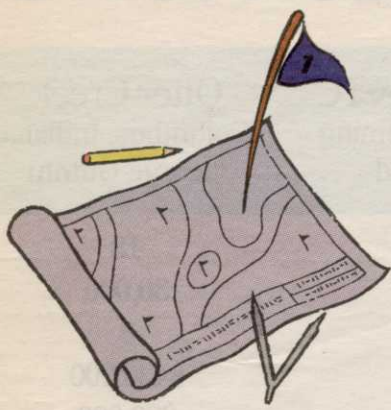


Briefs



MIZE DESIGNING FIRST COURSE

Larry Mize is best remembered by the golfing public for an in-the-cup pitch on the second playoff hole against Greg Norman to win the 1987 Masters at Augusta (Ga.) National. Augusta is his birthplace.

He hopes to score solidly, if less spectacularly, with his first golf course design venture, an 18-hole tract on the northernmost island of Japan.

Though his firm is titled Larry Mize Traditional Design, Mize insists he's flexible.

"I'm more into traditional design than some of the new stuff," he said. "But I can mix it up a little."

He feels 10 years on the tour has provided strong background for his new field.

GRAVES LAYOUT OPENS IN AUGUST

BEND, Ore. — Officials expect an August opening of nine holes at Seventh Mountain Golf Village, an 18-hole championship course under construction 14 miles from Mt. Bachelor Adjacent to the Inn of the Seventh Mountain.

Robert Muir Graves has designed the course. It will be a resort facility with 107 homesites and a proposed condominium development.

The course will have Penncross bentgrass USGA-constructed greens, ryegrass/blue grass/fescue-blended fairways and roughs, and continuous cart paths in a natural forested setting, according to superintendent Walter Mattison, who has been with the project since construction began.

Walt Porterfield Jr., who has been at Sunriver in central Oregon, will be the head golf professional.

DOTHAN MUNI A QUESTION MARK

DOTHAN, Ala. — Two Dothan residents aren't sold on the city's involvement in attempts to procure a municipal golf course.

Mark Pepe asked the Dothan City Commission why funds are available to participate in a possible Alabama Retirement Systems golf complex if "we can't get adequate funding for schools, recreation, roads and sewer and water."

The state Retirement Systems has been officially invited by the city to consider a more than 500-acre tract of land for development into an \$8-million to \$10-million golf complex similar to those scheduled for development in Birmingham, Huntsville, Opelika and Mobile.

Pepe also asked what the city plans to do with the Jeffcoat property, a 200-acre city-owned property under consideration for a municipal golf development.

Tim Sherman asked who would be responsible for running the complex and who would do feasibility studies.

Clark: ASGCA taking major step, releasing environmental document by year's-end

By Mark Leslie

With golf course projects facing constantly stiffer permitting tests nationwide, the American Society of Golf Course Architects is taking immediate steps to resolve disputes.

Newly elected President Tom Clark said by the end of the year the ASGCA should be distributing a document detailing information on all facets of golf course development and maintenance from fertilization to wildlife. The package will be sent to the many federal, state and local agencies involved in the permitting process.

"We have very good factual information and need to publicize it, tell the government about exactly what we do. We don't overdose with nitrates, pesticides and herbicides. We have all these studies to show that we don't. So instead of asking all these same questions at every hearing, these agencies will have this information on hand and won't have to ask the questions or be concerned about them. There will be other issues that will crop up, such as with wildlife..."

"Permitting is our Number One problem," Clark said from his Kensington, Md., office. "We're gathering all the information. It's available. Everybody's doing studies but nobody's coordinating them. We just need to get it out and publicized."

"I'll be working with the Allied Associations of Golf, the GCSAA (Golf Course Superintendents Association of America), USGA (United States Golf Association) and others to help expedite this."

An ASGCA committee with members from a cross-section of North America will work with Co-chairmen Don Knott of Palo Alto, Calif., and Bill Love of Ault/Clark.

Clark said the environmental panel's sec-

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Kiln Creek Golf and Country Club in Newport News, Va., is the latest creation of the American Society of Golf Course Architects' new president, Tom Clark of Kensington, Md. This photo, taken in the fall when the Bermudagrass was dormant, shows the 8th hole and illustrates the wildlife on the course. A par 72 layout, it stretches from 5,316 to 6,888 yards.

ASGCA hears Brits' environmental solutions

From a lengthy drought to wildlife preservation, Great Britain's golf industry faces the same obstacles as in the United States. But the English have some different solutions, the American Society of Golf Course Architects discovered at their annual meeting.

While the industry in America still operates without a lobbying group or central information clearinghouse, the Golf Course Wildlife Trust serves as a liaison between golf

and conservation bodies in the United Kingdom.

While diverse organizations work separately funding turf, water and chemical research in the United States, a corps of scientists in England two years ago formed the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology at the University of Kent to resolve environmental questions.

And while American developers struggle

to compromise with environmental agencies and groups, British companies like Ecoschemes Limited are pushing the idea of "eco-tourism," making golf courses destination spots for those who want to golf and enjoy natural history. Walkways in the woods and meadows would make the golf course accessible to the public while showing courses are home to flora and fauna.

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Ala. state employees financing new courses

See related story in briefs.

Alabama state employees are investing retirement funds in construction of 12 championship-caliber golf courses in Birmingham, Huntsville, Opelika and Mobile.

Additional courses are planned, all to be designed by Roger Rulewich, chief architect for Robert Trent Jones Sr.

Each site will feature three courses — two regulation length and a par 3 — for a total of 54 holes. The courses are scheduled to begin opening this fall.

"This project represents a major breakthrough for Alabama golf," said Dr. David Bronner, chief executive officer of Retirement Systems of Alabama (RSA). "We've known for a long time that golf courses are a sound investment, so we've taken a leadership role in their development and construction."

Bronner added: "Our priority is to improve the quality of life and attract more tourists and retirees to Alabama. Golf is the ideal means to achieve our objectives."

To oversee its golf development business, RSA formed Sun Belt Golf, Inc., headed by former golf pro Bobby Vaughan.

"Each facility will be capable of hosting a major championship event," Vaughan said. "We're not building public courses, but great courses the public can play on."

Sun Belt Golf, which constructs, owns and operates the courses, has persuaded municipalities and developers to donate land at each site.

"We haven't had to buy an acre of land

yet," said Vaughan, pointing to the 8,000-acre Birmingham site donated by U.S. Steel. Other land has been donated in exchange for the option to build housing.

Each site is unique, according to Rulewich. "In designing each of the 12 courses, we highlighted the area's outstanding natural beauty," said the former president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. "For example, at the Opelika course, we made extensive use of a beautiful 600-acre lake that comes into play on 30 of the 54 holes."

"Some courses are hilly, others flat," Rulewich added. "One has more than 100 bunkers, another none."

"We have the financial backing, architectural team and experience to expand the program nationally," concluded Vaughan.