

The World's Best Golf provides armchair view of top courses

By Peter Blais

Want to visit the world's top courses from the comfort of your favorite recliner? Then crack open a beer and settle back with William H. Davis' *The World's Best Golf*.

The founder of *Golf Digest* tapped his own globe-trotting golfing experiences and the talents of internationally known photographers Stephen Szurlej of *Golf Digest* and Brian Morgan of Scotland to create a 312-page travelog of the world's best facilities.

Davis organized the golf globe into clusters, regions "where you can go off and play golf on a number of different courses and stay in one place. That's the best way to enjoy a trip..." Clusters are found within the United States, Great Britain, Ireland, continental Europe, Australia, Canada, the Far East, Mexico and the Caribbean.

Each cluster lists several courses along with course type (private, public, resort), designer, yardages and general information regarding layout, history and best-known holes. The Los Angeles cluster, for

example, describes three George C. Thomas Jr. layouts — Riviera and Los Angeles country clubs and Bel Air.

"Ben Crenshaw commented that he enjoyed a Thomas course because of its subtleties," Davis noted.

The goal of the photos was to give a feel for not only how the course looked, but also how it played. Szurlej and Morgan succeeded admirably.

Of award-winning caliber is a shot through the cactus behind the ninth

green and leading back along a mounded fairway that disappears into the distant purple mountains surrounding Forest Highlands in Arizona.

And the viewer gets all too clear a picture of the lack of level lies along the 14th hole at Scotland's St. Andrews.

Davis shows an understanding of the difficulties facing today's architects in matching these tapestries from the past, and of the important environmental role played by su-

perintendents.

"Protecting our wetlands and our deserts, the use of pesticides and fungicides and the management of our water resources are the major challenges," he writes in the preface. "As Jack Nicklaus admits, 'Muirfield in the United States wouldn't have been built if today's wetland restrictions were in force.'"

Davis pays homage to the designers who work with today's environmental regulations yet still craft works of art, like Dan Maples,

who built a 600-foot bridge between the first and second holes to span an environmental problem at The Witch in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

And despite fears that modern designers are laying out courses to make glitzy pictures for magazines, rather than to be easily maintained or enjoyable for golfers, Davis believes "the courses of the 1990s will come to stand tall next to the revered giants."

The World's Best Golf costs \$49.95 and is published by Pocket Books.

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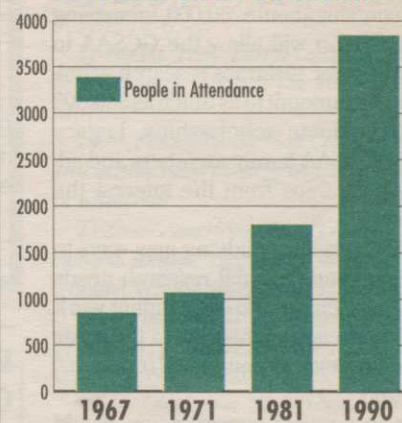
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- Lawn Care
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NEW! FOR THE '91 OTF SHOW

New for 1991 will be **Buckeye Beer Garden** on the show floor, and a **Silent Auction** to give you the chance for some fantastic bargains. Be there, and join the fun!

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NCA publishes leadership guide for club officials

WASHINGTON, D. C. — "The Private Club Leadership Guide" is the National Club Association's latest club director reference series publication.

The guide aims at providing private club officers, directors and management teams with a formula for building productive working relationships, a method for evaluating club organization, and a framework for the selection and orientation of officers, directors and general managers.

Next books due are "Model Golf Rules — A Guide for Clubs," and "Understanding the Federal Wage and Hour Laws," in a revised format.

For more information contact the National Club Association at Washington Harbour, 3050 K St. N.W., Ste. 330, Washington, D.C. or telephone 202-625-2080.

LABB releases software booklet for green industry

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — LABB Systems/Software has released a new color brochure illustrating the company's line of computer software for the golf course and turfgrass manager.

The brochure, divided into pamphlets detailing TRIMS grounds management software, graphics enhancement and TRIMS tree inventory system, answers questions most frequently asked about computers.

To obtain a copy, call 800-733-9710 or write LABB Systems/Software, 6018 E. Osborn Rd., Scottsdale, Ariz. 85251.



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