

Muirhead busy in Asia

To the editor:

It was great to see the series of articles on golf in Asia in your recent issue. It was also wonderful to see the article about our Korean project, Long Lake Hill Country Club, on page 32.

We at Desmond Muirhead Inc. find it hard to imagine how, after having an article on page 32 about our project in Korea, we are not listed on the Asian golf course list on page 40. In addition to Korea, we have other golf courses under contract in Asia (two in Guam, one in Jakarta, Indonesia; seven in Japan; one in Korea; and one in Bang Chang, Thailand.

Best regards
Douglas Nickels
Desmond Muirhead, Inc.
San Francisco

Japan-bashing?

To the editor:

We are becoming increasingly concerned with a trend we perceive in the editorial outlook at

Golf Course News. Namely, that there is at best a provincial attitude about golf being strictly an American game and, at worst, a prejudice against Japanese-owned manufacturers of golf equipment and golf course facilities.

In the March issue of your magazine, an article entitled "Suppliers see boom in Southeast Asia" and written by Bob Spiwak quoted Frank Dolan of golf car maker E-Z-Go, who expressed unhappiness over alleged inducements the state of Georgia offered Yamaha to build our factory there. The writer further quoted Mr. Dolan as saying that no welding, no molding and no designing of Yamaha golf cars takes place in the United States.

These statements are incorrect. No attempt was made to confirm or clarify any of these issues with Yamaha. In fact, Yamaha golf cars are made only in the U.S. at our state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Newnan.

The plant, managed by Americans, represents the company's commitment to the nation's golf industry, and our golf cars are exported to many other countries worldwide from this Georgia facility.

Although Yamaha's gas engine is made in

Japan, it's fair to point out that both E-Z-Go and Club Car vehicles also are powered by engines produced in Japan and imported to the U.S. In fact, more and more U.S. companies are relying on components from overseas, while at the same time U.S. exports have reached record highs. Our economic future depends upon a strong world economic base.

In the April issue of Golf Course News, which ironically included a significant section on developments in the Asian golf market, a cartoon depicts the Japanese flag as a flag marking a golf hole, while the caption refers to the flags being a concession to obtain financing which one must assume is from Japan. Why the satire?

On the contrary, Japanese investments are improving golf in the United States. A case in point is venerable Pebble Beach, now enjoying the benefits of extensive Japanese-funded refurbishment to be ready for the U.S. Open, despite severe losses by now former owner Minoru Isutani.

In a macro sense, non-U.S. companies have been contributing to the betterment of the game of golf for many years, improving clubs and other equipment.

Golf is a world-class sport and a major industry in the global economy. We think your readers deserve well-rounded, unbiased reporting that will help them make important decisions that affect their courses and careers.

It is, after all, a small world. Too small, we think, for your magazine to promote misguided nationalistic feelings which might prevent golf industry professionals from selecting products and services on their merits, rather than based on who provides them or where they're from.

I would imagine the U.S. architects listed on page 40 of your April issue are pleased with the professional opportunities associated with the growth of golf in Asia!

As an advertiser, we have seen the benefit of *Golf Course News* to our present and prospective customers.

We sincerely hope that our perceptions of inequality in your magazine's focus are the result only of a temporary loss of perspective that may easily be rectified, and not evidence of any deep-seated prejudice.

Sincerely,
Joseph J. Stahl, vice president
Golf Car Division
Yamaha Motor Corp.



Howard Watson dead at 84

Howard Watson, 84, a former president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, died April 25 at his home in Lachute, Quebec.

Watson began designing golf courses in 1930, laying out more than 150 throughout North America. Among his projects are Carling Hill in Pine Hill, Que.; Lachute Nos. 1 and 2, in Lachute, Que.; Pinegrove Country Club in St. Luc, Que.; Toronto Board of Trade in Woodbridge, Ont.; and the Players Club in Pickering, Ont.

The Canadian architect was elected to the ASGCA in 1954 and served as president in 1959. He was elected a Fellow in 1977.

Watson earned a bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Toronto in 1929. He had been retired since 1987. His company, Canadian Golf Landscaping Ltd., remains active and is headed by son John, also an ASGCA member and past association president.

Watson is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; son, John; and two grandchildren, Mark and Scott.



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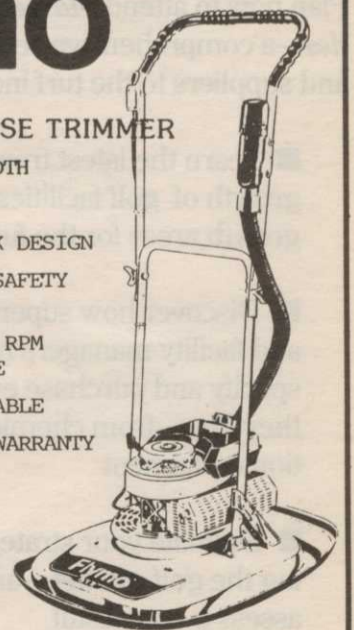


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