

Course design subject of Golf Asia '92 conference

SINGAPORE — Today's golf course architects must take a team approach toward course design, architect Mark Hollinger told an audience at Golf Asia '92 here.

According to Hollinger, senior designer with JMP Golf Design of Saratoga, Calif., "The days of a one-man firm designing the golf course out in the field with a sketch pad are gone forever. It takes a group of highly specialized professionals working together to get the job done."

Hollinger told the gathering of international architects, contractors and developers that designing golf courses is an extremely complex task today.

"As in the past, a love of the game, a sense of aesthetics, and an understanding of strategic design principles are crucial. But now we must also be conversant with the latest innovations in a number of highly technical disciplines. And," he said, "we must be able to assemble and work with a team of experts."

In order to design world-class courses in today's golf design environ-

ment, Hollinger said a course design firm must have a staff of in-house professionals whose expertise spans a wide range of fields — from land planning to landscape architecture, stormwater engineering to turfgrass.

He said it's critical the firm be able to deal successfully with governmental agencies whose regulations can vary from state-to-state and country-to-country. And, they must be skilled in helping move the project through the often highly demanding permit process, he said.

"Designing courses today involves working with difficult terrain under problematic circumstances and with numerous constraints. Because the land allocated for golf course development is often very limited, nine times out of 10, we have to design courses on extremely severe sites," Hollinger said.

"The design team concept gives the owner, the golf designer and the golf-playing public the confidence that the course will meet the highest golfing standards."

New Asian supers assn. seeks experts

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — In moving the newly formed Asia/Pacific Golf Course Superintendents Association (APGCSA) closer to becoming reality, Col. Harbans Singh called for experts in turf management to help establish training programs in Southeast Asia.

"We're looking for instructors," said Singh at the recent Golf Asia '92 conference held in Singapore. "We need experts from the field in everything from basic turf maintenance to top management. Education is the key to any association and we are looking to the United States for expertise."

The APGCSA was originally conceived at Golf Asia '91 and has since been building a network of interested superintendents. Singh has recruited consultants and educators from the golf industry to help build a curriculum. Such a program might eventually result in certification-type courses held throughout Southeast Asia.

Those interested in participating may contact the APGCSA through the Singh's Kuala Lumpur office at FAX 037572701.

Show postponed

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Asian Golf Course '92, a regional conference with international speakers, has been postponed from June 24-27 to Sept. 10-13.

Catered to golf course superintendents and club managers, the conference and exhibition will be held at Putra World Trade Centre.

Show organizer Zainal Abidin can be reached at Asian Exhibitions Management Pte Ltd, 1 Marine Parade Central #12-01 Parkway Builders Centre, Singapore 1544; telephone 4473680.

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more expansive-style course is 'better' or more 'desirable,' said Griffiths. "They are certainly not more profitable than lower-cost, high-quality natural courses."

As long as the recent collapse of mega-courses such as Desaru, an ambitious expansion in Johor, Indonesia, that called for four signature golf courses, nine hotels, a yacht marina, an equestrian center and a tennis academy, is seen as an anomaly rather than a potential danger to Southeast Asian golf development, such cautionary words will probably not be heeded.

David G. Inglis, director of Golf Asia '92, won unanimous endorsement for formation of the Southeast Asian Golf Association. Membership will consist of developers, builders, architects suppliers and financial institutions.

The principal goal will be to foster information flow among concerned companies as regulatory pressures increase. The association may be contacted through the offices of AGMS in Singapore at FAX 65-2277303.

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