



ROUND ABOUT ASIA

MARSH DISTINGUISHING HIMSELF AS COURSE DESIGNER

Graham Marsh, who played a distinguished career on the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) Tour, is designing golf courses throughout the Pacific.

From his Queensland, Australia, headquarters, Marsh opened Horizons Golf Resort in Port Stephens, Australia, in January and has two other projects under construction in his homeland.

Terrey Hills Golf & Country Club in Sydney is in the midst of construction, while building begins in April on Secret Harbour in Western Australia.

Marsh's young company employs 21 people and has projects in the ground in Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea and Saipan.

He has another 15 projects on the drawing boards.

JONES BUSY FROM JAPAN TO PHILIPPINES

CANLUBANG, Phillipines — Sta. Elena Golf & Country Club will open its second nine holes here soon, completing what its designer believes is an interesting test of golf.

Robert Trent Jones Jr. of Robert Trent Jones II International, Ltd. said the front nine of the course was very well received at its preliminary opening last October.

"I'm very proud of that one," Jones said. "It's a good site. Gentle but interesting terrain. It includes draining channels that are jungle-like. Each hole is different. There's no repetition. The shaping is excellent. The greens are interesting."

Sta. Elena is Jones' fifth course in this country where, he said, "the climate is great — like Hawaii — and you can get high-quality golf and great service very inexpensively."

Jones' firm has also opened Santiburi Golf Club in the mountains in Chiang Rai opened late last year.

Another new Jones course — Eastern Star in Ban Chang — will open in late March.

Meanwhile, Jones II International courses under construction in Japan are:

- Regus Crest Golf Club in Hiroshima Prefecture, where the West Course will open in mid-summer and the East Course is half complete.

- Towa Nasu Highland Golf Club in Tochigi Prefecture, a resort course that will open in July.

- A nine-hole addition to the 27-hole Sun Hills Country Club outside Tokyo will open in the spring.

- King Hills Country Club in Kumamoto will open in 1994.

- The Country Club in Shiga Prefecture has just started construction.

- Katsura Golf Club in Hokkaido will open in the summer.

- Miho Golf Club outside Tokyo will open in the fall.

OLSON OPENS KOREAN TRACK

ICHON, South Korea — Dong Jin Country Club, a 27-hole double-green championship golf course, has opened here.

Designed by Cal Olson of Costa Mesa, Calif., U.S.A., the course has many large rock outcroppings and strategically placed water fea-

tures.

Even though approximately 10 million cubic meters of earth and rock were moved during the grading operation of Dong Jin — because of the steep terrain — the final course rests naturally in the dynamic mountainside.

GRIFFITHS DESIGNS IN THAILAND

PATTAYA, Thailand — Phoenix Golf and Country Club will unveil its final nine holes here with a "soft opening" in April and grand opening in August, according to Denis Griffiths of the golf course design firm Denis Griffiths

and Associates.

Eighteen holes of the 27-hole facility opened last year, said Griffiths, of Braselton, Ga., U.S.A.

Phoenix is a cornerstone of a high-end housing development — as most golf courses are in this country.

Griffiths said it is set on "an outstanding piece of property," with rolling land very unusual for Thailand. About one mile inland from the coast, it offers panoramic views of the ocean.

Griffiths' lead designer in Asia, Tom Johnson, co-designed Phoenix and is overseeing construction of Chanthaburi and Dynasty

country clubs and a complete renovation of Thai Country Club in Chanburi.

Griffiths and Johnson teamed up on Press Country Club in Takasaki, Japan, which opened last November.

It measures slightly over 7,000 yards but is very playable for that distance, he said.

"It's a little relief from some of the Japanese courses, which are so difficult. It doesn't have long carries. The fairway grades are very playable. It has a pleasant combination of golf holes," he said.



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PERRY DYE LAYOUT BEING BUILT IN THAILAND

THAI MUANG, THAILAND—An 18-hole Perry O. Dye golf course is being built as part of a seaside development in this town of 4,000 located in southern Thailand about 70 km (43.5 miles) north of Phuket City.

Project owner Thai Muang Beach Resort Co. Ltd. is constructing 18 holes, a clubhouse, and golf lodges as phase one of the project. Subsequent phases will include deluxe villas and two "five-star hotels with marina along the Andaman Sea.

The championship course is

scheduled to open in mid-1993.

HAS CONSTRUCTION PEAKED IN THAILAND?

BANGKOK, Thailand—Golf course construction has apparently peaked in this country, at least for the time being.

Thailand's economy grew in the 10-percent range over the last four or five years and course projects moved smoothly through the development process.

But architect Denis Griffiths of Griffiths and Associates in Braselton, Georgia, U.S.A., said he feels construction activity

"peaked last summer."

Growth has slowed to about 7-1/2 to 8 percent, he said.

A number of new projects are on the boards but haven't moved forward, Griffiths said.

His firm is fortunate that it "got in early" on several projects, he added.

Robert Trent Jones Jr., of Palo Alto, Calif., who has designed five courses in Thailand over the years, said a lot of courses were built and "it will take time for them all to become economically viable as individual entities.

Some will succeed because they are well run. Some may not suc-

ceed. But the marketplace will shake that out."

NICKLAUS EXCITED ABOUT HIS WORK IN ASIA

BINTAN ISLAND, Malaysia—Golden Bear International has agreed to build a Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course here. The Nicklaus design will be the first golf course built for Bintan Lagoon Beach & Golf Resort.

"We are excited to be the first to build a golf course on such a rare and beautiful piece of island property," said Nicklaus. "This resort promises to be one of the

best in the Far East."

The property is part of the 19,000-hectare Bintan Beach International Resort. SAFE Bintan Resort signed a letter of intent last September to lease 240 hectares the northern coast of Pulau Bintan. Nicklaus will design the first of three championship courses along the white sand beaches of the island. Construction will late in 1992.

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Golden Bear International has also announced the opening of two multimillion-dollar state-of-the-art teaching and practice facilities in Asia—the Jack Nicklaus Golf Center in Japan and the Jack Nicklaus Academy of Golf in the Philippines.

"There is a great demand for high-quality instruction and practice facilities all over the world," said GBI President Richard Bellinger. "The golf centers and academies provide both premier facilities and premier instruction."

The Jack Nicklaus Golf Center, the first ever in Japan, has opened in Tsukuba through an exclusive agreement between GBI and Mitsubishi Corp., and Suntory Limited for the country.

In Manila, the first Jack Nicklaus Academy of Golf opened in the Philippines under an exclusive agreement between Golden Bear and American Golf Centers, a subsidiary of AIA and American International Group, the New York-based insurance conglomerate and the Fil-Estate Group. The company will develop the centers and academies for the balance of Pacific Rim countries, exclusive of Japan.

The Jack Nicklaus Golf Center, designed by GBI, features a two-tier practice facility with 80 fully heated practice stations for year-round play; a contoured practice fairway with numerous target green complexes.

Also, an instructional staff hand-picked by Nicklaus and Jim Flick; the Jack Nicklaus Coaching Studio featuring advanced video and computer analysis, and a full-service golf shop and dining facility; a short-game practice area; and a practice putting green.

The Jack Nicklaus Academy of Golf features 36 holes of Nicklaus golf surrounding the practice facility.

The golf instruction program taught at the facility is identical to the curriculum used at the Nicklaus/Flick Golf Schools in the United States. From Palm Beach to Paris, and Manila to Tokyo, Golden Bear's goal is to provide all students the same level of instruction and a consistent message when learning the game.

Jack Nicklaus Golf Operations, a division of GBI, will be involved in all phases of the development of the facilities including the design, contouring the golf elements, implementation of the teaching curriculum and training of the instructional staff.



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