



Roger Rulewich, above, and boss Robert Trent Jones Sr.



## Me & Mr. Jones: Rulewich content

Cooperative efforts in the Robert Trent Jones Sr. office have centered around Jones and Rulewich for two decades. Yet even legends don't live forever. So, what happens to a man like Roger Rulewich, who is known as the best imitator of the most influential golf course architect of this half-century?

Rees Jones said Rulewich is the consummate example of a top-flight designer "possessing absolutely no ego" and "remaining perfectly happy doing what he does with my father's organization because he gets really great jobs."

Rulewich, who the last few years has flexed his own imagination with new twists in design

under the Jones name, will nevertheless be forced out of the nest.

"For myself, it will mean going out and doing work in my own name," he said. "It might be hard getting going. I'd like to finish the contracts we've started and finish them in his name and give us time to generate new work. Because of all what we had to do to gear up for [The Jones Trail complex] in Alabama we have a hard corps of people who have exceptional and extraordinary skills, abilities and attitudes. We're going to try to keep this group together."

Then the fame and fortune may follow.

## The man behind

Continued from previous page

of these guys on the staff is that they know they are well known in the golf business and their peers. That is obviously a source of satisfaction."

### LEAVING THE FOLD

But designers who leave the safety net of employment to go out on their own have some different feelings about their situations.

"There were several reasons" for leaving, said Jay Morrish, whose fame of the last several years was made possible in 1983 when he formed his own company after laboring 17 years for George Fazio, Desmond Muirhead and then Jack Nicklaus. "One was money. I saw a lot of architects making a lot of money and I knew I was better than they were. I was well salaried, but nothing like I am now.

"There's also an ego thing. I was never getting any recognition [except from] people behind the scenes... When I left, it was with Jack's blessings. He knew I had gone as far as I could go."

"It gets down to a desire to be recognized by your peers, others in the golf business, and even by yourself," said Keith Foster, who opened his own company in Phoenix after working with Art Hills for six years.

Recognition and total control had nothing to do with Bob Cupp's leaving the Nicklaus organization. When an outside business venture lured him away from golf, he continued to receive many phone calls to do design work.

"I like to do this work," Cupp said. "I didn't know whether I'd get recognition. I just knew there were lots of projects out there."

Cupp decided to form "a small organization in which I could still do the decisions, say grace over everything."

"When I left, it was awful. It tore me apart," Morrish said. "We had a



Bob Cupp

lot of great memories and friends, and it was a great organization."

Yet, Morrish desired to put his own ideas, concepts and imagery onto the 150-acre canvasses. Nicklaus spent "a lot of time with us in the field. All the Jack Nicklaus courses are his, not mine. I simply implemented his ideas," Morrish said. "The only one I feel I had a big influence on was Shoal Creek."

Morrish's turn to shine came in 1985, with PGA Tour pro Tom Weiskopf, in the opportunity to design Troon Golf and Country Club in Scottsdale, Ariz.

### LOVING IT

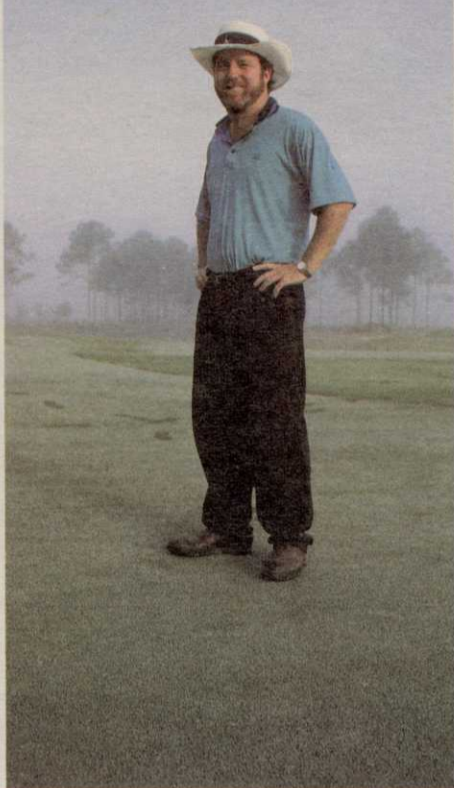
Rees Jones — a former project leader and now "name designer" — put the profession of golf course design into perspective.

"We are fortunate that we are doing something we really love. Imagine getting paid for having all this fun. The notoriety is only necessary when you want to generate more business."

Ed Keene  
Superintendent



Scott Hamm  
Superintendent



## How the Penn Pals Stack Up:

### Penncross

The standard for bentgrasses since 1955.

Good heat and wear tolerance. The choice of championship golf courses.

### Penneagle

Salt tolerant. Germinates quickly. Upright, dense growth habit. The fairway grass at Oakmont Country Club.

### PennLinks

Upright dense growth. Fine texture and heat tolerant. The new standard for putting green quality. Used for greens at Wilmington Country Club since 1984.

### PennWay Blend

Economical overseeding bentgrass blend. Heat and disease tolerant. Genetically diverse. Ideal for winter greens and permanent fairways.

### PennTrio Blend

Certified creeping bentgrass blend with the combined virtues of Penncross, Penneagle and PennLinks.



## Windstar Country Club

Naples, FL  
Tom Fazio, Architect

"We've overseeded with Penncross the past five years. Even though we're next to Naples bay, we've had no trouble with salt burn. We irrigate with 75% effluent water, and though the remainder has a high sodium content, Penncross maintains its color and vigor.

"We used *Poa trivialis* in our seed mixture this past season, but I will return to a Penncross monostand this fall."

Ed Keene

## Riverwood Golf Club

Port Charlotte, FL  
Gene Bates, Architect

"PennWay Blend is the basis of the winter overseeding mixture I use for what I call 'interseeding'. I encourage the bent/*trivialis* to co-exist with bermudagrass without stressing the bermuda. This way my greens transition smoothly, and the bermuda is off to a healthy start in the spring.

"Members and daily fee players comment on the fast, consistent greens as well as the unusual links-type configuration of our 18 hole putting complex."

Scott A. Hamm

# 'Penn Pals' for Winter Greens.