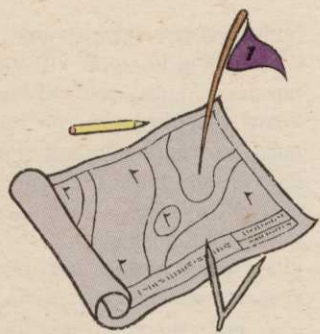


BRIEFS



POELLOT NAMES VICE PRESIDENTS

SARATOGA, Calif. — J. Michael Poellot, principal of JMP Golf Design Group, Inc. based here, has announced the promotion of three employees. Senior designers Brian E. Costello, Mark E. Hollinger, and Robert W. Moore Jr. have all been named vice presidents at JMP.

FORSE MODIFYING LEHIGH CC

ALLENTOWN, Pa. — The William Flynn-designed Lehigh Country Club is undergoing a facelift. Ron Forse of Forse Design in Uniontown is handling the modifications, while MacCurrach Golf Inc. of Jacksonville, Fla., is the contractor. Forse said he is restoring the edges of the existing bunkers and "re-establishing" many fairway bunkers which had been covered over and lost since the course was built in 1928. The greens, which are about 90 percent poa annua, will be gassed and reseeded to bentgrass, in a program overseen by superintendent John Chassard.



Ron Forse

FOSTER OPENS OFFICE

Keith Foster & Associates has moved to a new address. It is 3110 N. 16th St., Phoenix, AZ 85016; telephone 602-279-4232; fax 602-279-6115. Foster reported he has signed six contracts — two in Phoenix, two in Denver, and others in Las Vegas and Lexington, Ky. Meanwhile, he is working on projects in Columbia, Mo., and Seattle, Wash., and construction was ready to begin this fall at courses in Tucson, Ariz., and Laughlin, Nev. The Laughlin facility is being developed by Don Laughlin at a casino town on the Colorado River.

DAVE FLATT JOINS DAD LARRY

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. — Flatt Golf Services, Inc. announces that Dave W. Flatt has joined the firm as golf course architect. He is responsible for golf course design, drafting support and construction inspection. Flatt has been working in the golf industry since he was 14. Before joining FGS, Inc., he was employed by the Wadsworth Construction Co. in Plainfield, Ill., a leading golf course construction company, from 1989 to 1993. While with Wadsworth, he prepared and placed bids on irrigation systems, supervised and coordinated installation of irrigation systems and coordinated irrigation inventories with irrigation suppliers.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Novice designers aim for lasting impressions

Course design a thing of dreams for many, but few get to try their hand at it

By MARK LESLIE

Whether a youthful dream or a mid-life business decision, golf course design is the child of many mothers. Among novice course architects, this is also true.

For William Bradley Booth, designing a golf course began as a dream when he would draw golf holes during 8th-grade study hall.

For then-52-year-old attorney Ken Tomlinson, his design of award-winning Tidewater Golf Club and Plantation was a business decision by a man with "an eye for balance."

For Randy Russell, a course manager with course construction background and a degree in turfgrass management, the design of his community's municipal track just fell into his lap.

They join a small but famous band of amateur designers whose names live on in the courses they designed.

George Crump stands as an equal next to the great names in golf design despite his creating only one course in his life. But that was Pine Valley in Clementon, N.J., considered by many the best course on the globe.

Jack Neville had a decade in the sun, designing Pebble Beach in 1918, but he never was truly a "professional" architect.

Polls invariably list Pine Valley and Pebble Beach among the top four or five courses in the world. Yet they were designed by amateurs in the art, science and business of golf course architecture.

When Tomlinson completed Tidewater in North Myrtle Beach, S.C., in 1990, his design won instant acclaim, becoming the first track ever to be named Best



The 12th green, foreground, and 13th fairway and green in the distance illustrate the environmental sensitivity of Tidewater Golf Club and Plantation in North Myrtle Beach, S.C. Cherry Grove Beach sits across the ocean inlet to the right.



New Public Course by both *Golf Digest* and *Golf Magazine*.

The three novice designers agree:

- Golf course architects are generally underpaid, not overpaid.
- Design is a science as well as an art form. Science plays a crucial role in design, adding a difficult major chore: education in the fields of agronomy, irrigation and engineering.
- Help from experts is critical to success.
- Courses should "naturally" fit into the land.
- They would "do it again" in a second.

TOMLINSON CREDOS

Tomlinson has gained the most notoriety among first-time designers in recent years. He credits his success to an incredible seaside property, a bevy of

helpful experts, and "the good Lord blessing me with an eye for balance."

"They talk about the beauty of the course," Tomlinson said. "I just didn't screw it up."

A fine golfer who has long been involved in golf projects from the financial side, Tomlinson nevertheless said designing Tidewater was not a dream come true. "That would make a great story line," he said. "But I bought that land because a golf course and residential development made sense there. And I designed and built my own course because I felt it made good business sense.

"In my judgment, courses that have stood the test of time were done without artificial mounds all over the place. When you looked at the green, you'd see putting surfaces. I was convinced people

Continued on page 29

Q & A

Tom Weiskopf:
As serious about
design as play

Considered a serious threat to win every time he stepped onto the golf course during his PGA Tour prime, Tom Weiskopf, 51, has been winning accolades with partner Jay Morrish since they first teamed in 1984 to design golf courses. As a player, Weiskopf has shined in the "laboratory of golf," winning 15 PGA Tour victories, the 1973 British Open and many other championships. As a co-designer, he has won marquee billing with Morrish for such tracks as Troon Golf & Country Club in Arizona and Shadow Glen outside Kansas City, Kan. They became the first Americans to design a course in Scotland — the just-opened High Road



Course at Loch Lomond, which Weiskopf said is "absolutely the best course we've done or will ever do." Managing Editor Mark Leslie caught Weiskopf at home in Paradise Valley, Ariz., busy at work on a design project but looking ahead to his annual time of upland bird hunting with his hunting dog, Hawk.

Golf Course News: You have a reputation as being dedicated to learning the agronomy and technology of the course design profession.

Continued on page 27

Mizuno trouble continues in U.S. and Japan

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, U.S.A. — Ken International Co., formerly owned by embattled Japanese golf tycoon Ken Mizuno, agreed in mid-October to forfeit about \$65 million in assets as part of a plea bargain on criminal charges, reports United Press International.

The firm pleaded guilty to laundering millions through expensive pieces of U.S. real estate that were fraudulently obtained by over-selling memberships at Ibaragi Country Club in Japan. Ken International also agreed in its plea in U.S. District Court to forfeit \$260 million of assets, although the government can currently account for just \$65 million.

According to the U.S. Attorney's office, Ken International advertised it would sell only 1,830 full memberships in the Ibaragi club, but instead sold about 52,000 membership for the equivalent of \$800 million. U.S. federal prosecutors indicated Mizuno, now on trial in Tokyo on separate fraud and tax-evasion charges, used Ken

Continued on page 27