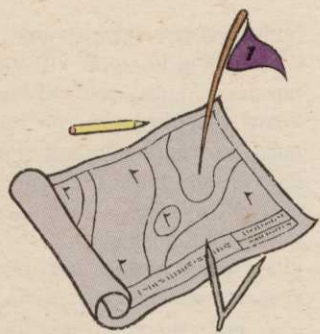


BRIEFS



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

Q&A: Weiskopf

Continued from page 23

Tom Weiskopf: I think it's very important. If you're going to put your name on something, that product represents your feelings and personality. The monetary reward shouldn't be your only motivation. Your name is on it forever. It's not like putting your name on a golf club.

GCN: It might be said that with the Troon courses, Double Eagle, Shadow Glen and other courses you've designed, that as great a player as you are, your design career may eclipse your Tour career.

TW: I hope it does.

GCN: Which do you enjoy most — playing or designing?

TW: I wouldn't say one outweighs the other. They are similar. They are both competitive, challenging, and demand a lot of hard work. Execution is involved in both. Unless you could win a major [tournament] or some majors, your name won't stay in history. With golf course design, if you can create an acceptance and reputation, it will outlast you far beyond what your golf could ever do — because that's your personality, the part of you that still remains.

GCN: How has being a great golfer affected your design? Some pros have been charged with designing courses too hard for the average golfer.

TW: I take a 180-degree stand on that. My input into the strategical aspect of what goes into our golf courses is nothing more than my vast experience of playing the greatest courses and, probably more importantly, remembering and watching the other players and the types of shots they hit on these specific courses under very demanding conditions; watching the ball react, either in its entry into the fairway corridor or its movement along the green while either being putted, chipped or pitched; or watching the ball trying to stay in a certain area where the pin was, regarding the contour of the green and the area they were playing to with that specific club. A great golf hole is a fair challenge that demands proper execution but is not overly demanding. The average player can play it.

GCN: What effect have your playing and design careers had on one another?

TW: My playing career will never be substantial as long as I remain as involved as I am in design. By substantial I'm talking about playing a full schedule of 20 to 25 events. I only played 12 this year.

GCN: Do you have a Tom Weiskopf fingerprint?

TW: No. Nobody has a fingerprint, because what's been done in golf has been done in golf forever. What remains to be accepted in golf as being good will always be good. What remains controversial has always been controversial. And you find both of those aspects in St. Andrews. That's why it's the world's best golf course. The whole thought process started there and went on from there — was perpetuated.

Maybe Desmond Muirhead has a trademark. He does those goofy things that look like fish, but you have to be up in a hot-air balloon or flying over at 100 miles an hour to figure out what they are, right?

GCN: What part of the course do you most enjoy designing?

TW: The strongest challenge to me is to build good short par-4s. From 290 to 400 yards. Those are my favorite holes. It's very hard to put enough challenge for a good player in a very short par-4. A good player has so much ability to easily play the hole without using a driver. And he has the precision in his short game, from 150 yards

and in — that's where he excels in most cases. You must challenge him.

GCN: How do you do it?

TW: I'm never going to tell. I just know what's been done and what I like. I'm just plagiarizing what's been done successfully in the past. A lot of people think of a Weiskopf-Morrish trademark as always putting a potentially reachable par-4 on all our courses. That came from St. Andrews. I've driven the ball to the green on 9, 10, 12 and 18.

GCN: What dimension does Jay add to the Weiskopf-Morrish team?

TW: Jay does the routing. He evaluates the property from a selection standpoint. We use two big criteria: Who are we doing business with? Are they good people, substantial people? Do they have a good concept and are they in a good marketplace? And, just how good is the property? You can't make chicken salad out of chicken —

Jay does all the working drawings. And they are so good that if we never set foot on site they'd turn out to be doggone good golf courses. If you have excellent working drawings, and you're not doing them on napkins, the owner can go to Mr. Banker and he knows exactly what his golf course is going to cost.

GCN: Who's your favorite architect?

TW: I don't have one. I don't look at it that way. I have an extensive art collection. I don't care if anybody else likes it but me. I think all of us in this business are artists. And that 170 or 180 acres out there, that's a canvas. I don't think it's fair for any of us to say, "I don't like that." I think it is only fair to question something if you think it is too penal or not fair in regard to strategic value. For instance, if you're asking a guy to hit a 2-iron to the 7th hole at Pebble Beach, then you've got a right to say something.

GCN: You've seen penal holes that should have never been built?

TW: I've seen a lot that are much too demanding even for the best to ever play the game. Still, you should never sacrifice the potential for a golf hole just because the average guy can't play it. The high-handicapper can't play the 8th hole at Pebble Beach. Do you sacrifice the potential

of a marvelous, aesthetically dramatic and challenging golf hole because some people can't play it? I say, "No, don't ever do that." But let's hope there's only one or two on a golf course.

GCN: Do you take maintenance into consideration?

TW: We've never built a golf course that's a maintenance nightmare. Our style doesn't dictate that... We're all trying to get back to the way they were building golf courses in the '20s, '30s and '40s — maintainable courses that are natural looking and playable. It's a cycle and we ought to stay there.

GCN: Do you think you will?

TW: I think everybody will. Five years ago, I said the best golf courses that will compete and be compared to those after World War I will be done in the 1990s. That's because we are back to that style. There are unions, hourly wages, construction costs, maintenance costs, equipment costs, water availability — everything else. And we're all smarter. The more you do, the smarter and better you should become.

There are also more good teams out there — teaming the professional with the architect. There are [Tom] Kite and [Bob] Cupp, [Ben] Crenshaw and [Bill] Coore, [Arnold] Palmer and [Ed] Seay. Two heads are always better than one.

GCN: What would be the perfect future for you?

TW: What I'm doing right now. Being highly selective. We only do three or four courses at a time. I want to play some, and do a lot of hunting and fishing — which I do — and be with my friends — which I do. That's all I've done the last 10 years and I've never been happier. I've found my niche, finally.

GCN: Have you thought about going into broadcasting?

TW: No. I have no interest.

GCN: Teaching videos?

TW: No.

GCN: Putting your names on clubs and golf shoes and shirts and jackets?

TW: No.

GCN: Nothing outside of designing and playing?

TW: That's it.

Mizuno selling properties

Continued from page 23

International to transfer about \$265 million in "fraudulently obtained proceeds" from Japan to the United States between 1989 and 1991. Forty-seven separate transactions were allegedly used to launder the money.

Approximately \$100 million of those funds were transferred to Mizuno's purchase of the \$52 million Indian Wells Country Club and Hotel near Palm Springs, Calif.; the \$10 million Royal Kenfield Country Club in Henderson, Nev.; a private DC-9 jet; a \$2.8 million house and a \$2.3 million condominium in Beverly Hills, Calif.; and three houses and a vacant lot in Hawaii.

A spokesman for Ken International's attorney said Mizuno spent about \$100 million to buy the U.S. assets, but noted their current value is approximately \$65 million. "He clearly overpaid on the improvements on some of the properties," the spokesman said.

About \$43 million will be returned to fraud victims and U.S. creditors will receive \$10 million. The U.S. government will receive 10 percent of the asset sales plus court costs. Federal prosecutors indicated the case is the second-largest, non-drug forfeiture case in U.S. history.

What happened to the remaining \$165 million that was transferred by Mizuno to the United States remains under investigation. The Las Vegas Review Journal has reported that Mizuno lost as much as \$60 million at Las Vegas Baccarat tables between 1989 and 1991.

Both Mizuno and his company were previously declared insolvent by courts in Japan and the U.S., giving bankruptcy estate administrator Kengo Ohashi authority over the disposition of the U.S. properties.

Mizuno, who has been charged in Japan on separate counts of tax evasion and fraud, is free on bail while awaiting his trial. Seven other Japanese who were charged in the scheme have been convicted and sentenced.

WE BUILD MASTERPIECES.

Jeff Harstine
President

Rodney Davis
Treasurer

Dennis Crews
Sales Manager

4516 E. Kinsey Road
Avon Park, FL 33825
1-800-422-1187

GCBAA
CHARTER MEMBER
Certified Builder
© 1993, Bart Forbes

Central Florida Turf

Golf Course Construction & Renovation