

## BRIEFS


**BARBARON BUILDING NEW 18  
AT CYPRESS LAKE**

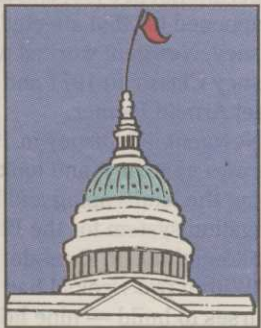
LAKELAND, Fla. — Barbaron, Inc. of Crystal River has been selected by Cypress Lakes Ventures to construct a new 18-hole additional course at the Cypress Lake Golf and Country Club here. The course has been designed by Powell Golf Design of Bradenton and is scheduled to open in the early fall.

**COURSE DESIGNERS EXEMPTED**

A Mississippi bill that exempts golf course designers from being licensed as landscape architects has been signed into law by Gov. Kirk Fordice.

Landscape architects in some states, including Florida, also have tried to force golf course designers to be licensed.

The bill also allows the state Board of Architecture to run continuing education programs for landscape architects.


**GRAVES PICKS UP THE PIECES**

Salgados Praia Golf Course, in the West Region of Algarve, Southern Portugal, is nearing completion. Robert Muir Graves, Ltd., of Walnut Creek, Calif., was brought in as course architect when the course was about 70 percent completed. Graves made a number of revisions and generally upgraded the layout to meet international standards for resort play. The completed course will measure 6,560 yards from the back tees. The course is part of a large homesite and hotel development.

**NEW CLUBHOUSE FOR ARGYLE**

SILVER SPRING, Md. — Argyle CC is renovating and expanding its clubhouse. The \$2.4 million project will expand the clubhouse to 22,000 square feet. BeechTree Golf Co. is coordinating the project for the club. The building architect is Reithlingshoefer-Smith & Associates of Annapolis and the contractor is Coleman & Wood of Rockville.

**HELLMAN JOINS JACOBSON DESIGN**

LIBERTYVILLE, Ill. — Doug Hellman has joined Jacobson Golf Course Design as director of business development and design associate. He will oversee new business development and marketing activities and be involved in project development. Hellman formerly was director of business development for Dick Nugent Associates.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

# Europeans coordinate environmental effort

By PETER BLAIS

BRUSSELS, Belgium — With permits and financing firmly in hand, developers of Domain Des Princes Golf Course began building their Jack Nicklaus-designed layout here in late 1989. A local environmental group went to court and succeeded in having the permit revoked. Five years later, the course is no closer to reality than it was in the late 1980s.

This is the type of situation the newly formed European Golf Association Ecology Unit hopes to stop from happening again.

## New Ecology Unit to present golf's benefits on pro-active, case-by-case basis

The ecology unit is a joint initiative of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, PGA European Tour and European Golf Association — an umbrella organization representing the 25 European national golf associations.

Launched in January, the program has been funded for the next three years in recognition of the need for Europe's lead-

ing golf associations to present a coordinated approach to environmental issues.

"We [golf industry] haven't handled those problems well in the past," said Executive Director David Stubbs, an experienced ecologist who has specialized in golf-ecology issues the past seven years and gained considerable experience matching golf and conservation interests.

"Basically we've just put out fires wherever they've erupted. We need to take a more pro-active approach and get a dialogue underway with the environmental

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## Hurdzan pursues yellowed pages & hickory sticks

By MARK LESLIE

It is like "Christmas and an Easter egg hunt all rolled up in one."

It captivates, excites and enlightens. And it has made Dr. Michael Hurdzan a frequenter of flea markets and dusky old book stores.

It is the hobby (and treasure hunt) of golf collecting. "I just can't describe to you the excitement of finding something you've been searching for for years," said Hurdzan, a golf course architect whose massive collection includes books, clubs, ceramics, glassware, buttons, games, you name it.

"I can almost tell you the time, date and place I found each one of them, and what I paid for them. It's like an Easter egg hunt and Christmas all in one. And every single day is like that. Collecting is the most exciting thing, if you really treasure the things — which I do."

Hurdzan, then young and far from wealthy, caught the collecting bug unaware on Christmas Day 1967. "Someone gave me *Book of the Links* by Sutton. I had



Dr. Michael Hurdzan relaxes in his Columbus, Ohio, office, which brims with trinkets from golf's past.

no idea these kinds of books even existed — let alone on golf course architecture. I was absolutely captivated by the idea. I read it and reread it. It was a wonderful experience. It became so exciting to me that I started to collect more and more things. I went to book stores and flea markets — and still do."

Hurdzan pulled out an old cigarette dispenser for rolled cigarettes. "Just last week-

end I discovered this. It's probably from the '20s or '30s, but it's a wonderful piece."

Hurdzan's "primary love is books," and, indeed, like beloved family, every one in his cache has a story.

• There's *Scotland's Gift*, written in 1885 by Charles Blair Macdonald, and *Golf in America*, which Hurdzan bought in a book store in 1969 for \$3 and \$5, respectively.

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## Von Hagge lays claim to the unbearable lightness of course design

An agricultural engineering degree-holder who played on the PGA Tour a few years and as a club professional before joining Dick Wilson's architectural firm in 1957, Robert von Hagge has established his own design practice around the world. Eighty percent of his work is abroad, "and it doesn't seem to be letting up," he said. Managing editor Mark Leslie caught the 63-year-old von Hagge at his Spring, Texas, headquarters.

**Golf Course News:** It seems you have your own idea of golf course design. What do you do that says: "This is a von Hagge design?"

**Robert von Hagge:** Visually, our courses speak profoundly to folks because I think we're the only ones who really work with light. We've studied light for years. The way the light works from morning to evening across this plane of vertical ex-

Q & A



Robert von Hagge

pression you've created, and how it works from season to season allows a very romantic mystique to come forward at all hours of the day.

When you see photographs of great golf holes, or courses, they are always taken at that dramatic time of day when the angle of light is most profound. We've proven significantly that we can bring those dramatic hours into the middle of the day, so that hour after hour you're playing a different-appearing golf hole. It eliminates the repetition and boredom that you find in so many courses.

In earth movement, the only thing you can rely on ad infinitum is the light. It's the only thing permanent. Trees and grasses die and horizons change with cityscapes

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## Perry Dye: 'We have redirected'

By HAL PHILLIPS

DENVER, Colo. — To paraphrase Perry O. Dye and quote Mark Twain directly: "Reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated."

However, Dye offers this qualifier: "Not greatly exaggerated, but exaggerated."

Rumors have been flying from here to Singapore concerning the financial condition of Dye Designs, as the Japanese development market — which had supported 87 percent of Dye's business in 1989 and '90, for example — continues its downward slide.

The result for Dye Designs has been diminished work overseas and a new focus on its domestic business plan.

"We have redirected. We're going after some of the smaller projects," said Dye in late-April. "To be frank, it's hard to adjust, but I think we can do it. Getting golf courses built for municipalities will go a long way towards changing our image."

"But frankly, a lot of people don't know what I can do here on the main

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## Ecology Unit

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The Ecology Unit's major aims:

- improve the image of golf through a program of positive ecological initiatives;

- encourage a higher standard of environmental performance from the golf development industry and course managers;

- provide a serious contribution to the European golf debate; and

- ensure that the development and management of courses are not impeded by excessive, inappropriate environmental restrictions.

"In countries like Germany, Belgium and Austria, a lot of pressure has been brought to bear against golf development," Stubbs said. "Germany has severe restrictions involving chemical use.

"The media has published alarmist stories about golf being a toxic activity. There was never a rational, credible way for golf to respond. We needed something a bit more substantial. So we've created this program and a coordinated policy that will help us deal with environmental issues."

Stubbs said the unit will serve as a clearing house for information relating to golf and ecology. It will also play a key role in coordinating research, disseminating information and forging links with leading environmental organizations and official agencies.

"The U.S. Golf Association, [USGA Director] Jim Snow and the Green Section agronomists have been very helpful," Stubbs said. "They participated in a meeting in Spain last summer that helped get this off the ground."

Whereas pesticides and water quality are the major concerns of anti-golf environmentalists throughout the United States, environmental issues are more numerous and more regionalized across Europe, Stubbs said.

In Britain, pesticides are not a problem since it is generally accepted that golf courses use far fewer chemicals than agriculture, Stubbs explained. Greater concern is focused on the visual impact of golf courses on the landscape and wildlife habitat.

Throughout continental Europe, golf is often perceived as an elitist sport, making it a political issue that is often clouded by environmental arguments, Stubbs said.

In Germany, converting farmland into golf courses is strongly discouraged, even though large food surpluses exist that require large, government-paid farm subsidies, Stubbs added. But despite golf's attractiveness as a way to reduce surplus farmland, a strong agricultural lobby opposes any reduction in food-production acreage.

Overcoming the fears of environmentalists and local planning boards regarding golf development is the unit's long-term goal. It won't happen overnight, Stubbs said.

"This is a small step in that direction," he said. "But you have to walk before you can run."



David Stubbs (left), executive director of the European Golf Association's Ecology Unit, seen here with Dr. Michael Hurdzan.

## Harvard design seminars June 13-14

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Harvard Graduate School of Design again is offering summer courses and workshops related to the planning and design of golf courses and resorts.

Instructors include golf course designers Geoffrey S. Cornish and Robert M. Graves; architects Kenneth DeMay and Richard Diedrich; consultants James McLoughlin and Dr. Michael Rubin; attorney Thomas J. Boczar; Jerry L. Pierman, immediate past president of the Golf Course Build-

ers Association of America; and William H. Sawyer, president of Golf Finance Inc.

Topics and dates include Golf Course Design, June 13-14; Golf/Residential Site Planning, June 16; Golf Course Development, June 15; and Golf Clubhouse Design and Site Planning, June 17-18.

For a catalog, contact the Office of Development and External Relations, GSD, Harvard University, 48 Quincy St., Cambridge, Mass. 02138; telephone 617-495-1680.

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