

BRIEFS



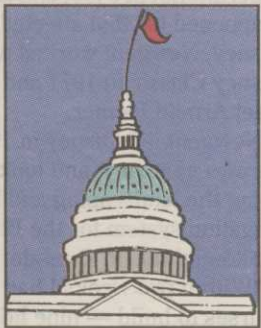
BARBARON BUILDING NEW 18 AT CYPRESS LAKE

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

Q & A



Robert von Hagge

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-

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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With Stenson, Faldo steps up design activity

By HAL PHILLIPS

WUHAN, Peoples Republic of China — With marketing guidance from International Management Group and architectural help from veteran designer Brit Stenson, Nick Faldo has leaped into the Asia-Pacific golf development fray.

With seven Asia-Pacific projects in the works — including Wuhan International Golf Club here — Faldo is executing his decidedly traditional design style and enhancing project cachet as only a world No. 1 can.

"Nick's objective is to remain at the top of his sport while, at the same time, steadily increasing his design activities," explained IMG's Mike Rielly, who handles Faldo from the firm's Singapore office. "What Nick Faldo means to a golf development is immediate credibility, especially in Asia where the process is always membership-driven."

"Asia is probably the world's most active market, and that's why Nick is focusing his efforts here. But there's a desire for Nick to be in every market."

Faldo has eschewed the idea of reeling off various "signature" courses with a series of different lead architects. Instead, he has wedded himself to IMG and Stenson, who cut his design teeth with the U.S. PGA Tour during the 1980s.

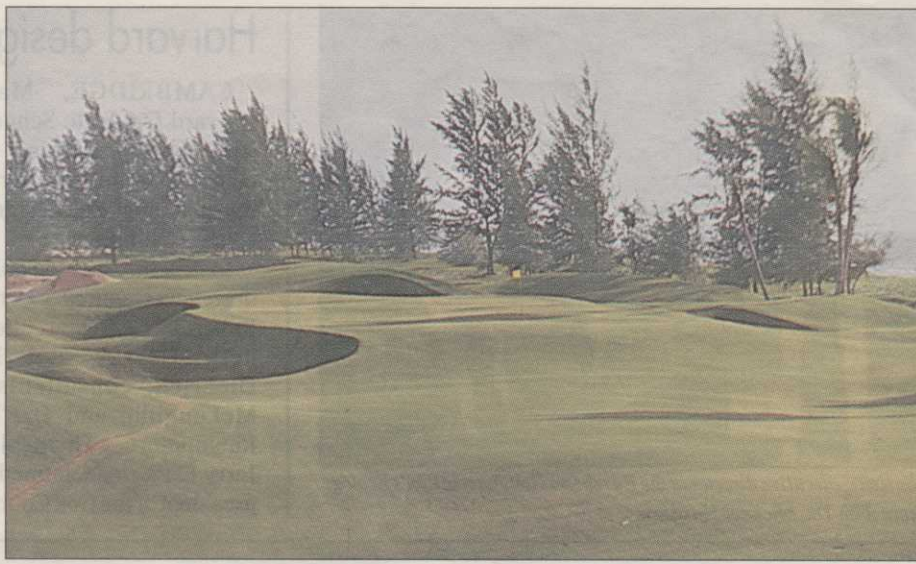
Working alongside Bobby Weed, Stenson handled construction of the highly successfully Tournament Players Club (TPC) courses before being named the PGA's director of design in 1988. He's responsible for the routing of TPCs in Nevada, Connecticut and Florida, all of which play host to PGA Tour and PGA Senior Tour events.

"If there's one thing that distinguishes Nick, it's that he wants the golfer to be confronted with options," Stenson explained. "He has a very strategic approach to the game. He wants the golfer to see the choices before him.... Nick has a very traditional approach and that comes through in the design. Smallish, grass-faced bunkers — what you might expect from a guy who grew up playing golf in Europe and Scotland."

It should come as no surprise the only finished Faldo projects reside in Europe: Chart Hills in Kent, England, and Sporting Club Berlin in Germany.

Yet the Briton is busiest in Asia-Pacific, where two Thai projects in Rayong should open this year. According to Stenson, nine holes at Great Lake have been grassed, while Century Country Club is close behind. Another Thai course — Floraville, north of Bangkok — is well under construction and remains about year away.

Rounding out Faldo's Asia-Pacific portfolio are Cikarang Estates in Jakarta; Royal Sumatra in Medan, Indonesia; and Mayflower in Sapporo, Japan.



Thai Muang Resort is a newly opened Perry Dye design in Phuket, a resort area of Thailand.

Perry Dye redirects; eyes American market

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land. The last U.S. opening we've had was Cypress [Golf Club in Cypress, Calif.] in 1992."

The new focus for Dye Designs is not theoretical. It has already taken hold. A fall opening is expected for a city of Sacramento course, now well under construction. Dye reported his firm has just signed a deal to design and build a 27-hole golf complex, complete with driving range and teaching facility, in Jefferson County, Colo. Another municipal project — nine holes and range for the city of Englewood, Colo. — is nearly signed, sealed and delivered.

"The Jefferson County project is only 30 minutes from my office," said Dye. "It's our first project in state in about six years, which is sort of exciting — driving to a site."

"And these are less complicated jobs. Instead of moving three or four million cubic yards of dirt, we'll move 300,000."

Dye Designs was one of the first U.S. firms to take its product overseas in a big way, opening the door for flocks of architects to ply their wares in the lucrative, albeit speculative Asia-Pacific market. Yet Japanese money fueled much of the fire and, when the bottom fell out last year, Dye found himself overextended.

"We're still reacting to the Japanese bubble-burst," he said. "Right now, we have three projects under construction in Japan, whereas there have been times when we had 14!"

"I'm gratified the value of Japanese memberships at my courses has held up 10 to 20 percent better than those at other courses. Not only my courses: A few designers have seen memberships at their courses really hold their value, which speaks to the quality of our work."

Will the Japanese funding return anytime soon?

"I don't think so," he answered. "It's got to be second-stage. And by that I mean they've got to start spending money in Japan before they'll fund anything overseas. Singapore, Thailand and China will be the funding mechanisms in Southeast Asia for the time being."

Indeed, according to Dye, business is continuing as usual in Southeast Asia. He said the firm has just signed another deal in southern Thailand, while Thai Muang Beach Resort opens for play near Phuket this spring. Laguna National — the 36-hole, upscale Singapore project designed by Andy Dye — is about to christen its second 18.

"And I'm still getting calls to do par 3s — because of Chicago," said Dye, referring to the 9-hole collection of famous par 3s from the Family Dye, located on 30 acres in

downtown Chicago. "It was sodded before the snow came. We'll just have to see what lived and what didn't."

There's no getting around it: Dye Designs has been forced to downsize. Ten positions were eliminated in January, said Dye. The firm's focus has changed dramatically since the early 1990s, but some basic premises have not.

"You have to judge every deal by how much work it will be; where it's located, and how much you can do for the client," said Dye. "That never changes."

Baird chosen to design course at Riverbend Ranch

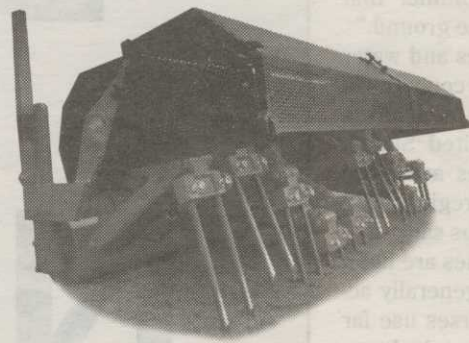
SANTA ANA, Calif. — Coombs, Inc., a Fresno developer, has appointed Gary Roger Baird Design International, Ltd. as the designer for its 18-hole golf course on the Riverbend Ranch site, just north of Fresno in southern Madera County.

The daily-fee track, situated on the banks of the San Joaquin River, will gently wind through some of the last remaining stands of great valley oaks and be adjacent to the river's riparian corridor.

Construction is scheduled to begin in June.

Private equity financing and contributed work in the amount of \$6.5 million will be used for the golf course. Bond financing of \$10.5 million may be used for the residential infrastructure scheduled to start in summer of 1995.

The engineering firm of Foresgren Associates of Salt Lake City and Gary Meyer of GRM Properties will be partners in the project with Coombs. Foresgren Associates/PA will also be acting as construction manager for the course.



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