

## 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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