

BRIEFS

**TURLOCK GREENS REMODELED**

TURLOCK, Calif. — Remodeling of the greens has begun at Turlock Golf & Country Club under the design supervision of architect Andy Raugust. The back nine were scheduled to be completed by late February and ready for play in early spring. The club is using washed sod on the new USGA greens. Raugust will also remodel the front nine and that construction is scheduled for the fall.

BARBARON BUILDING PRACTICE FACILITY

OCALA, Fla. — Barbaron, Inc. of Crystal River has been selected to construct the new practice facility at Oak Run Country Club here. The facility will include a driving range with target greens and bunkering and will include chipping and putting areas and practice bunkers. Oak Run is owned by Decca Development & Construction Corp. of America.

MAKI BUSY ON TWO FRONTS

COLUMBUS, Ga. — Construction is underway on an 18-hole high-end daily-fee golf course here, serving as a cornerstone of a residential housing development. Fox Chase Plantation is the creation of developer James F. Day, while the course is being built by Bilberry Golf and designed by Lisa Maki of Golf Design Services International. The par-72 course will measure 7,100 from the back tees, Maki said. Meanwhile, Maki expects to begin work in April on Eagles Nest in Sacramento, Calif., south of the U.S. Air Force's Mather Field which closed last fall. Developed by the Takehara family of Japan, it will be an 18-hole stand-alone public facility, she said.

CHICAGO'S MR. GOLF HONORED

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Joe Jemsek, an octogenarian who pioneered public golf in Chicago and is known in that area as Mr. Golf, will be presented the William D. Richardson Award from the Golf Writers Association of America. The award is given for consistent outstanding contributions to golf. Jemsek owns and operates eight public courses in Chicago. Jemsek is a past Professional Golfer of the Year, chosen by the PGA of America, and has been inducted into the Chicago Sports Hall of Fame. The National Golf Foundation presented him its Herb Graffis Award in 1977 and his family its Jack Nicklaus Family Golf Award in 1991.



Joe Jemsek

Caribbean sings siren song

By PETER BLAIS

Caribbean golf resort/residential development is warming again after a relatively long cold spell, according to golf industry experts working the area.

Hurricane Hugo devastated certain islands in the late 1980s, denting the Caribbean's reputation as a safe and peaceful retreat, according to Ralph Stewart Bowden, a Virginia real estate counselor who has thoroughly researched the Caribbean market.

Just as the islands were recovering from that natural disaster, a financial calamity struck in the form of a worldwide recession. The financial downturn struck particularly hard and long at the northeast United States, historically the main source of Caribbean tourists and second-home buyers, Bowden noted.

Certain islands and island groups are recovering faster than others and looking at golf to help lead the way. Barbados and the Bahamas are two good examples.

Here's a look at the different regions and how golf is developing in those areas.

NETHERLAND ANTILLES/LESSER ANTILLES/WINDWARD ISLANDS

The real estate market has been relatively soft, but golf development fairly strong in the past year in these southernmost islands.

"There hasn't been much in the way of quality golf in the Caribbean, until recently" said architect Steve Schroeder of Robert Trent Jones II International. Jones designed Hyatt-operated Tierra del Sol, Aruba's first 18-

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Mexican woes only slow golf

By PETER BLAIS

Mexico's financial crisis may slow but certainly won't stop golf development there, according to industry experts working the area.

"The recent devaluation of the peso has brought most projects to a halt. That will continue until things settle out," said Joe Finger, a Texas-based course designer with five Mexican projects recently opened or planned.

"In the long term, the devaluation won't affect development that much. We had a similar devaluation 15 years ago and work eventually resumed."

The government devalued the

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The 4th hole at Joe Finger-designed Cabo Real

**Joe Finger still keeping a hand on design business**

QA &A

Joe Finger, 76, is a technologist at heart. Born in Texas, he obtained a bachelor's degree in engineering from Rice University and a master's from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He worked in the oil refining, plastic manufacturing and dairy businesses before designing his first course, a nine-hole addition to Houston's Westwood Country Club (CC),

back in 1956. Since then, he has designed and remodeled courses throughout the United States and notably Mexico [see story above]. The engineer's attention to detail demonstrated itself in his invention of the Percolometer, a device used for on-the-job control of seed-bed mixtures for greens. Priding himself on getting projects in on time and on budget, he also wrote one of the first books dealing with the costs of course design, "The Business End of Building or Rebuilding a Golf Course," in 1973

Golf Course News: You supposedly retired from active design work in 1990. What have you been doing since?

Joe Finger: Working my rear end off. I've built two courses in Mexico, have two more on the drawing board and one up in the air. We remodeled the greens at Cedar Ridge in Tulsa [Okla.] and Colonial Country Club in Memphis [Tenn.] We're doing a long-range plan for Pleasant Valley CC in Little Rock [Ark.], which we built for Winthrop Rockefeller 27 years ago. We also did consulting work on the Napa Valley (Calif.) CC clubhouse. I'm doing a lot of gardening and orcharding at home and working for the club [River Hill]. Byron Nelson and I built River Hill back in 1974 and we both have homes

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UNEARTHED!**Mackenzie's mysterious manuscript**

By TERRY BUCHEN

BOULDER, Colo. — Raymund Haddock, the step-grandson of Dr. Alister Mackenzie, is a successful insurance agent here. Little did he know that his life was going to change dramatically with the discovery of an item stored for years in a cedar chest in his home.

The story begins in 1978 when course architect Geoffrey S. Cornish and writer Ron Whitten were researching their book, "The Golf Course," and discovered in Dr. Mackenzie's obituary that he had written a manuscript shortly before his death but that it had never been published. Whitten called Charles Scribner and Sons in New York, inquired about the unpublished work and was told it had "long since been destroyed!" An unfortunate dead-end, to say the least.

In 1982 Robert Trent Jones Sr. told Whitten he had a typed version of the lost manuscript which he had given to the legendary Red Hoffman. Whitten called Hoffman, who insisted that he no longer had the manuscript and had returned it to Trent Jones. But Jones insisted that Hoffman still had it, and it was never to be seen again. Another dead-end.

Fast-forward 10 years to 1992. The Mackenzie Cup was being played between four 10-man teams representing Cypress Point, Meadow Club, Green Hills, Pasatiempo, The Valley Club and Crystal Downs. At a gathering in the garden of Mackenzie's house along the 6th fairway at Pasatiempo, Whitten told the golfers that 60 years later it was difficult to research Mackenzie. In particular, he was

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Dr. Alister Mackenzie

Photo courtesy of "The Spirit of St. Andrews"

Caribbean cruising into new era

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"We can develop better courses today and it's starting to happen," Schroeder said.

Tierra del Sol stands in contrast to the island's only other course, Aruba Golf Club. But like its smallish, nine-hole neighbor, and most other Caribbean layouts for that matter, water is in short supply.

"Aruba gets about 10 inches of rain a year," said Jones' associate designer Kyle Phillips. "It's basically a desert surrounded by water. The irrigation water for Tierra del Sol comes from a water treatment plant transported through four miles of pipe."

Water is slightly less of a problem farther east in Barbados, where Jones II also designed Royal Westmoreland, a new 18-hole layout that opened nine holes last fall with a second nine scheduled to open in late spring.

Forty to 50 inches of rain fall annually on Barbados, an independent member of the British Commonwealth. Runoff and deep wells located within the coral limestone underlying the island replenish the 9-million-gallon pond that supplies the bulk of 150-acre Royal Westmoreland's irrigation water.

"We prepared an extensive maintenance program that is environmentally friendly," said project director Coleman

Kicklighter. "We have to be sensitive to the water situation here, just like everyone else in the Caribbean.

Most Royal Westmoreland golfers will come from two exclusive Pemberton Resorts, the Glitter Bay and Royal Pavilion hotels located a quarter-mile away. However, an increasing number will be members of the 400-plus acre Royal Westmoreland residential community, which will eventually contain 300 luxury villas ranging from \$300,000 to \$1 million.

"Play on the Westmoreland course will undoubtedly become more restrictive over time," Coleman said. "We see this appealing to the pre-retirement and migratory community, with most coming from the United States and United Kingdom."

Developers of the Royal Barbados resort/residential complex hope to begin construction this spring on the first 36 of what could eventually be a 90-hole facility. Most permits are in place and financing is being sought, according to Canadian developer Brian Turner. Robert Cupp designed the first 36 holes, which could be ready for play sometime in 1996, Turner added.

"We could probably use one more 18-hole, public course on Barbados," said Steve Nile, director of golf at Sandy Lane Resort, which plans to renovate nine of its existing holes and build an additional



Terra Del Sol, a Robert Trent Jones II design, opened in late January at the Hyatt in Aruba.

nine Joe Lee-designed holes beginning in early 1996. That will make Sandy Lane a 27-hole complex.

"Barbados has such a strong infrastructure and a very well-established population. The island is relatively stable and fairly affluent by Caribbean standards. So it attracts people. We'd like to see Barbados become a major golf destination like Amelia Island in Florida or the South Carolina coast. We'd like to be known for having the best golf in the Caribbean."

The only thing that could stand in the way of that happening is resistance from some local residents to further golf development. Water is their rallying cry.

"It's not usually a matter of the quantity of water," Nile said. "There's plenty. It usually involves the political correctness

of taking water from a residential zone and using it on a golf course.

"It's often just a lack of education. People don't understand the positive benefit golf can have on the economy. Barbados is driven by the tourist industry. We have 8,000 hotel rooms on the island and golf can help fill them."

The owners of the Jolly Harbor Resort on Antigua to the north are rumored to be considering building a course on Trinidad or Tobago, Nile added. Grenada has recovered from the U.S. invasion of several years ago and may be in the golf development market as well, according to Bowden.

LEEWARD ISLANDS

Antigua's Jolly Harbor Resort leased
Continued on next page

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Caribbean busting out

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out property for a Karl Litten-designed course that is scheduled to open in March. A management firm is operating the property, which will cater primarily to Jolly Harbor guests.

"Antigua is ripe for development," Bowden said. "It's similar to Barbados, but not as intensely developed."

Litten agreed, noting the government is repaving 47 miles of road, among the worst in the Caribbean. "There's talk about another three courses on the island," he added.

The Four Seasons Resort course on Nevis opened two years ago. The mountainous Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed layout is reportedly doing well.

On Saint Martin, developers of a time-share resort in Port de Plaisance want to build an 18-hole golf course, Bowden said. The 37-square-mile island is half French, half Dutch. The planned facility is bogged down in the bureaucratic red tape that dogs projects straddling the split nation.

GREATER ANTILLES

Roy Case was the architect for the Links at SafeHaven Golf Club on Grand Cayman, an 18-hole semiprivate layout that opened last April. The fairly high \$2,200 annual dues for members and \$80 greens fees for daily-fee players resulted from several factors.

Material dredged from a mangrove swamp had to be thoroughly washed to rid it of saline before being used as fill, said SafeHaven general manager David Bailey. So did the clay-coral mix that was used for topsoil on the barren landscape.

The lack of surface water on Grand Cayman required SafeHaven to purchase its irrigation water from a desalination plant. "They guarantee us a certain amount of water per day," Bailey said. "But it's not cheap. We spend about \$40,000 per month for irrigation water for the entire SafeHaven complex [which includes residential lots and a resort]."

Construction of a Robert Cupp-designed course was supposed to be well along by now at Drax Hall Estates in Jamaica. But minimal earth moving has been done for the 27-hole course, according to sales manager Joy MacDonald.

A drop-off in North American and United Kingdom tourists as well as financing problems have slowed the project, which includes 147 villa lots and a 280-room hotel. "The hotel and course will be built together," MacDonald said. "We expect to get going on both later this year."

Work is underway on the first course built in Cuba in 30 years. Golf Design Services of Canada is designing the \$5 million, 18-hole layout for the Cuban government on the Vara Dero peninsula. Other courses are expected

to follow, especially if President Fidel Castro loosens his grip on the area's largest island and seeks foreign tourists.

In Puerto Rico, a \$3.8 million renovation is taking place at the four Robert Trent Jones courses at the Hyatt Dorado Beach Resort & Casino and the Hyatt Regency Cerromar Beach Resort & Casino. A comprehensive irrigation project on the Dorado West and East courses has been completed and new cart paths added. A similar irrigation project is underway

for the Cerromar North and South layouts.

Arthur Hills completed an extensive redesign last fall to the El Conquistador's Robert von Hagge course in Fajardo on the northeast coast. A second, 18-hole course is planned.

Palmas del Mar on the east coast plans a second course to complement the existing Gary Player layout. Marriott operates the neighboring resort.

THE BAHAMAS

The 700-island Bahamas chain is usually considered part of the Caribbean, even though the is-

See related story,
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lands are hundreds of miles north of the Caribbean Sea.

While little new golf development has taken place in the past decade, the new Bahamian prime minister has "brought a breath of fresh air," Bowden said. The new administration is looking to release government property accumulated over the past 30 years for private development.

The government provided tax abatements and a casino permit as incentives for the Bahama

Club, which includes a Raymond Floyd-designed course, Ritz Carlton hotel and 225-slip marina set to begin construction on the island of Grand Exuma.

A second golf project on Andros Island, the largest of the Bahamian group, is also planned. Though not as elaborate as the Bahama Club, it will benefit from that rarest of natural systems in the Caribbean, a huge underground aquifer.

An Atlanta businessman has floated the idea of developing a Myrtle Beach-type course development in the Bahamas with over 100 courses, Bowden said.

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