

BRIEFS



PITTMAN/FLOYD PICKED

GREAT EXUMA ISLAND, Bahamas — Bland Pittman and Raymond Floyd will design an 18-hole golf course as a cornerstone of a 518-acre luxury resort community which will be built here beginning this summer. The Bahama Club, Ltd. of Coral Gables, Fla., is developing the project, which is being designed by Sandy & Babcock International and master-planned by Pittman Poe & Associates. Ritz-Carlton oceanfront hotel is also a centerpiece of the project.



Raymond Floyd

COUNTY, HICKMAN HILLS ENTER PACT

DUTCHESS COUNTY, N.Y. — The Dutchess County Economic Development Corp. (EDC) has entered into an agreement with Hickman Hills Corp. for construction of an 18-hole golf course to be financed with EDC bonds. HJM Corp., active in the golf world for 30 years, advised Hickman and structured the bond financing. Designed by Lee Trevino, the course should be under construction this spring and open for limited play in mid-season 1996.

GOLFDATA CREATES NEW SERVICES

ROCKVILLE, Md. — GolfData International, Inc. has initiated a new high-tech information retrieval service — a fax-back system that offers “instant access to key golf market intelligence” it believes is crucial to business planning and development. The service includes golfer demographic profiles, consumer spending information, market data and financial statistics. CEO Scott Marlowe said the firm is also introducing GOLFax • letter, an online newsletter. More information is available from GolfData at 15012 Red Clover Drive, Rockville, Md. 20853.

LAGREE JOINS BARBARON

CRYSTAL RIVER, Fla. — Black Diamond Ranch General Manager and Vice President Terrill A. LaGree has left to join golf course builder Barbaron, Inc. as vice president and equal stockholder. LaGree is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin with a degree in landscape architecture.

FOSTER PROMOTES SCHAUPETER

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Arthur Schaupter has been promoted to lead design associate with Keith Foster Golf Course Design here. Jason Hollen, a landscape architecture graduate of West Virginia University, has joined the design staff.



Engh leaves the safety net of anonymity

By HAL PHILLIPS

CASTLE ROCK, Colo. — Instead of that Dye character, perhaps American Express should have considered designer Jim Engh for its trademark “Do you know me?” campaign.

Yet the window of opportunity may have passed.

After working under respected architects like Dick Nugent and Britain's Cotton Pennink, then designing courses on behalf of Bernhard Langer and Isao Aoki for International Management Group (IMG), Engh is working under his own name as part of his new firm, Global Golf Design.

“I’ll be honest: I got to some of the top projects around

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Designer Crenshaw takes little time to savor his second Masters victory

By MARK LESLIE

AUSTIN, Texas — With his second Masters victory tucked snug in his bank of “memories to keep,” the question in the golf development world is, what effect might it have on Ben Crenshaw’s course design career?

When Hale Irwin won the U.S. Open in 1990, his course design business soared. On the Wednesday after Crenshaw donned the Masters’ green blazer, his design partner Bill Coore reported that his Austin office had been deluged with congratulatory calls.

“It’s reasonable to expect that some people who were considering us may be swayed now,” Coore said, “but it’s too early to tell. We try to keep a separation between Ben’s playing career and what we do. But, obviously, there’s carryover.”

That night, Coore and Crenshaw were on a plane enroute to Tembagapura, Indonesia, where they face some unique “life situations.”

Impressed by Crenshaw and Coore’s golf course design at Barton Creek in Austin, Texas, as well as Crenshaw’s victory at their own Freeport-McMoRan Classic last year, Freeport-McMoRan officials hired the design team to craft an 18-hole track for their mining crews in Tembagapura.

With a complete community built around its copper and gold mine, Freeport-McMoRan decided a golf course would be fitting, as a respite for its employees and visitors from abroad, Crenshaw said.

“It will provide play for the miners and for the Americans, Australians and others who come from elsewhere who are involved in the operation,” Crenshaw said. The facility will be geared more toward being recreational than money-making, he added.

Clearing of the site began last fall, and Crenshaw, taking a break from the PGA Tour, said, “We hope to start grassing in the summer and try to have an opening in the fall.”

Building the course in concert with Freeport-McMoRan’s engineering team, Coore and Crenshaw will import their own shapers to fine-tune their design. “Their equipment is there

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Is this the Twilight Zone or the Third World?

Reflections of a ‘vacationing’ super at the top of the world

By GORDON WITTEVEEN

KATMANDU, Nepal — My vacation in Nepal was meant to be just that: a get-away-from-it-all month without golf courses or superintendents. The combination of a radically different culture and the clean mountain air would surely cleanse my brain and remove the cobwebs. A fresh outlook and a deeper appreciation full of life in general would surely result.

The adventure had started with a trans-Atlantic flight to London and a continuation to New Delhi, the capital of India. From there it was just an hour and a half to the top of the world. We landed here in exotic Katmandu. The name of Nepal’s capital had intrigued me ever since my first geography lesson on Asia. Actually, the place is a bit of a disappointment. There are no cats in sight; instead, it is loaded with dogs. I suppose if it was called Dogmandu no one would go there.

On the way from the airport I got blurry-eyed from a speeding taxi view of a small red flag in a vacant field but immediately

Gordon Witteveen is superintendent of five Metropolitan Toronto Board of Trade golf courses.



“Doing it my way” takes on a whole new meaning in Nepal.

banished the words “golf course” from my mind. I had made a sacred vow to stay away from golf courses.

Two days later, after visiting five temples and three museums, I snuck away from the group, hired a rickshaw and headed for the Royal Nepal Golf Club. It was noon time on a warm, sunny day in November when I climbed a fence to

have a closer look at the grass. Imagine my surprise when the first green I came to was not green at all, but black, since the putting surface was made from used oil and sand. Greens such as these I had not seen since the ‘60s in Saskatchewan. The tees were small, elevated and rectangular. They had recently been top-

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Eng designs worldwide — China to N. Dakota — with Global Golf

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the world because of my association with [players turned designers]," said Engh, whose company is based here but whose projects stretch from North Dakota to suburban Bangkok. "Had I not been with IMG, it would have taken me 20 years to get those jobs.

"The same applies to Cotton Pennink. I had some opportunities there that I wouldn't have had if I sat at home."

Those include lead design

credits at Woburn Golf Club in England, site of the Dunhill British Masters, and the acclaimed Dragon Pearl Country Club southwest of Bangkok.

Through it all, Engh has remained determined to represent his work thoroughly on paper.

"I suppose my biggest strong point is detail and documentation," he explained.

"I'd like to see everyone do that more: Putting their complete plans in contour form so someone can put down stakes

"I'd like to see everyone do that more: Putting their complete plans in contour form so someone can put down stakes and bring in a bulldozer operator who can follow the plans."

— Jim Engh

and bring in a bulldozer operator who can follow the plans.

"Dragon Pearl was built 99

percent according to plan. That part — being able to convey it from head to paper — is very important because you need to make things clear to your design partner, builders, developers: everybody. It's also the most cost-effective way because it allows the project to be bid properly."

Global Golf Design currently has three projects under contract, including the 27-hole Dongguang Golf Club in the southern Chinese province of

Guangdong. The remaining two — both with target openings of summer 1996 — are domestic: a 9-hole project in Killdeer, N.D., only a few miles from Engh's hometown of Dickinson; and an exclusive 18-hole project in the valley outside Castle Rock called The Sanctuary.

"The Sanctuary is one beautiful site," raved Engh. "The first hole has a 200-foot vertical drop to the fairway.

"The North Dakota project is interesting. Two of the developers are earth-movers, so we're going to save some money on that front. But we're moving about 250,000 cubic yards of dirt. The local 18 up there is as full as it can be, so we should get some play."

Both projects add to the golf boom now underway in the Rocky Mountain region.

"I think a lot of people have a misconception about this area," said Engh. "They see the Broncos on Monday Night Football and they think it snows every day. But I've read that Colorado has 300 golf days a year. It may be 48 degrees some of those days, so I guess it's a question of quality.

"But the industry is moving. There's a new population base here in Colorado, as people move in from the West Coast. In general, like everywhere else, as the mass population of Baby Boomers gets older, more have taken up golf."

Crenshaw active also in design

Continued from previous page and we involve them in a lot of ways," Crenshaw said. "It's very much an orchestrated effort."

Although mountains climb 19,000 feet into the air beside it, the golf course property is mostly flat. "There is a little relief and we're trying to work with that," he said. "We will build some crowned-off greens for surface drainage.

"Some creeks are on the property and we'll use those as well. They will run diagonally and will be off to the sides [of the holes], but will strategically come into play."

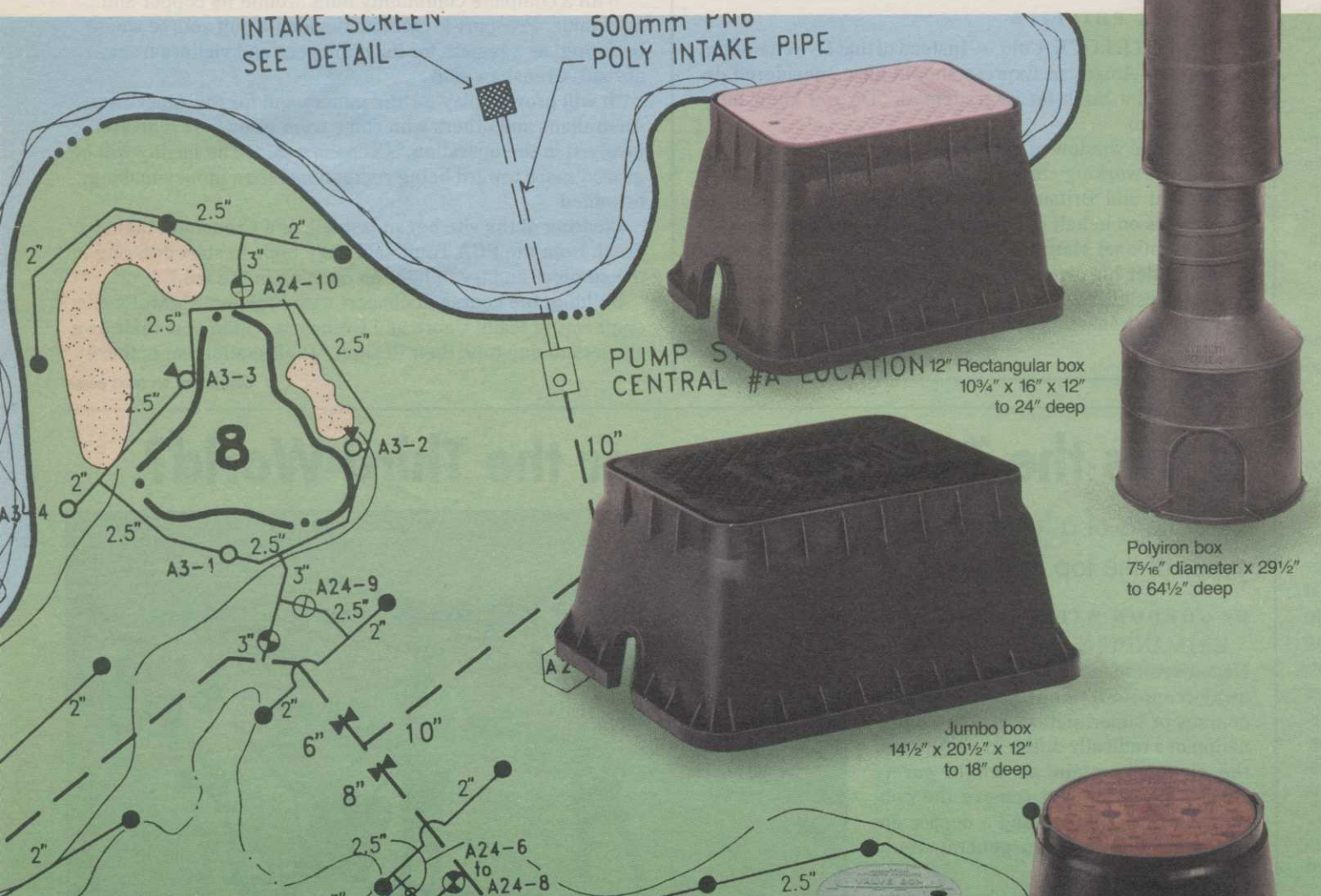
A major challenge is gravel beneath the topsoil. The Freeport-McMoRan crews are "turning it over and using it for drainage," Crenshaw said. "They will run some canals off to the sides to drain it properly."

The course is all-Bermudagrass because of the hot climate.

This may be not only the first, but the last Asia-Pacific project for Crenshaw and Coore.

Freeport-McMoRan is a half-partner at Barton Creek, which is also Crenshaw's home course, and Crenshaw agreed to design the Tembapoura project because of that close relationship, he said.

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