

BRIEFS



GRAHAM, PANKS HIRE COLCERI

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Golf course architects David Graham and Gary Panks have hired Tom Colceri as director of business development. Colceri has worked in sales and marketing with Marriott Corp. and as a PGA golf professional.

REES JONES RESTORING DAD'S CREATION

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — Rees Jones is directing restoration of the Golden Horseshoe Gold Course here, a track designed by his father, Robert Trent Jones Sr., in 1963. The work will recreate and reconstruct Jones Sr.'s trademark runway teeing areas, subtle green undulations and strategic fairways. New substructures will be rebuilt for tees, greens and bunkers.



Rees Jones

GCBA RELEASES DIRECTORY

The Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA) has released its updated Membership Directory and construction reference guide. The 128-page booklet contains contacts and detailed information on all member companies of the GCBA, as well as a description of its Builder Certification Program, and a 10-page golf course construction reference section that contains measurement conversions and a bibliography of other reference sources. Copies are \$15 each, and can be obtained by contacting GCBA headquarters, 920 Airport Road, Ste. 210, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514; 919-942-8922; fax 919-942-6955.

COLORADO TOWN APPROVES RESORT

BROOMFIELD, Colo. — The Broomfield City Council has approved Interlocken Ltd.'s plans to build a 302-room hotel and a 27-hole championship golf course along the Boulder Turnpike. The complex will also include convention facilities, a clubhouse for the golf course, a health club with indoor and outdoor swimming and two restaurants. The golf course was designed by Richard von Lührte of RNL Associates in Denver. The resort project will cover some 304 acres and is scheduled for completion in 1998.

GRIFFITHS DESIGNS MUNI IN TENNESSEE

KINGSPORT, Tenn. — Construction on Kingsport's first municipal 18-hole golf course, designed by golf course architect Denis Griffiths, is set to start by the end of this month. The course will be called The Cattails at MeadowView and is expected to take 15 to 18 months to build. The golf course will adjoin the MeadowView Conference Resort and Convention Center.

Preserve golf course designs, Whitten urges

By MARK LESLIE

PINEHURST, N.C. — Calling himself their No. 1 fan, Ron Whitten urged golf course architects to become "a Self-Preservation Society," preserving their work or facing the possibility of losing any record of it.

Accepting the Donald Ross Award from the American Society of Golf Course Architects, the Golf Digest and Golf World golf course architecture editor said: "Ten, 15, 25, 50 years from now — unless you leave a record behind — there will be no record of your architecture." He said that while plans on paper are subject to interpretation and deterioration and while computer disks can become obsolete and unreadable, black-and-white photographs keep the best record.

Take photos, he said, not of "calendar shots" but "from every angle, every bunker, every tee."

Pointing to great changes that have been made over the years to Cypress Point and Augusta National, Whitten said architects need to give clubs clues to their designs, "especially when 50 years down the road some club decides to undo 50 years worth of green committee damage. Maybe you don't care what clubs do to your designs after you leave the premises. But if you do, leave them a clue. In black and white."



Ron Whitten shows one of his design "shows" describing modern golf course design work.

He also urged the architects to never lose sight of the real purpose of golf course architecture. "It's more than just an art, more than just a science," Whitten said. "It's part of the huge global entertainment business. Golf course architecture is show biz."

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Ron Fream checks his blueprints at one of his golf courses.

Q & A Fream's world unhindered by distance or cultures

Ron Fream was in the midst of a master's degree program in turfgrass management at Washington State University in the United States in 1966 when he was lured away from his studies to join the golf course design team at Robert Trent Jones Inc. He worked with Jones for four years, then spent three years as a construction supervisor for Robert F. Lawrence and as a design associate with Robert Muir Graves. In 1972 he and Terry Storm established their own firm — now known as Golfplan and headquartered in Santa Rosa, Calif. Celebrating his 30th year in the design field, Fream is still devoting most of his efforts to the Asia-Pacific region but is also eyeing his homeland.

Golf Course News: You hold a college degree in ornamental horticulture from California Polytechnic Institute and have a background in soil science, botanical science and ecology. From where does your expertise in design come?

Ron Fream: My "technical" education complemented the more pure design or golfing backgrounds of other designers on the Jones staff. In my four years with Jones Inc. I believe I earned a PhD in golf course architecture. Those years were expansive and truly educational.

Later, when Terry and I formed our company, we collaborated with Peter

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Palmer & 8 title winners to design track

ORLANDO, Fla. — Arnold Palmer and eight other major tournament winners each will design two holes of a golf course to be built in Manila, Philippines.

The project was announced during the Bay Hill Invitational here on March 16 when Palmer Course Design Co. (PCDC) signed a single-day record of five new agreements for golf course architectural services. The record-setting day capped

a record-setting month that saw nine new agreements.

PCDC officials said they reached an agreement with Pagbabago Development Corp., which was acting on behalf of a consortium of developers for the Manila project. PCDC is acting as overall project architect and designing two golf holes. The developers have opened negotiations

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BOOK REVIEW

Ross' insights are plentiful, varied

By MARK LESLIE

His fans are legion, yet they never met — never even saw the man.

His golf courses — numbering more than any other architect has ever designed — exude exuberance and fond recollections from aficionados who have played them.

There is even a fan club in his memory: The Donald Ross Society.

Yet, what do we really know about Donald Ross? Until now, very little. He is the least-published among the great golf course architects. But with the publication of the lost commentaries of Donald Ross, the man and the designer is unveiled.

Golf Has Never Failed Me, compiled by Ron Whitten and published by Sleeping Bear Press for the American Society of Golf Course Architects, is due out May 25. Don't miss it!

This is an utterly fascinating book, loaded with many old photos never before made public — but, more importantly, seeping with insight into the all-time favorite golf course architect, a Brit who made America his home and transformed its land in the meantime.

Readers interested in Ross's ideas on golf course design and construction won't be disappointed (although they may find they were completely wrong about his ideas on earthmoving, blind shots, water hazards and other facets of design).

But my favorite parts of the book are Ross's thoughts on other aspects of the game and those involved in it. To wit:

- "Greenkeeping is destined to

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Donald Ross

ASGCA admits six new associate members

PINEHURST, N.C. — The American Society of Golf Course Architects elected six new associate members at its 50th anniversary meeting here in late March.

Chris Cochran of North Palm Beach, Fla.; Perry Dye of Denver; Les Furber of Canmore, Alberta, Canada; Neil Haworth of Honolulu and Singapore; Ray Hearn of Lansing, Mich.; and David Whelchel of Columbus, Ohio, all were accepted into the society.

Dye, the son of ASGCA members Pete and Alice Dye and brother to P.B., also an ASGCA member, is president of Dye Designs. He has designed dozens of golf courses in Asia as well as Karsten Golf Course at Arizona State University in

Tempe, Red Mountain Ranch Country Club in Scottsdale and Glenmoor Country Club in Englewood, Colo.

Whelchel works with Hurdzan Golf Course Design, Inc., and has designed such courses as The Meadows at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Mich., and The Oaks Golf Club in Flatwoods, Ky.

Employed by Nicklaus Design, Cochran has designed many courses in Asia, including Mission Hills Golf Club in Kanchanaburi, Thailand, and Mission Hills China in Guanlan, China.

Furber, who operates Golf Design Services, is credited with many course designs throughout the Pacific Northwest. Among them in British Columbia are Riverway

Golf Course in Burnaby and Meadow Gardens Golf Resort in Pitt Meadows.

A partner in Nelson-Haworth, Haworth has been active around the world, designing such tracks as Royal Hills Golf Course in Near Bangkok, Thailand and Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club's East and West courses in Malaysia.

The chief designer for Matthews & Associates, Hearn has produced such courses as Majestic at Lake Walden in Heartland, Mich., and Mistwood Golf Course in Lake Ann.

Associate members must have a minimum of five years experience designing golf courses, have produced five or more 18-hole courses and be 28 years of age.

McCumber, three others full members

PINEHURST, N.C. — PGA Tour player Mark McCumber is one of four associate members who were elected regular members of the American Society of Golf Course Architects here.

Others joining McCumber are Jan Beljan of Jupiter, Fla., John Harbottle III of Tacoma, Wash., and Brian Huntley of Uniontown, Ohio.

McCumber, who owns Mark McCumber & Associates design firm in Jacksonville, Fla., is best known for his designs of Ravines Golf & Country Club in Middleburg, Fla., and Queen's Harbour Yacht & Country Club in Jacksonville.

Whitten on design

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Saying golf course architecture is about relaxation, he added: "You can relax with a good book, or a good movie, or even a good basketball game if it's totally absorbing, if it takes your mind off your worries, if it provides an escape. Golf's the same way.

"That's why we gush over golf courses that we can clearly recall, hole for hole, in our mind's eye, years after we've played them. They captured our complete attention. That's why the worst label we can ever slap on a golf course is that it's boring."

And while people normally watch a movie or read a book once, they play a golf course over and over again — four or five hours at a time, Whitten said. Playing on the angle of golf courses as show biz, Whitten brought down the house recounting various themes from box office hits:

- **Hard Target Architecture:** operates on the theory that the best way to grab a golfer's attention is by the throat. "In Hard Target Architecture the fairways are no wider than numchuks and the greens are the size of loin cloths," he said. "Bunkers aren't bunkers, they're bear traps. Water hazards aren't water hazards, they're black lagoons. When you're told the course record is 62 — lost balls, not strokes — it's Hard Target Architecture."

- **Cliffhanger Architecture:** relies on shock value using nose-bleed tee boxes, chasm carries and greens edged by surging surf... [It] likes to teeter us just on the edge of disaster before pulling us back. It tests both our agility and our acrophobia."

- **Copycat Architecture:** Whether it's an island green or a double green or a double-island green, if it makes a spread in *Golf Digest*, then people want it on the courses they play. [It] doesn't necessarily mean architects stealing from one another. Oftentimes, a single architect uses a pet hole at every golf course he produces."


- **Coneheads Architecture:** not simply a passing fancy of the 1980s, it has made a comeback. "The original Coneheads clustered around fairways and greens and sprouted thick mains of lovegrass. The new, improved Coneheads congregate everywhere, next to tees, in the roughs, even in the middle of bunkers. Most of them come from France and while they are amusing, it's still not apparent that golfers can stomach mass quantities of the things."

- **Splash Architecture:** the idea is to take "a guy's mind off his worries by emptying his golf bag."

- **Flintstones Architecture:** an exceedingly rare style that is in fact rapidly becoming extinct. [It] is where you propel yourself around the golf course using your own two feet."



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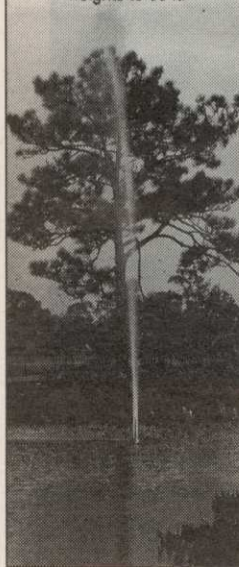
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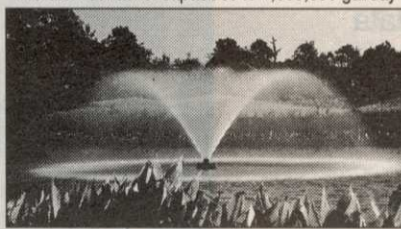
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