

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."

Continued on page 45



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

Continued on page 46

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

Continued on page 47

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

Continued on page 48



Donald Ross

Unveiling Ross

Continued from page 43

be a very important and lucrative profession, of really far greater importance to a golf club than the services of a club professional. We haven't realized this sufficiently here yet, but already some of the universities in the East have started special courses of greenkeeping and course maintenance."

• "There has been great progress in golf in recent years, as in every other phase of American life. That's only natural. Look at the time and study the professionals give to the playing of golf to-

day. The only evil that's creeping into the game, as I see it, is the tendency to bet on it. I don't mean a quarter Nassau bet between two friends. What I dislike are the big Calcutta pools. They don't belong in such a fine, clean game."

• "I've been asked my opinion of the latest generation of golfers. These young fellows are so completely wrapped up in getting a little golf ball into a little hole in fewer strokes than anyone else that their attitude and sense of intelligent balance to the more important things in life has not only been distorted, but is practically nonexistent.

• "These boys acquire the idea

that golf, or tennis ... is terribly, terribly important. They read about themselves in the sports pages and they become complacent and eager for more and greater laurels. What is happening is that you cannot carry on an intelligent conversation with most of these big-name youngsters."

• "One thing that struck me as extremely queer on my latest trip to Britain was that the average standard of play on the other side seemed vastly inferior to the average standard on this. British golfers seemed to take less pains and to care much less whether they win than in America."

• "Golf is the one gentleman's

game. For this reason, you can never draft rules to control the game completely. Every golfer is on his honor. As long as we keep golf a game of honor, we are on the right road."

• And yet, "There is no good reason why the label 'a rich man's game' should be hung on golf. The game had its origin with the shepherd, who used his crook and a ball to while away the time... In my own native country, the shop workers and mill workers throng the links, for which their annual dues amount to about 50 cents and their total annual expenditures to not more than \$5."

• "The new standard golf ball

has eliminated from the top-notch ranks the mechanical golfer of the past, and the skilled shotmaker will now reap his deserved reward. The game was becoming too stereotyped with the old ball. The former ball did not place enough of a premium on a well-hit shot. The sluggers were getting such distances off the tee that they had nothing but easy pitches for second shots."

Superintendents will enjoy *Golf Has Never Failed Me* for a variety of reasons. Having a background in greenkeeping, Ross shows a wide knowledge of soils, watering and fertilizing, green care, bunker construction.

Recalling his youth, he wrote: "I also became the greenkeeper, although we didn't dignify the task by any such title. What I really did was to go out in overalls and get down on my hands and knees and care for the turf and the bunkers and the greens. And how I used to hate it. But, as it turned out, that was the best training I could have had for what turned out to be my future."

For decades, golfers and course designers have tried to get inside the brain of Donald Ross and, in doing, have defined his philosophies. But listen to these two little hints of his ideas on blasting, earthmoving, blind shots and water hazards:

• "During construction, the use of dynamite will be found necessary... It is astonishing what an amount of material can be moved in this way at a very low cost. It can also be employed in blasting out bunkers in heavy clay or hard subsoil. It is particularly helpful in assisting drainage, as it opens up crevices."

• "In these days of steam shovels and modern improvements, it is possible to do wonderful things on flat, level country. I have come to the conclusion that I prefer to lay out a course on level land."

• "On undulating land, blind shots are bound to occur, and one or two of them are not at all serious. Truth be told, I rather like them, as they add a bit of spice to the game."

• "Water hazards always lend welcome variety and test of skill to a course. They are pleasant breaks that can generally be made into charming beauty spots. But don't allow your enthusiasm for them to run away with your good judgment. Limit the number of water hazards to three. Two might be better."

Why Ross's opposition to more water hazards? Was it design? Not quite. "The repeated loss of balls to those whom the hazard is difficult is apt to create dissatisfaction," he wrote.

Readers will enjoy getting to know this man as much as they enjoy playing his golf courses.

Golf Has Never Failed Me: The Lost Commentaries of Legendary Golf Course Architect Donald J. Ross, 288 pages, \$29.95, published by Sleeping Bear Press, P.O. Box 20, Chelsea, Mich. 48118; phone 313-475-4411.

NOW YOU CAN GET SAFE, LONG-LASTING FUNGUS CONTROL AND PROTECT YOUR BUDGET, TOO!



Nothing controls fungus problems longer — or at less cost — than DYRENE 4 Turf Fungicide, now available through The Andersons and their distributors.

DYRENE is an effective contact fungicide specifically for the prevention of leaf spot, snow molds, rhizoctonia brown patch, sclerotinia dollar spot and copper spot. And since DYRENE is in a fungicide chemical family that's different from most other fungicides, it's the ideal choice where rotational fungicide programs may be required for successful disease management.



The Andersons offers DYRENE in two proven and effective forms:

- Tee Time 5% DYRENE in granular form
- DYRENE 4 in 2 1/2 gallon jugs

Either way you choose, Dyrene will help you keep your reputation — and your golf course — spotless.

For more information about DYRENE and where you can get the professional fungicide products you need, call The Andersons at 1-800-225-ANDY.



The Andersons

CIRCLE #141

