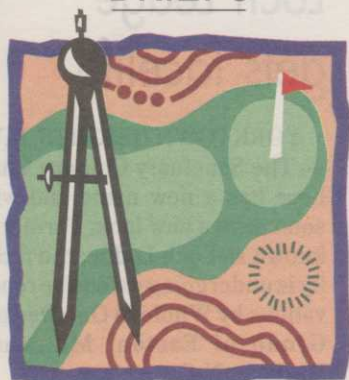


BRIEFS

**SNEAD, CUPP TEAM IN GEORGIA**

SAVANNAH, Ga. — Sam Snead will join architect Bob Cupp to design an 18-hole golf course as part of the \$98-million Westin Savannah Harbor Resort here. Westin Hotels & Resorts and CSX Realty Development have broken ground on the 290-acre project, which will include a 403-room, luxury hotel. The Westin-managed resort is scheduled to open in the spring of 1999. Troon Golf will operate the golf course.

NC State offers golf course architecture class

By MARK LESLIE

North Carolina State University so liked the golf course architecture short course offered last spring, that it invited Rich Mandell to return to teach this fall — this time for a full semester.

"Our big problem was, there is so much to teach. So we expanded to a full-fledged, three-credit, 15-week class," said Mandell, vice president of Whole in One Design in Durham. "We'll design some projects, starting with the students' own fantasy hole, and include designing specific holes pretending to be Donald Ross or C.B. MacDonald for a day."

Mandell, a University of Georgia alumnus who has worked for course designers Dan Maples and Denis Griffiths, had 25 students in the Landscape Architecture Program's short course. They ranged from landscape architecture to turfgrass, sports management, civil engineering and forestry resource students.

History is a major part of the program, beginning with the links courses of Scotland. Students will be introduced to MacDonald, Ross, A.W. Tillinghast, Robert Trent Jones Sr., and others of the past as well as modern-day's Pete Dye and Tom Fazio.

"We'll speak about trends in design and how and why things were done in the past and why they aren't done now," Mandell said. "For instance, the influence of major equipment on design and construction; and how there was a move to 'vanilla-ization' in the early 1950s when, I think, courses were made too golfer-friendly, fairways were flattened to accommodate bad lies, and greens were open in front to accommodate bad shots."

The class will also encompass routing, designing a course in a real-estate development, construction and construction documents, among other topics, Mandell said.

Phillips' 1st solo project neighbors St. Andrews

By MARK LESLIE

KINGSBARN, Scotland — How many golf course architects do their first solo design on true linksland ... in Scotland ... 7 miles from the Old Course at St. Andrews? Number Kyle Phillips among them, if there be more.

Phillips, who started his own company in July after 16 years as a lead designer for Robert Trent Jones Jr., begins construction in October on Kingsbarns Golf Links here, on a site that hugs the rugged Scottish coast.

"I feel humble and very fortunate," said Phillips, whose only other design in the United Kingdom was the highly ranked 27-hole Wisley Golf Club outside London in 1991. "You have to admit, St. Andrews is the Mecca for us golf junkies. To be able to do something on the sea this close to the Old Course is a phenomenal opportunity and an incredible experience. It's pure golf, and open to the public."

"When I first saw the property, I wondered how the guys at Pebble Beach felt when they first walked the site."

Kingsbarns Golf Links is one of the world's oldest golf clubs around, having started in 1815. But after World War II, its nine-hole course fell into disrepair and little is recognizable today outside remnants of some bunkers.

Giving the club new life is American Mark Parsinen, developer of Granite Bay (Calif.) Golf Club. Walter Woods, retired after many years as head greenkeeper of the Old Course, is a consultant.

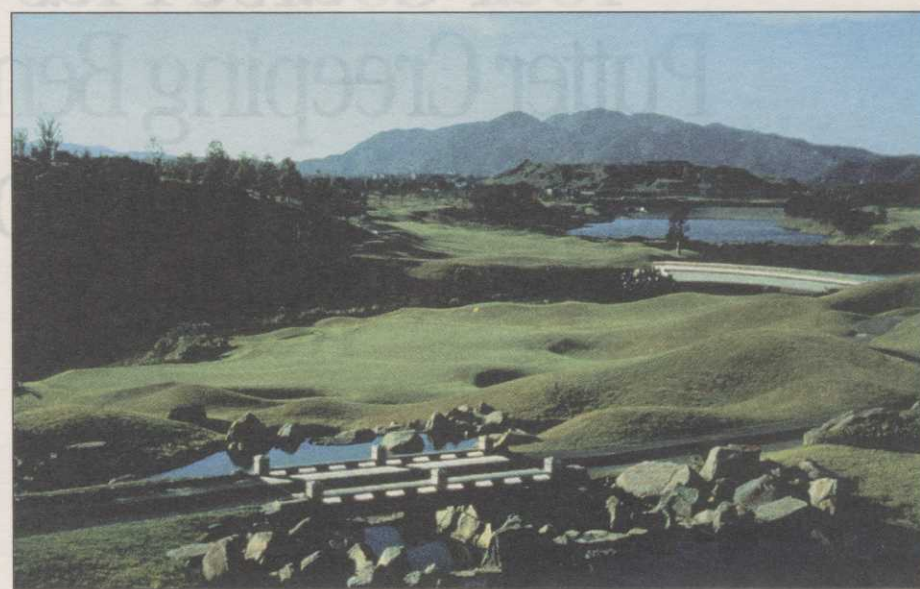
Sitting on 180 acres that run in a linear shape along the ocean, the new track will boast ocean views from every hole with five greens on the water, either at sea level or atop 20-foot cliffs.

It will measure 5,610 to 7,175 yards when it opens. That may be in 1999, but the grand opening is planned for July 2000 to coincide with the British Open at St. Andrews.

Phillips described the Kingsbarns Golf Links design as "modern links as opposed to the older links courses, which were designed primarily for match play."

"We're trying to maintain the elements of links-style golf but think more about

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Graham Marsh, right, is coming to America, but staying active abroad in such places as Japan, where he designed Mission Valley Golf Club, above, in Fukuoka.

Q & A Marsh jumps into No. American marketplace

Graham Marsh has been a steady presence in Asia-Pacific market for the past 10 years, concentrating on resort, hotel and other upmarket projects from the Philippines to Australia. Now, through a recently inked alliance with Kansas City-based HNTB, the 1997 U.S. Senior Open winner has set his sites on golf course design in the US and South America.

Golf Course News: Was there one factor in particular that led you to the North and South American markets? A series of factors?

Graham Marsh: I think it was more of a series of factors. We had spent over 10 years working in Southeast Asia, Australia and the Pacific Rim, and we had to cut our teeth on some pretty difficult projects down there.

We competed against many of the main architects in that region. When I say main architects I mean architects from the United States and Europe and the ones that come out of Japan. Consequently, I had decided to play the Senior Tour and was spending more time in the United States. I spent a year or so over here just looking at the markets. With the buoyancy of the market over here in the U.S., certainly I saw new opportunities.

GCN: Do you have a grand plan for

your expansion?

GM: I've always wanted to expand the company step by step and that's the way we've gone about it, in a logical progression, so that we're growing the core of the business, cutting our teeth and doing it one step at a time while keeping the same team together. That's important because we are very much a hands-on operation, with a core of design and construction people.

GCN: How many people are involved in that core group?

GM: In my office in Australia, I have 14 people full-time.

GCN: Do you see the U.S. as a different challenge than the markets in Australia and the Pacific Rim?

GM: I think the challenge varies from site to site. If you're talking about the business challenges, then I think cer-

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Jack Kidwell



Mike Hurdzan

HALL INDUCTS KIDWELL, HURDZAN

SANDUSKY, Ohio — Golf course architects Jack Kidwell and Dr. Michael Hurdzan of Columbus were among those inducted into the Ohio Golf Hall of Fame in ceremonies at Plumb Brook Country Club here Aug. 18. The semi-retired Kidwell is a fellow and former president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, a certified golf course superintendent and Class A PGA professional. Hurdzan, whom he tutored, is a partner in Hurdzan Fry Golf Course Design and holds master's and PhD degrees in plant pathology. Both have been active speakers at various golf course superintendents conferences.

SANFORD'S SAWMILL OPENS IN MICH.

SAGINAW, Mich. — John Sanford Jr. has unveiled his latest creation, Sawmill Golf Club, here. The course was built in the sawmill capitol of the world, and an old grist mill remains on the property. Although the land around Saginaw is primarily flat farmland, Sanford moved enough dirt to create elevation changes. Combined with a routing through marshland and natural woods, this gives the Sawmill club a much different feeling than that of the terrain surrounding it.

DESIGN 3 HIRES NAUBORIS

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Design 3, a firm specializing in golf course design, landscape architecture and site planning, has appointed Howard Nauboris as a golf course designer. Nauboris holds a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from the University of Guelph in Ontario, and has in-depth experience in golf course construction.

Q&A: Graham Marsh

Continued from page 35

tainly this market over here has been built on real-estate development and some private and daily-fee golf courses. Whereas the market in Southeast Asia is still very much oriented towards membership styles.

So there's a huge difference in terms of those two aspects. Fur-

thermore, the packages that are put together for the markets in Southeast Asia are considerably expensive because the quality of the land that we are dealt means that there is a far greater engineering component. And that means that the budgets are considerably higher.

In the United States there are

still some wonderful tracks of land on the periphery of many cities that are expanding. Golf course design, in many instances, is much more back to nature, using the natural topography of the land. That's more part of the design philosophy in the United States and it's wonderful to have that opportunity again. You don't always get that opportunity in dealing with large

construction sites

GCN: Conservation and environmental issues may be pushed aside a bit more in Southeast Asia?

GM: Well, I think that they are, in fact, considered. Water and drainage are absolutely critical. Reforestation is terribly important in Southeast Asia. So those issues are dealt with.

But it's an enormous opportu-

nity to come back to the United States and build a course for a budget of \$4.5 million or \$5 million. That's something that we haven't seen for a long time. And it certainly is a challenge to be getting back to working with those natural contours of the land.

GCN: In the past you've positioned yourself as a designer for the upscale market. Was that by the design?

GM: I think that we positioned ourselves for the value that we offer as a company and the expertise that we offer. We're completely comprehensive in the sense that we can offer turnkey operation on any project which means that we have the engineering and landscape skills, all the necessary construction skills, all the necessary components in-house.

We've had to do that purely by design because many times in Southeast Asia we've gone into projects on the assumption that the teams that were put together were going to have all those skills. In fact, most of the time, even though we've had construction companies working for us over there, they have had precious little experience on golf courses.

GCN: Will that team stay intact as you focus on the U.S.?

GM: Because of permits and all the necessary things, it's much harder to bring that total entity to the United States. Consequently, we had to form an association with somebody over here who we knew had that same capacity as planners and designers, and somebody that had comprehensive knowledge of the rules and regulations of every state within the United States.

Of course, the association that we have formed with HNTB provides us with that same base that we are able to provide from our Australian office.

GCN: Any specific reason for choosing HNTB?

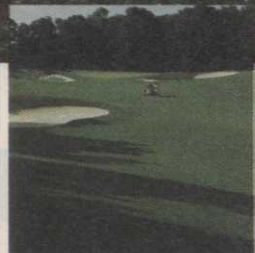
GM: They have comprehensive skills through their engineering, planning and design work that they have been involved with today and consequently it was just a perfect match. Now as far as construction is concerned, in the United States you have the world's best golf course construction companies. So if the planning and design component is in place, then the role of construction will be much more adequately filled than it can in Southeast Asia.

GCN: How will the HTNB relationship work?

GM: HTNB will help us carry forward our design philosophies to the United States that have been carried forth in other parts of the world — and expanding on those.

Continued on next page

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CIRCLE #121

Russians rush to golf, sack sanitarium for sport

By ERIC SCHWARTZ

SESTROYESTSK, Russia — It's as if the same voice that spoke to Kevin Costner in a "Field of Dreams," has also spoken to Sergei Spitsyn: "If you build it, they will come."

The field, in this case, is not an Iowa cornfield. It's the 90 hectares surrounding an aging Soviet sanitarium called The Dunes in this town, about 40 kilometers north of St. Petersburg. And rather than a baseball diamond, Spitsyn is building a six-hole, par-3 golf course.

Of course, Spitsyn attributes his decision to develop the course more to pragmatism than to any mystical belief. The former chief doctor at the sanitarium, Spitsyn said financial problems at the facility led management to the idea of creating a golf course, although none of them had much experience with the game.

But with more foreign businesses coming into the country and increased exposure to Western diversions, word about golf was coming to the Russians. Two courses were established in Moscow, but there was none in St. Petersburg. For

golfers in Northwest Russia, the closest options were in Finland or Estonia.

In 1996, Spitsyn and his colleagues developed a business plan, with emphasis on increasing the public's exposure to golf. First came a miniature course opened in November 1995. The sanitarium then built a driving range 180 meters long and 90 meters wide. A 35-meter extension of the range is already being seeded. The Dunes also has a putting green adjacent to the driving range.

The first six golf holes opened in mid-August, said Baranchukov, and there are plans for more. They range from 60 to 100 meters.

Expansion of the course "really depends on the investors," Baranchukov said.

The next step, he said, is to construct a clubhouse, with a restaurant, pro shop and locker room.

The Dunes has funded its development completely from within, said Spitsyn. But now the club is looking for outside inves-

tors. The sanitarium, which served top party members of the Leningrad area, is now leased from the state by its employees, who make the rent money by charging for the use of its facilities.

Spitsyn noted that it is these other facilities that will help maintain a solid source of funding for The Dunes during the off-golf season, which he said will be from the end of October to the beginning of May. The sanitarium also has a swimming pool, ski trails, snowmobiles, a shooting range, billiard tables, weight rooms, a beach and tennis court — all facilities that people will pay money to use.

Q&A: Marsh

Continued from previous page

GCN: What does winning the U.S. Senior Open do for your design business.

GM: I believe that, rightly or wrongly, that there are developers that choose designers based on their name value and not always their skills. Certainly winning this year's U.S. Senior Open has given me a much higher profile in the country. It's given me a notch up for a profile and, to be honest, that's very important when it comes to project development.

The other thing that's important, is that all of those tournaments are televised throughout the Pacific Basin. The developers are watching these tournaments. So it will give me a boost in Southeast Asia as well.

GCN: You've been in the design business for 10 years. What has changed?

GM: It seems to go in cycles. In one stage, when I was getting into the business, there seemed to be a race to see who could design the hardest golf course. There's still a market for that, but I've seen a shift away from that back to more sound strategies, good basic design logic, the more playable golf course — and that works. You only have to talk to players to find that the solid principles still stand out.

GCN: Where do you see yourself fitting in?

GM: I'd have to say traditional. Traditional in terms of design philosophies. We're known in Southeast Asia as resort designers. We've had to deal in a market there that's totally different than in the United States — not only in the construction issues but also in the market that you're dealing with.

The game of golf is not spread across in the population base like it is in the U.S., or Australia, or Europe. People don't have access. You get middle-aged people, more affluent people who join these clubs. So, if you give them a golf course that's too difficult for them then it's going to be a problem.

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