

Dale, Elliott named vice presidents at Golfplan

SANTAROSA, Calif. — Senior architects David Dale and Richard Elliott have been named vice presidents at Golfplan, the course design group founded here by Ronald Fream. In their new positions, Elliott and Dale are entitled to full voting rights at meetings of Golfplan's Board of Directors.

"I couldn't be happier to recognize David and Rick for their years of outstanding service to Golfplan," said Fream, whose firm has designed more than 150 golf courses in 52 countries. "With this move, they have more of a tangible stake in how we do business."

Dale joined Golfplan in 1988,

fresh out of Washington State University where he earned a BS in landscape architecture. "Ron had me on a plane to Asia within six months," said Dale, whose extensive course credits include the acclaimed Panya Park Golf Club near Bangkok, Guam International CC and Grand Shanghai G&CC. Dale is

also lead architect at Eagle Ridge GC, a hotly anticipated daily-fee design which should open for play south of San Francisco near Gilroy, Calif., next year.

"I'm excited about our focusing on the U.S. market, where we have several projects in the planning phase," said Dale, who will spearhead Golfplan's spectacular Sparrebosch project in Knysna, South Africa. "Our work abroad has earned a great deal

of attention for its quality. I'm confident our work in the U.S. will do the same."

Elliott earned a double major in landscape architecture and turfgrass management from the University of Maryland. After serving as head superintendent at Echo Mesa Golf Club, part of Sun City West, he worked with architect Cal Olson before joining Fream in 1988.

Since that time, Elliott has served as lead architect on several award-winning projects, including Golf de Fregate in St. Cyr sur Mer, France, and Golf de L'Isle Adam, named France's top new course for 1996. His spectacular design at Bali Pecatu Resort will open this year.

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members or anyone pushing them around the course. They play the game at their speed, learn the game and encourage their kids to play. It's the best thing to happen in the Fredericton golf market in a very long time. There's a place for those facilities as feeders for other courses. They develop players for the future."

Brown sees growth ahead for the Eastern Canadian market and continued government involvement, since tourism is so important to the area's economy. The golf fever that has gripped Southern Maine will eventually work its way up the coast into the Maritimes, he predicted. Land is available at favorable prices outside the three major metropolitan areas — Saint John, N.B., Halifax, and St. John's, Newfoundland.

"Land around those cities is very rocky, which has made it expensive to build there," he said. "But today, with modern highways, people don't seem to mind driving a bit. You can build something a half hour to an hour outside the city and people will travel there if you give them a good product."

The rocky ground and relatively low budgets are the major roadblocks to building in Atlantic Canada. The weather is another problem. "We used to have nice summers and springs. Now you don't know what the devil you are going to get. We had the wettest weather in 140 years in 1996. And after June 20 of 1997, we had the driest."

On the plus side, the area is populated with good workers, friendly people, spectacular scenery and a Canadian dollar that provides good value for U.S. tourists. After cutting funds in recent years, Brown said, the government is increasing spending for good park projects.

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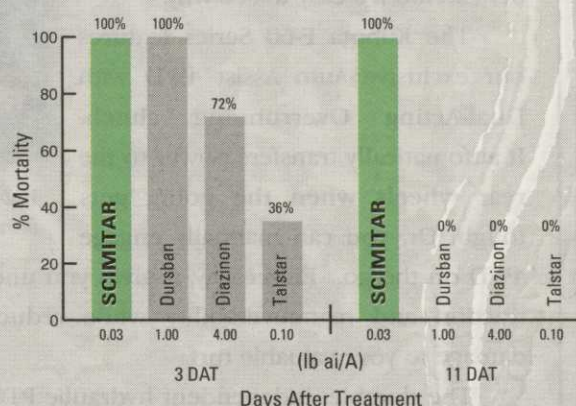
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