

# Shenzhen to be completely remodeled by Nelson & Haworth

Shenzhen Golf Club, home to two of the top tournaments on the Volvo China Tour — the Volvo Open and the Hugo Boss Open — is to be given a complete remodeling by Nelson & Haworth. The course, the first to open in Shenzhen in the mid-1980's, is a favorite venue for many tournaments and visitors,

due to its proximity to Hong Kong and its well respected club management.

Nelson & Haworth will be upgrading all 27 holes. Singapore — based managing director Neil Haworth revealed that significant improvements will be made to the greens, tees, and fairways. "We will be bringing the whole

course up to modern standards," he explained, "including rebuilding the irrigation and drainage systems and enhancing the landscaping. We expect the whole project to take about 24 months to complete," he said.

"The greens will be rebuilt to USGA standards, using Tifdwarf grass, to give more character and

interest to the putting surface," Haworth detailed, "and bunkers will be added or existing ones re-shaped to add to the visibility and playing strategy required. We will also be re-shaping the fairways to ensure the positive surface flow of water, and adding sand, catch basins and pipes to improve the drainage. There will

also be a new fully computerized automatic irrigation system installed. Furthermore, we'll be adding additional water hazards for both aesthetics and playability."

The company said that regular players at the course need not be inconvenienced as work will be done nine holes at a time, so 18 holes will always be open.

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## Norman, Fireman in Puerto Rico

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the easiest of construction projects.

Jason McCoy, vice president at Greg Norman Design, visited Puerto Rico some 40 separate times to deal with construction problems, foremost among them a hurricane that hit just as seeding had been completed. Three months were lost.

"Whether you do it for a friend or because it's strictly business, your name's going on it — that's why you spend the time down here to make sure it comes off," Norman told *Golf Course News* the morning of December's grand opening.

"Like any project, you're going to have problems. Mother Nature comes in and throws a couple of hurricanes at you; she dumps a bunch of rain on you during construction, and so on. But at the end of the day, if you dedicate yourself to a project, your end result will be exactly what you want."

Norman's River design is a commendable resort design: Bearish from the back tees (6,931 yards) but quite playable from the front (6,250).

The river and its collateral wetlands are clearly the dominant features, beautifully tinged with splashes of brilliant orange (flamboyant trees) and violet (reine del floral).

Fireman and Norman agree the River Course was a special situation; not all of their future golf projects will be developed in such close concert.

Indeed, Norman doesn't necessarily rely on Fireman for work; his design plate is full.

By the same token, with two bonified successes in his deep pockets — Fireman's personal real estate portfolio reportedly approaches \$300 million — the Reebok chairman is unlikely to stand pat.

He was asked if WDC had any course development plans on the U.S. mainland. Fireman smiled but remained non-committal: "We're reviewing a few."