

BRIEFS



SEASIDE AMONG FASTEST-GROWING

Seaside Golf Development, Inc. Founder and President Scott Pate reported that his firm was recently ranked by Dunn & Bradstreet and Entrepreneur Magazine as the 44th fastest-growing small businesses in the nation. The rankings were listed in the June issue of Entrepreneur Magazine. Seaside Golf Development, Inc. is a golf course construction company that was formed in October 1997. It is currently working at The Mountain Brook Club and Shoal Creek, both in Birmingham, Ala.; Limestone Springs in Onconta, Ala.; and Spanish Oaks in Brooksville, Fla.

JOHNSTON SIGNS S.C. DESIGN DEAL

FORT MILL, S.C. — Clyde Johnston has been retained to design an 18-hole daily-fee golf course here, called Springfield Golf Course. The course is owned and will be managed by Leroy Springs & Co., Inc., which has three other courses within a 30-mile radius of Springfield. Clear Springs Development Co. is making available the land for the course. In designing Springfield, Johnston will work along the banks of Sugar Creek, a swiftly moving, 70-foot-wide waterway that drains rainwater from much of the metro-Charlotte area. Springfield Golf Course is expected to open in the fall of 2000 or spring of 2001.

PLAYER OPENS WOLVERINE

GRAND TRAVERSE, Mich. — Gary Player has opened the Wolverine, an 18-hole layout at KSL-owned Grand Traverse Resort here. The front nine is routed through a landscape that incorporates the large wetlands that have been protected, as well as expanded. The second nine holes feature substantial elevation changes that offer views of Traverse Bay and the entire property. Hardwoods and spruce trees line many of the fairways. The Wolverine's bunkering is some of the most dramatic of all Michigan courses with bold faces and bright white sand, which is in contrast to the darker-colored sands that more often are used in the state's designs.

SHARK HIRES HORROW

JUPITER, Fla. — Great White Shark Enterprises has retained Rick Horrow as its development advisor. The announcement was made by Greg Norman and Great White Shark President Bart Collins. Horrow is president of the South Florida-based Horrow Sports Ventures.

Sandy Lyle has his designs on course architecture

Alexander Walter Barr Lyle, MBE - AKA Sandy Lyle - knows a thing or two about golf. Having turned professional in 1977,

Q & A

he has since won the British Open and the U.S. Masters as well as 21 other tournaments on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, not to mention five Ryder Cups... Having dipped his toes in the art of designing of golf courses some years ago, he is now ready to take a deeper plunge. *Golf Course News International Bureau Chief Trevor Ledger caught up with Lyle during his preparation for the 128th British Open Championship at Carnoustie in July.*

GCN: Tell me about your partnership with Strategic Golf Design of Colorado, which has formed Sandy Lyle Golf Design.

Sandy Lyle: It started last year. It was something that I had been on the sidelines that I wanted to do, other than just playing tournament golf. The guys at Strategic Golf were keen to team up, also to use my name I suppose, and I was keen to get more into the design side of golf. It's a very competitive market, obviously, with [Greg] Norman, [Nick] Faldo, [Arnold] Palmer, [Jack] Nicklaus and [Tom] Weiskopf out there. But we



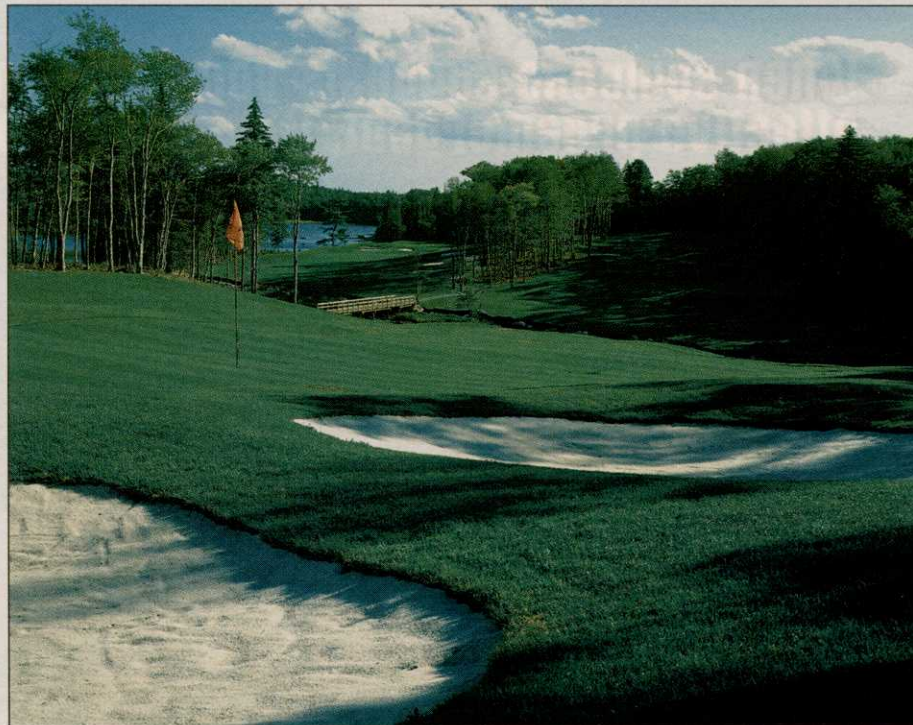
are looking to do a few "facelifts" and we'll try and make something work out of it.

GCN: Does this increased design activity mean you will play in fewer tournaments?

Lyle: I don't think it will do that actually. I'm not playing the maximum amount of tournaments as it is. I'm not playing 34, 35 tournaments per year. I'm down to the low twenties and there is less pressure every week trying to make the cut.

GCN: So, when you finally quit the Tour, will you go full tilt into golf course design?

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NOVA SCOTIA'S NEWEST

The Graham Cooke-designed Glen Arbour Golf Course, located between the city of Halifax and the Halifax International Airport, opened July 15 for public play. Five tees stretch the layout from 4,736 to 6,800 yards and the all-bentgrass track plays through mature hardwood stands and around three lakes. Superintendent Mike DeYoung is overseeing the facility's involvement in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System "to enhance [the property's] habitats to ensure the protection of plants, fish and wildlife." The facility includes an additional nine-hole par-3 track and a practice facility.

Honours jumps into golf market

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — With an eye toward becoming an immediate, active force in the golf industry, Honours Golf Co. LLC officials say they will move toward development, acquisition and management of first-tier golf course facilities.

Principals are Bob Barrett of Birmingham and Rob Shults of Atlanta. The company will maintain offices in both cities. Chairman of the board is Robert E. Julian of Omaha, Neb. Julian retired from Peter Kiewit Sons, Inc., in 1995 as executive vice president and chief financial officer. Julian continues to be involved in his business investments and serves on the board of directors for Level Three Communications.

The company has raised \$50 million in equity, which it will use to acquire and develop golf courses. It will focus on high-end daily-fee facilities in metropolitan markets and resort areas.

Barrett has had a long career in golf, as a professional, manager, and developer.

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Yale grad Rulewich restoring alma mater's course

C.B. Macdonald's original bunkers get new life, facelift

By MARK LESLIE

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Yale University Golf Course, the last project completed by the "Father of American Golf Course Architecture," C.B. Macdonald, is undergoing a facelift of its 42 bunkers after decades of neglect.

"We have none of Macdonald's drawings or plans, but we do have 1924 construction photos and some old aerials," said golf course architect Roger Rulewich of The Rulewich Group, a Yale alumnus who is overseeing the project.

Saying university officials "do not know what they have here" in a design by one of the great classic architects, Rulewich said of Macdonald: "I love him. The Yale course is the first I ever played golf on."

Seth Raynor and Charles "Josh"

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The Rulewich Group restored this greenside bunker on the par-4 4th hole at Yale University Golf Course. The bunker had eroded over the years, time "eating up" the slope. Rulewich installed 500 cubic yards of material and "flashed" the sand on the bunker.

Q&A: Lyle

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Lyle: That's a very difficult question at the moment because it depends how well Sandy Lyle Golf Design] takes off. For example: There's a very good chance that we will have our first course soon in Los Angeles. If we do a good job there, things might snowball.

GCN: Can you make the comparison between seeing a design come to fruition and winning a golf tournament?

Lyle: A course I did in Berlin a few years ago — Wilkendorf — has just been voted one of the best courses in Germany. [In fact, number one in the Brandenburg region, according to a German magazine readership survey]. It was obviously good to hear that Wilkendorf is doing so well, I hadn't heard a thing for the last few years about the place and it was always in the back of my mind as to how it was going and if people were still enjoying it. To hear good things this far down the line is clearly very encouraging.

As regards winning tournaments, it's been a while since I won a golf tournament but both feelings are satisfying in a very similar way. It is nice to have the chance to put something back into the game.

GCN: You have spent a lot of time on the U.S. PGA Tour and Sandy Lyle Golf Design is based in Colorado. Does this mean that Sandy Lyle Golf Design is an American company through and through?

Lyle: Basically, we are an American design company, but we are looking to do work outside of the United States as well. The design principles will depend upon what the customer, the guy who wants the golf course, is looking for. We can then work around that, taking into consideration the type of land that we have to work with.

Overall I want to produce something that is a good test of golf but is also enjoyable by someone with a higher handicap. Always in my mind is Augusta National, which, if you put the tees up front, is an encouraging golf course — big greens and wide fairways — that has been sensibly put together. But for The Masters, you can put the tees right back, cut the greens and then you've got a real test of golf. For the average player, though, it's not that difficult a course on a day-to-day basis. They are very big greens which are not as fast as when they have the tournament there, which makes it a lot more enjoyable.

GCN: Augusta is an Alister Mackenzie course. Do you see Mackenzie as some kind of design role model?

Lyle: I think he's a very good

role model. I also like a lot of Tom Weiskopf golf courses and I will keep my mind focused on that style. I'm not too keen on the TPC type of courses in America. They've proved that they can be very tough, but a lot of them are not functioning very well because not many people are playing them. If you can lose eight to 10 balls during a round, you are not likely to be enjoying yourself.

GCN: How do you respond to

Many people who are designing courses at the moment have never been a Tour player. They can gripe about us, but that's competition, isn't it?

professional golf course architects who grouse about Tour pros getting into the design business? Sour grapes or justified moans?

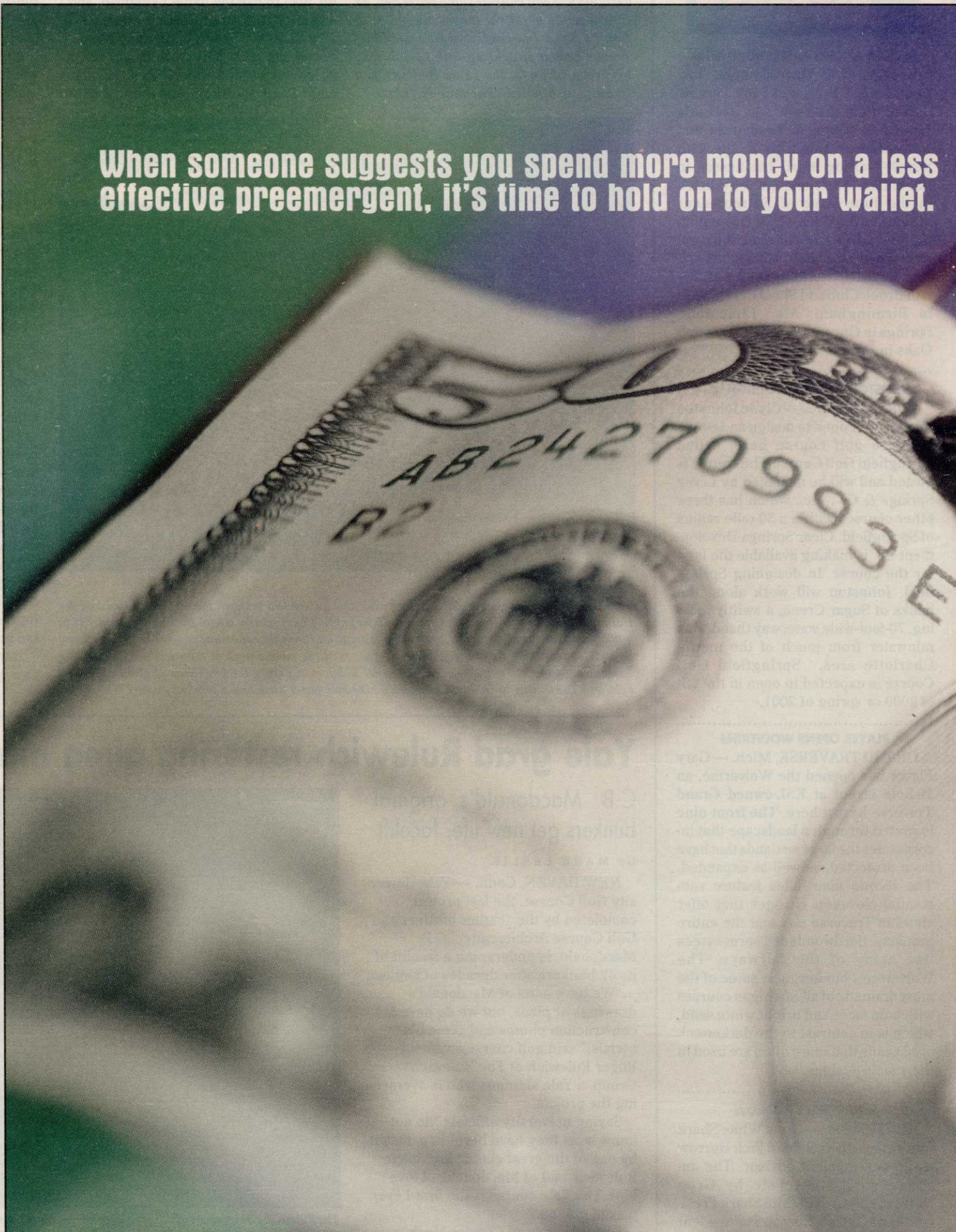
Lyle: I don't think there's any sour grapes about it. A Tour pro has got a lot of experience and

he's played around the world and seen as many different types of golf course as there are. I think the pro can pick up ideas all the time. Many people who are designing courses at the moment have never been a Tour player.

They can gripe about us, but that's competition, isn't it?

An architect who has been through all the schooling deserves to get what he gets. If he's a very good designer in the first place, if he makes good golf courses, he's going to be busy anyway. If they are as good as they say they are, there's plenty of business out there. There is no reason why both parties [Tour players and

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When someone suggests you spend more money on a less effective preemergent, it's time to hold on to your wallet.

Rulewich restoring Macdonald at Yale

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Banks both worked with Macdonald on the Yale design. Macdonald is best known for the nationally ranked Chicago Golf Club and National Golf Links (on Long Island) in the United States and Mid Ocean Club in Bermuda.

The pace of renovation at Yale is conditional on fund-raising,

Rulewich said. Yale will dedicate a bunker to every donor giving \$5,000 to the project. "We want to finish the front nine this fall," he said.

The advent of golf cars, heavy play and the acceptance of out-ings and outside play have meant much heavier traffic on the Yale course than when it opened in

1926. Besides that, the bunkers are poorly drained.

"It's doing 40,000 rounds a year now and that is wearing out the course. The bunkers are in terrible condition," Rulewich said.

Thus far, Rulewich's crew has completed seven bunkers on the 4th and 5th holes and five bun-

kers on the 1st and 8th.

"There is only one fairway bunker on the entire course," Rulewich said. "It's all greenside. The terrain is so dramatic you don't need fairway bunkers."

The longtime senior designer for Robert Trent Jones Sr. said he is retaining the original steep banks and flat bottoms of the bunkers, but building up those bottoms to fairway level and add-

'The terrain is so dramatic you don't need fairway bunkers.'

— Roger Rulewich

ing drainage.

"We never touched the inside face of some of the bunkers, just the floors and the outside shapes," Rulewich said.

Q&A: Sandy Lyle

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designers] cannot be successful.

GCN: What do you think makes a golf course great?

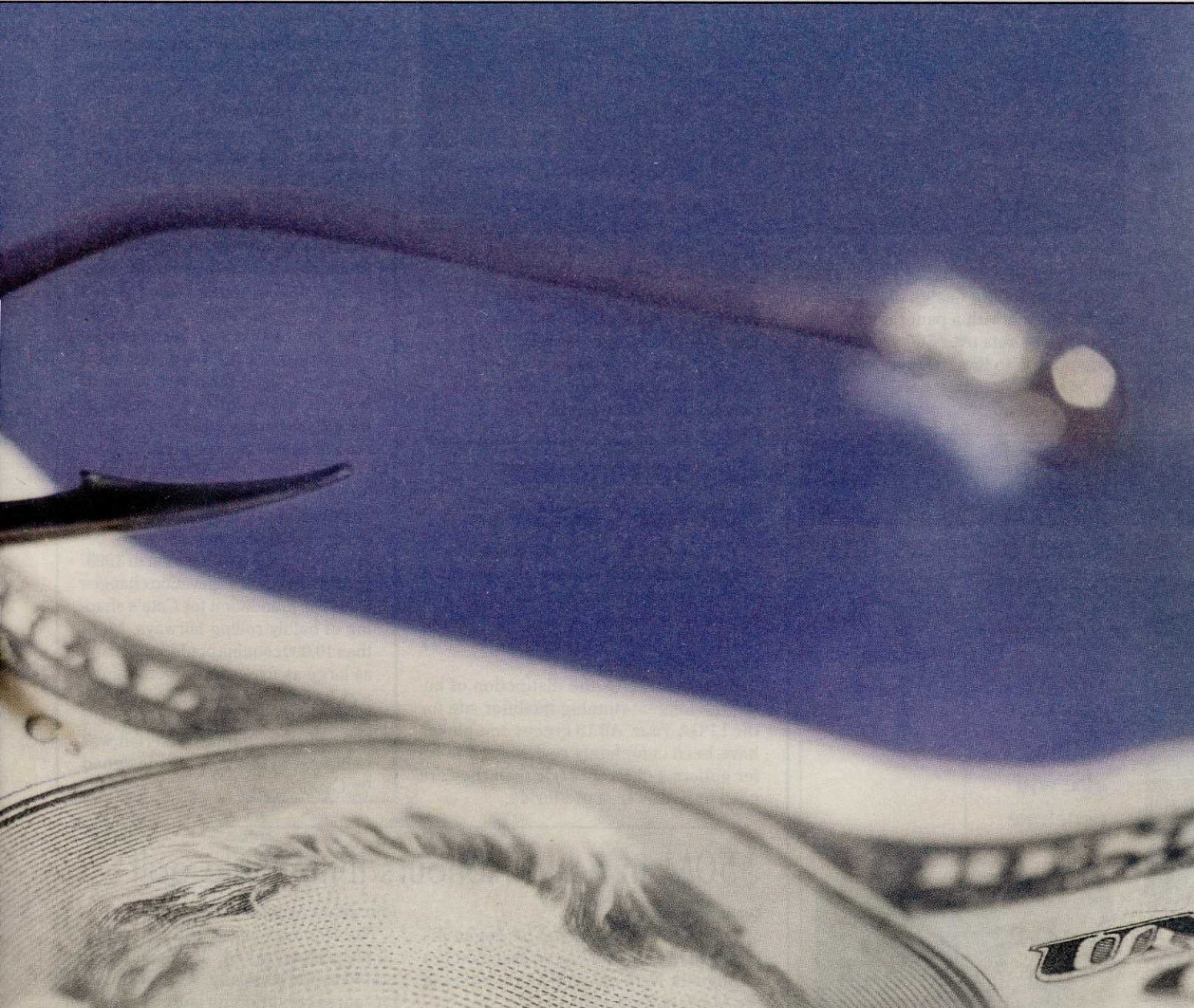
Lyle: All the great courses I've known over the years have been about decision-making and the choices available. Many courses can be very tight and difficult and the choice is taken away, going back to Augusta — that is one of the all-time great decision-making courses. It doesn't kill you if you miss the fairway by a couple of yards and it doesn't stop you doing some shot-making.

Even this year when there was a certain amount of rough at Augusta it wasn't the sort of rough that we're used to. There is no comparison. I love the way the course plays. It gives you lots and lots of chances at par-5 holes. It encourages you to hit the driver off the tee and then make a decision. These 620-yard par-5s don't interest me one little bit because the decision has been made for you. It's not reachable in two, so you can hit a five iron off the tee, a six iron second and another six iron into the green. The shorter par-5 holes, say 505 yards, give an option after the drive. Do I lay up? Do I go for the green? I think the great courses — for example, Carnoustie — leave you mentally exhausted at the end of the round. You really have to think your way around them to combat the bunkers, the angles, the wind and the way the ball will bounce into the green.

That's the idea I like for a golf course — having the front part of the green reasonably open where you can play in windy conditions and bounce the ball in. I can think of a lot of American golf courses where you don't have that option; the greens are guarded by water or bunkers and it doesn't matter what sort of conditions you play in.

GCN: If you had to hire somebody else to design a personal golf course for you, who would you choose?

Lyle: At the moment, Tom Weiskopf or [Tom] Fazio. They use the terrain as well as they can use it and try to be a little different without using too much trickery. I would say that they are golfer-friendly rather than trying to hurt the golfer.



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PENDULUM	H	H	H	M	H	M	H	H
BARRICADE ^a	H	M	M	M	MH	M	H	H
DIMENSION ^b	H	M	H	M	H	M	M	M
TEAM ^c	H	M	M	M	M	M	NR	NR
RONSTAR ^d	M	H	NR	M	M	NR	NR	NR
SURFLAN ^e	H	H	H	M	MH	M	H	H
Level of control	Medium		Medium-High		High	Not Registered		

^a Novartis ^b Rehn and Haas Co. ^c Dow AgroSciences ^d Rhône-Poulenc

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