

Shenzen Golf Club wraps up renovation work

By ANDREW OVERBECK

SHENZHEN, China — After more than 30 months of work, Global Golf Engineering, Ltd. (GGE) is wrapping up the Robin Nelson and Neil Haworth redesign of all 27 holes at Shenzen Golf Club (SGC) here.

The course has been transformed from a flat, featureless

track to a modern, more challenging layout. Japan's Isao Aoki designed the first 18 holes, which opened in 1985, and Hong Kong's Tang Shu Chen designed the final nine that opened in 1990.

"The main design philosophy was not to limit ourselves by the existing course," said Haworth. "We looked at it as a whole new site

where we would keep all the trees.

"As a result, the routing of the holes is almost unrecognizable from the original. We made it a more dramatic course through the use of lakes and bunkers."

While the existing tree line provided instant character and landscaping, fitting the new course in amongst the trees proved to be a challenge.

"Tying the course into existing tree areas and making it look as natural as possible was important," said GGE Director Stephen Alexander. "The hard part was not damaging the root zones and keeping construction and earthworks outside the drip-lines of the trees."

Additionally, GGE transplanted trees which were hidden in densely planted areas or ones which needed to be moved because of the re-direction of a hole.

"There were a lot of nice old fig trees that were on site, but that were not noticeable. We moved these trees to areas to help landscape the newly renovated holes," said Alexander.

Club management also insisted that 18 holes of the layout be open at all times during the renovation work.

"The most challenging part of the design was keeping 18 holes open. That took a lot of planning to keep from compromising design or construction," said Haworth.

GGE worked closely with SGC management and outside contractors to help the project run smoothly.

"The key was good cooperation," said Alexander. "The important thing about working in China is to foresee and avoid problems. For example, we had the club purchase new bulldozers so that we would not have any time lost due to machinery downtime."

Improving the course's water supply and irrigation system was another formidable task.

"One of the largest problems was a lack of irrigation water storage. In addition to adding more lakes, we have made sure that the course drains into the lakes to improve storage," said Alexander.

Hong Kong-based Bothgreat Technology Ltd. installed a new irrigation system and GGE upgraded the existing drainage system.

The native turf has also been replaced with Paspalum on the fairways, tees and rough and Tifdwarf on the greens and aprons.

Construction on the final nine holes began in October and the entire 27-hole layout is due to be open for play in August.

"This may be our best effort to date," said Haworth. "The old course was just long, with not much thought required as to where to drive the ball or where to lay up. The new course is just as long, but more strategic."



Shenzen Golf Club.

WETTING AGENT

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Bob DeMarco

THE LETTER I've been a regular user of Surf-Side wetting agent for well over 20 years. Having tutored under the "Bill Smart" school of turfgrass I can only say that the new materials haven't convinced me. I'm a bit different than Bill, in that I don't experiment as much as he did (tip burn is not my favorite look). Surf-Side has performed wonderfully for all my turf inconsistencies. When salespersons come knocking at my door wanting to know if I'm familiar with "wetting agents", I ask them where have they been for the last millennium. It makes me think of one of Bill's favorite lines in the summertime "Should have been a mason, bricks don't wilt". That's why the spray rig never leaves the shop without Surf-Side 37. I've used Surf-Side with just about every chemical on the market - NEVER HAVE I BURNED WITH IT!

YEARLY PROGRAM Generally, my first application is late March / early April. My last application is around Thanksgiving (have to go skiing after that)!

POWELTON CLUB
NEWBURGH, NEW YORK

GREENS & TEES 4oz / M Surf-Side on a regular basis, that being every 2 to 4 weeks depending on the time of year, disease pressure (Little League Practice) etc.

FAIRWAYS 2-oz / M on a regular basis, that being every 3 to 4 weeks depending on time of year, disease pressure, etc.

DISEASE PROGRAM We average 5 to 7 fairway sprays a year and put 2-gals Surf-Side in the 160 gal. sprayer. On greens & tees we average 8 to 10 sprays a year and put 1-gal. Surf-Side 37 in the 100 gal. sprayer.

HYDROPHOBIC SOILS Any area of the Golf Course not up to par gets a DRENCH of 5-gals. Surf-Side in 160 gals. water put out with a hand gun watered-in. This brings the areas under control and enhances rewetting dramatically.

LOCALIZED DRY SPOTS I've put up to 12-oz Surf-Side 37 in 2-gals. water and poured it on the LDS. It's best to first core the area with a soil probe. Follow with lots of water, and VIOLA !!! No more problem. It's a "no brainer" for Superintendents fighting LDS.

SUPERINTENDENTS MUST ADAPT RATES TO INDIVIDUAL GOLF COURSE CONDITIONS

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1-800-401-0411
FAX: 215-836-2418
MONTCO PRODUCTS CORPORATION
BOX 404 AMBLER, PA. 19002