

Berlin course gains nine-hole addition

BERLIN, Germany — Essen-based golf course architects Deutsche Golf Consult (DGC) are relishing the opportunity to create a unique extension at Berliner Golf Club Gatow. The existing nine-hole layout was built by the Royal Air Force in the late 1960s and has developed into a parkland layout typical of central-southern England.

DGC was awarded the contract to extend the course to 18 holes and build more suitable practice facilities. Seven hectares of new land, in the shape of quarries and former open-cast mines, were made available. While offering versatile terrain, the quarries posed a problem of continuity for DGC architect Rainer Preißmann said: "If the former coal mine is to be used as a topographic world to experience, the design of the old golf course can only be conditionally integrated into the extension.

"By integrating the old golf course into both half rounds, the familiar golfing environment will suddenly throw up totally new challenges and turn the game of golf (on the entire grounds) into a distinctive experience."

Ugly stepchild

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that is as straight as a yardstick.

The swale will revert to the feature that George Fazio once envisioned.

In the 30 years since the course opened, governmental agencies have been added to watchdog the area's water situation. One of those is the Houston-Galveston Subsidence District. Joachim said the district controls the amount of water Champions can use and attaches a surcharge when the amount is exceeded.

"That is why the state-of-the-art irrigation system is going in and why the lakes are being deepened," he said.



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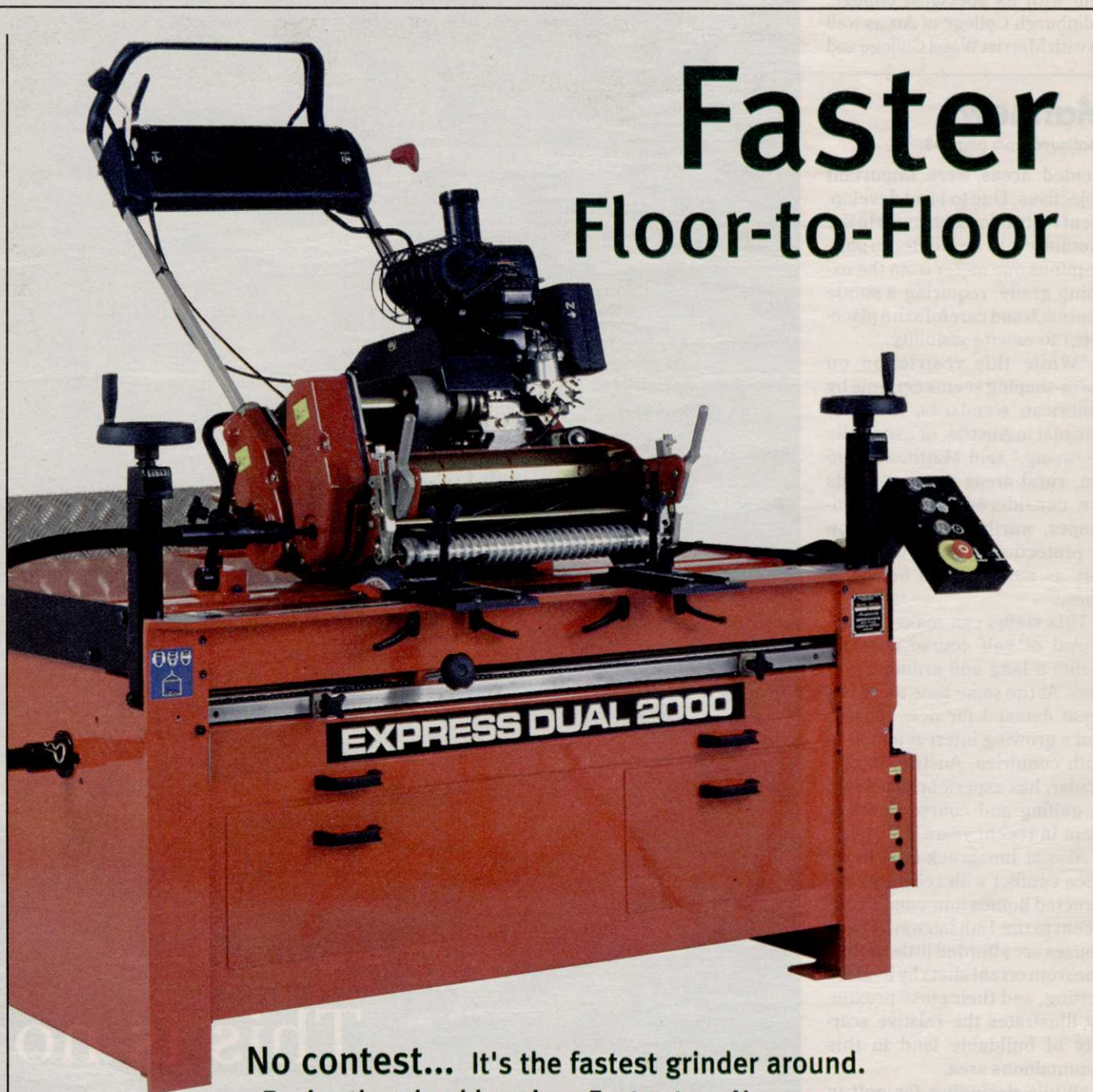
It is the dramatic contouring of the former coal reserve ground that will be immediately recognizable, Preißmann said.

"The pit will be particularly attractive from an aesthetic point of view and will, at the same time, have an explosive sporting effect once integrated into the fairway concept," he added. "This situation is certainly unique in Germany and can, therefore, become a trademark for the golf course of the Berliner Golf Club Gatow."

Work is due to start this spring.



Berlin Golf Club Gatow.



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