

MAILBAG

NICKLAUS AND WILSON DESIGNS

To the editor:

An article in your September issue reports on the joint venture formed by Nicklaus Design and Ernie Els Enterprises. It states that Nicklaus has designed golf courses with Dick Wilson, Pete Dye, and Desmond Muirhead. Dick Wilson died in 1965. Was Nicklaus designing golf courses in the early 1960s? Although Dick Wilson remodeled Scioto, Nicklaus' home course, I don't believe the two ever worked together. However, Nicklaus did become a friend to Dick's partner, Joe Lee of Boyton Beach, Fla. If Nicklaus designed a course with Wilson, which one was it?

Thanks,
Joe Jemsek
Denver

P.S. Dick Wilson's passing was a terrible loss for Golf. His designs have stood the test of time at courses like Cog Hill #4, Bay Hill, Doral, and Pine Tree, regarded as the greatest flat course in the world. If Wilson, who died at 61, had lived into his nineties like Jones, there is no telling what he could have accomplished. Wilson was known best for his flashed sand bunkers, and least known for his

work as construction superintendent for Flynn at Shinnecock Hills and for his redesign of Royal Melbourne, site of the 1998 Presidents Cup.

Editor's note: Jack Nicklaus never designed a course with Dick Wilson. His first course, co-designed with Pete Dye, was Harbour Town Golf Links (S.C.), which opened in 1970. We regret the error

TOO MANY GOLF COURSES

To the editor:

I'm writing about your editorial in the September issue. I agree with you and the National Golf Foundation (NGF) that courses are in for a tough road. But I find it funny that the NGF waits to say there are too many golf courses till after the fact. It's easy to say the boat is going to sink after it sinks. The NGF makes its money by selling its books on building and running courses, which I believe makes them biased.

We started building our course in 1988 and opened in June 1990. If we had not owned the property and built it ourselves we would have a tough time making it. We bought and read what the NGF printed before deciding to build a course. I think

they were right back then to say we needed more courses. But as we moved into the middle 90s, the NGF was still saying that we needed hundreds of new courses a year to meet demand, when people in the industry knew better. As little as a year ago, NGF was still saying we need more courses.

Now they say that courses must do a better job to bring out more golfers, and to do "dynamic pricing," which means lower our prices. I don't believe the NGF knows the first thing about running a golf course.

James L. Hawk, Jr.
President, Jade Greens Golf Course
Auburn, Wash.

Risky golf courses

Continued from previous page

highways, driving ranges that run out onto fairways. Their lawyers are concerned about exposure. But the calls lead me to believe that people haven't really given a whole lot of thought to this issue, to the degree of injury that can happen.

"The point is, when the owner or manager of a golf course is aware of a hazard – even a potential hazard – they've got to take some action," Mims said. "A golf ball travels at 120 to 170 miles an hour. If you get hit in the head with that, you better hope it's the hard part of your head." ■

We want to hear from you

Letters to the editor are an integral part of *GCN*, so let your voice be heard. Send all correspondence to:

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