

Kintyre Course adds to Turnberry's splendor

AYRSHIRE, Scotland — This summer, renovation work was completed at the Troon Golf-managed Arran Course at the Westin Turnberry Resort. The new layout, now called the Kintyre Course, was designed by Donald Steel and incorporates portions of the old Arran course as well as a new stretch of land on Bains Hill.

The upgrade was undertaken to bring the course up to the standards of Turnberry's more famous Ailsa Course which has hosted three British Opens.

While the Kintyre Course has less of a links feel than the predominately seaside Ailsa Course, it offers a stern test of golf. The fairways are less forgiving as is

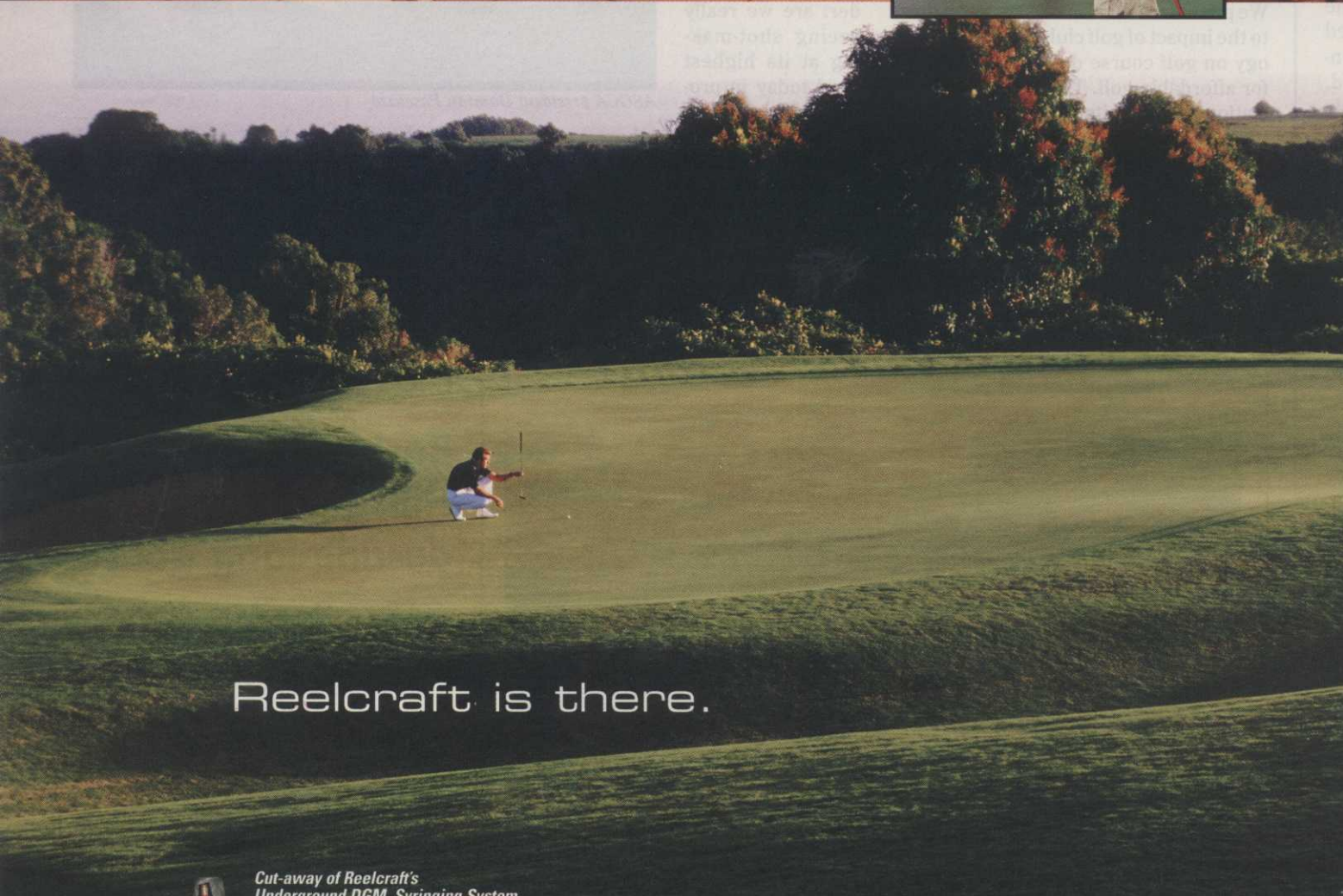
the thicker gorse that swallows up errant tee shots. The new track features 11 completely new holes, including the eighth and ninth holes that criss cross each other.

In addition to the new layout, the resort has also added a Colin Montgomery Learning Center and the nine hole Arran Academy Course.

— Andrew Overbeck



The 18th hole at the new Kintyre Course at the Westin Turnberry Resort



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Pascuzzo Q&A

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meantime the equipment is getting more expensive, the green fees are getting more expensive and it is taking longer to play. There are a lot of people competing for our recreation dollars and potential golfers and some existing golfers are making other choices. There is a direct connection between technology and the lack of affordable golf.

GCN: Where is the ASGCA going with its affordable golf initiative?

Pascuzzo: We are actually calling it practical golf. We are in the process of developing a book that talks about practical golf—meaning what is practical for your budget and for the site. In some cases this might be a par-3 course, a six-hole layout, or an executive track. The book will have case studies on practical golf and should be ready by the GCSAA show in Orlando.

This is a personal issue for me because I grew up in Los Angeles playing these small par-3 courses on 30 acres that had push up greens. It cost \$1.50 to play and the facilities are still around. I went back last year and it costs \$5 to play nine holes and they do 50,000 rounds a year.

GCN: Who are you trying to reach with this message?

Pascuzzo: We feel that there are a lot of people out there in the public sector, park and recreation directors, public works directors, that may have 20 or 50 acres that they could build a golf facility on. Many don't think they could have golf because there is not room for 18 holes, but we want to make them aware that there are alternatives.

If we can educate the public sector and get some of these courses in the ground then all of a sudden you have an inexpensive place for people to learn the game. We don't have enough entry level facilities. This might not make sense for the private sector, but it makes sense for park and rec. departments because they can build a par-3 course with push up greens for \$300,000 and break even.

If we don't get more people into the game and get them to a comfort level to play 18-hole, resort courses then the game will continue to suffer. ■