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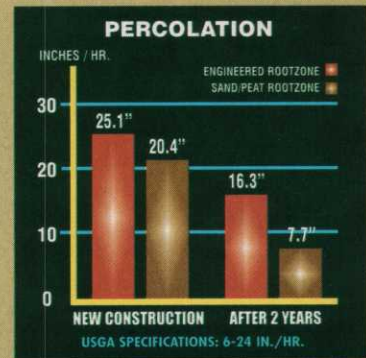
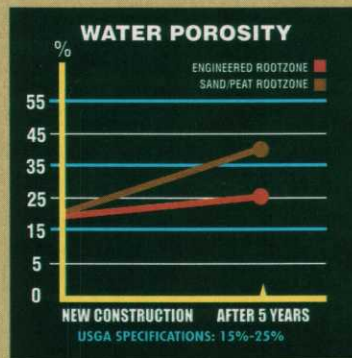
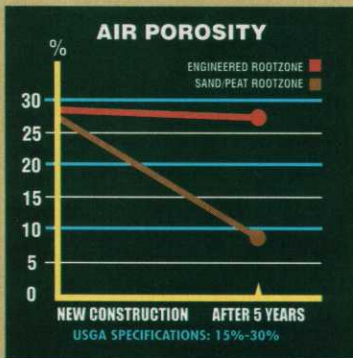
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Agronomic Systems Design Group

New Blood

Continued from page 30

Banfield and Kevin Sutherland.

In his words: "I don't ever want to be known for a certain recognizable style of course. Rather, the style is unique to a particular project. The marriage of client criteria and site characteristics always yields a unique golf course. I favor golf in a natural setting where memorability is achieved by design variety in terms of playability, land form, color and texture."

How to reach Kavanaugh: phone — 520-323-8232; e-mail — glfdesign@aol.com

Ron Kern

The buzz: Indiana architect is using classic architectural influences to build and remodel several Midwest courses into fresh designs.

Now playing: Fox Run GC, Eureka, Mo. (co-designed with father, Gary); Hanging Tree GC, Westfield, Ind.; Pebble Brook GC-North, Noblesville, Ind.

Coming attractions: Purgatory GC, Noblesville, Ind.; Twin Oaks GC, Hartford City, Ind.

Noted restoration/renovation projects: Evansville CC, Evansville, Ind.; Wabash Valley GC, Geneva, Ind.; CC of Terre Haute, Terre Haute, Ind.; Winding River GC, Indianapolis; Wabash Valley GC, Geneva, Ind.

Influences: Bill Diddel, George C. Thomas Jr., Alistair MacKenzie, Donald Ross, James Braid and retired superintendent Dwight Ladd.

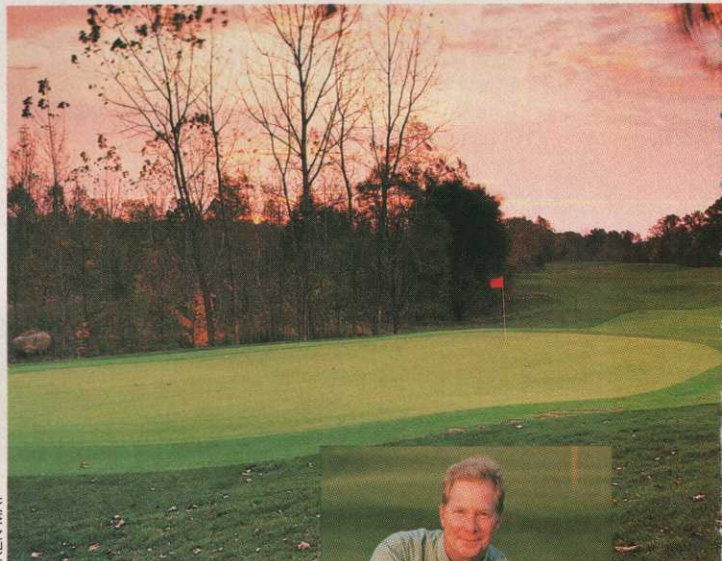
In his words: "I don't have a specific style I impose on a site. Routing is the soul of the course — integrating the natural topography into an interesting variety of shot values, hole lengths and par sequence is paramount for a good design and reasonable construction costs."

How to reach Kern: phone — 317-580-9083; e-mail — rkern@indy.net; Web site — www.ronkerngolfarch.com.

Ron Kern is using classical architectural influence to build and remodel Midwest tracks.

Tim Liddy

The buzz: Pete Dye's engineer and confidante is making a name on his own with a mix of excellent public and private low-



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cost, intriguing designs. Liddy's Trophy Club was named one of *Golf Digest's* 1999 Best New Private Courses.

Now playing: Rock Hollow GC, Peru, Ind; The Trophy Club, Lebanon, Ind.

Noted redesign or restoration work: Fort Harrison State Park GC, Indianapolis.

Coming attractions: Cambridge GC, Evansville, Ind.; Hickory Stick GC, Greenwood, Ind; Bloomfield City GC, Bloomfield, Conn.

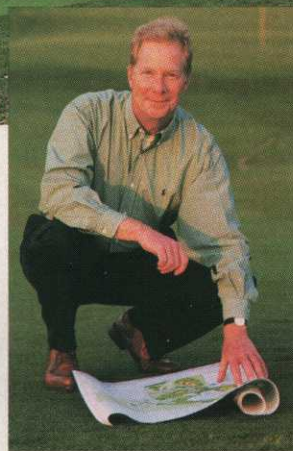
Biggest influences: Dye, Donald Ross, Seth Raynor.

In his words: "I try to create golf courses with enduring values for my clients. I spend half my time on my work and the other half as project architect for Dye, usually on his Midwest projects. All of the important criteria and principles that we strive for on Dye's \$10 million golf courses also apply to my modest budget courses."

How to reach Liddy: phone — 765-759-8697; e-mail — tim_liddy@iquest.net.

Kyle Phillips

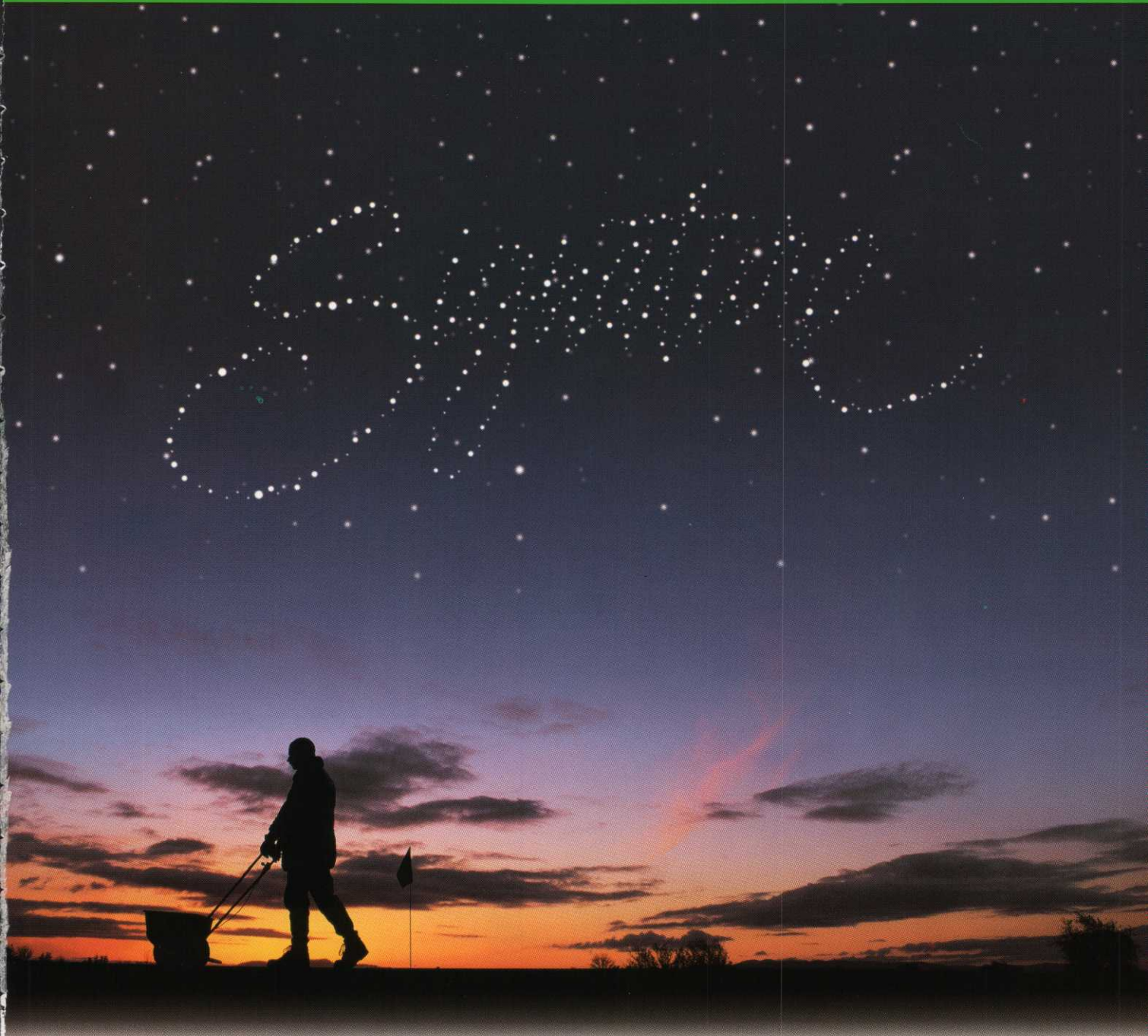
The buzz: California-based international designer may have 2000's most-talked-about new design, Kingsbarns, the ancient-looking links near St. Andrews, Scotland.



Tim Liddy's intriguing designs include Rock Hollow GC in Peru, Ind.



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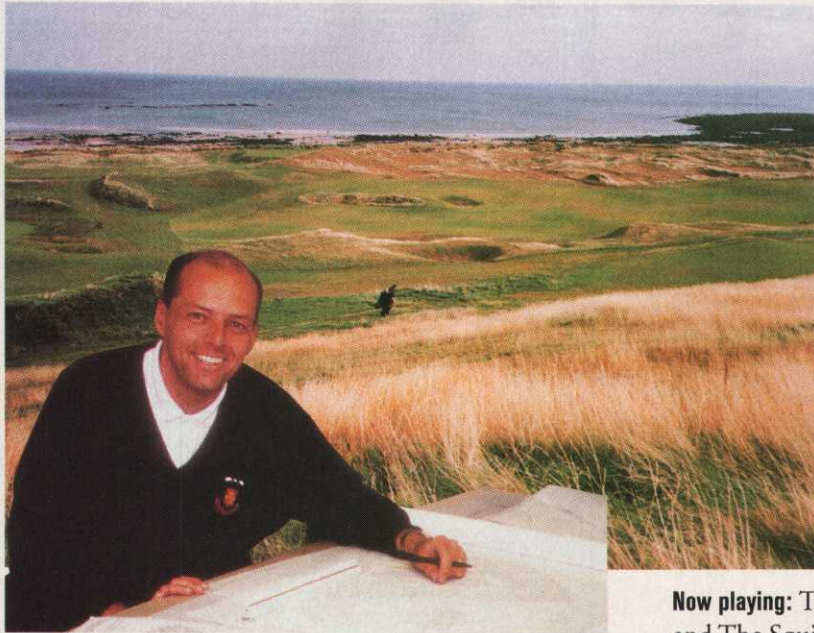
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Circle No 111



Kingsbarns, designed by Kyle Phillips, may be the year's most talked-about new design.

Now playing: Numerous worldwide projects as an associate for Robert Trent Jones Jr., including Granite Bay GC in Granite Bay, Calif; Resort at Squaw Creek in Squaw Creek, Calif; and Sugarloaf in Carrabassett Valley, Maine.

Noted redesign/renovation projects: Robert Trent Jones GC, Manassas, Va.

Coming attractions: Kingsbarns Golf Links, Scotland; Morgan Creek, Sacramento, Calif.; The Grove Estate, London.

Influences: Robert Trent Jones Sr. and Robert Trent Jones Jr., H.S. Colt, A.W. Tillinghast, Alister MacKenzie.

In his words: "Golf courses should be designed to fit seamlessly into the land rather than as individual pieces built on top of the land. I try to vary the shot angles and challenges to create multiple choices of attack."

How to reach Phillips: phone — 916-797-2141; e-mail — golf@psyber.com.

Dan Proctor and Dave Axland

The buzz: The longtime Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw shaping and construction supervision team is earning accolades for Wild Horse GC, a low-budget public access masterpiece in Gothenburg, Neb., that captures some elements of Coore's and Crenshaw's Sand Hills GC in Mullen, Neb. — but shows its own distinctive design.

Now playing: Delaware Springs GC, Burnet, Texas; Wild Horse GC.

Coming attractions: Bayside GC, Ogallala Neb.

Influences: Coore, Crenshaw, George C. Thomas Jr., Perry Maxwell, Pete Dye, Donald Ross.

In their words: "We simply strive to restate common themes that have always been the foundation for fun golf. Site dic-

tates the design. Factors such as slope, scale and wind angles are a few of the variables to be considered along with the client's directive. We try to keep it simple."

How to reach Proctor and Axland: phone — 308-239-4478; e-mail — norskax@islc.net.

Bobby Weed

The buzz: Weed, the former Tournament Players Club superintendent, Pete Dye protégé and in-house PGA Tour designer, has created a small but excellent team to do a variety of work. Philadelphia's Glen Mills GC and St. Paul, Minn.'s Stoneridge GC figure to be two of the most talked about designs opening this summer.

Now playing: The Olde Farm, Bristol, Va.; The Slammer and The Squire, World Golf Village, St. Augustine, Fla.; Amelia Island Ocean Links, Amelia Island, Fla.

Noted redesign/renovation projects: Ponte Vedra Inn and Club, Ponte Vedra, Fla.; Timuquana CC, Jacksonville, Fla.; TPC of River Highlands, Cromwell, Conn.

Coming attractions: Glen Mills GC; Stoneridge GC; Bee Cave GC, Austin, Texas; The Golf Club at Fleming Island Plantation, Orange Park, Fla.

Influences: Pete Dye, William Flynn, C.B. MacDonald, Seth Raynor, Walter Travis, Tom Simpson.

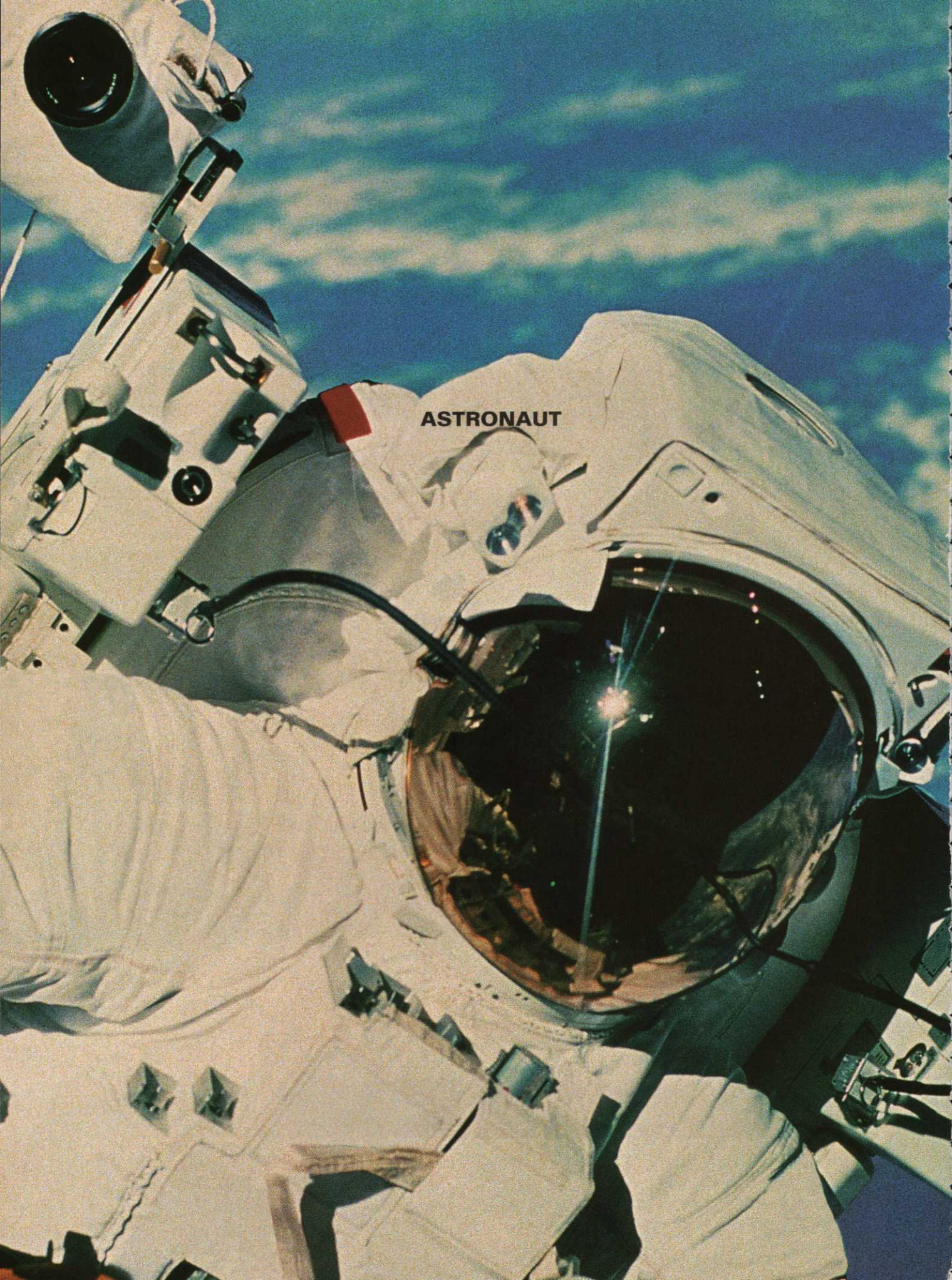
In his words: "My design style mixes the old with the new in an appropriate fashion. Our group strives to utilize the natural features of the ground. Our primary concern is to always design a strategically interesting hole — those that leave something to be discovered each time they are encountered. Golf courses were meant to be patiently uncovered — not revealed all at once. Reducing maintenance and returning to more basic golf course design are important priorities for me and my group."

How to reach Weed: phone — 904-249-3005; e-mail — bweed@jax-inter.net. ■



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Golfdom contributing editor Geoff Shackelford is the author of several golf design books and can be reached at geoffshac@aol.com



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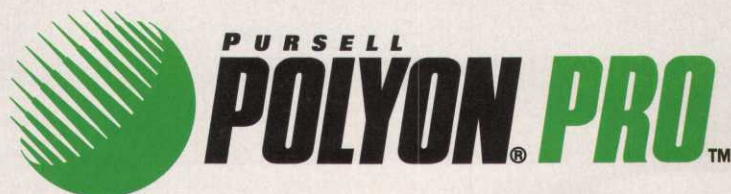
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Put in Good

'Original' greens restorations are in,
but they're not always the right thing to do

BY HAL PHILLIPS

The act of refurbishing vintage green complexes, always a preoccupation for superintendents tending America's classic layouts, simply isn't good enough anymore. Mere "renovation" is out. "Restoration," on the other hand, is *way* in.

This isn't any sort of revelation, really. The sea changed some 15 years ago, during the mid-1980s, when superin-

tendent Bill Spence oversaw restoration of The Country Club's greens prior to the 1988 U.S. Open in Brookline, Mass. Since then, it has become almost routine for classic courses to "restore" their putting surfaces prior to major tournaments, especially those conducted by the USGA.

However, of the 1,500 to 2,000 golf courses built between 1915 and 1935, many have either recently concluded a vintage green restoration, are currently in the midst of one or are considering taking the plunge. Only a small portion



Repair?

The membership at Merion Golf Club's East Course in Ardmore, Pa., wanted the green contours unchanged, so Greg Armstrong simply fumigated and regrassed. But the club digitally mapped the finished product to aid future restoration work.

MIKE KLEMM

of these projects are championship-driven.

While the effect has trickled down, most of today's classic green restorations can be attributed to a new wave of appreciation for vintage design — a wave that has taken on something of a fundamentalist tone. With a fervor that sometimes threatens to spill over into orthodoxy, members at classic layouts are insisting that superintendents — with help from various course architects — maintain and/or restore the “original” green contours.

This seemingly noble attitude, unfortunately, is fraught with practical inconsistencies because restoration projects involve regrassing vintage putting surfaces with state-of-the-art bentgrasses maintained at microscopic heights by modern mowing equipment. Members want to keep the existing contours (which they take to be “original”), but they also want these greens Stimping at 11 to 12 feet.

This is a problem. George Thomas and A.W. Tillinghast

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How Far Do You Go?

A master of design speaks his mind about course tinkering and time

BY JOHN LAFOY

To restore or not to restore? That is the question. Taking the course back to its "original" state is the hottest trend in golf design. But how far back do you go?

Let's use Donald Ross and Pinehurst No. 2 as an illustration. To my recollection, it took Ross about 40 years of continuous tinkering to get the No. 2 course where he wanted it. Changes in technology, both in turfgrass and equipment, created the need for Ross to alter the course to meet golfers' needs. The changes he made were numerous and sweeping.

In Ross' own words: "This resort, which has long been recognized for its leading influence in golfing circles, took another great step forward in golf in the summer of 1935. The changes which have brought about this great transformation in Pinehurst golf are the entire elimination of sand greens and the substitution of grass putting surfaces on the No. 2 course and the complete remodeling of the layout of this course."

Now, how far back do we go when we remodel No. 2 again? To 1901, when the first nine was built? To 1906, when the second nine was built? Or when it was remodeled in 1923, 1933, 1934, 1935 and 1947?

To put it another way, it took Ross 47 years to get his own golf course the way he wanted it, yet there are folks who would have us believe his more than 380 other courses were exactly right the first time he sketched them on paper. Should they never be tampered with, except to

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It took Donald Ross 47 years to get Pinehurst Resort and CC's No. 2 course the way he wanted it. Yet there are folks who would have us believe his other courses were exactly right the first time he sketched them on paper.