



MONTHLY LETTERS

Do you feel the urge to vent your opinion about the local golf scene? Want to get something off your chest? Your golfing voice can now be heard, so send your letters to megolfer@itp.com

Do these 'Superstars' really work?

I read your May cover story, 'Working With the Superstars', with great interest. While I agree having a name like Tiger Woods or Greg Norman against your course is great, I do wonder if these superstars really get down to getting their hands dirty while creating a golf course.

I know most of these superstar designers employ some very good and experienced shapers and designers. I just can't imagine someone like Tiger spending his invaluable free time pouring over blueprints.

It would have been great if you could have mentioned guys like Karl Litten, Peter Harradine and Robert Trent Jones Jr. – the real designers – in the story. Personally, I'd rather play a Pete Dye course than one by the 'superstars'. Guys

like Dye and Harradine are the real superstars of golf course design.

Peter Small, Doha

MEG replies: Hey Peter! You might be right in certain cases. However, we can vouch that all the superstar designers who were featured in our May issue have had a very hands-on involvement with the golf courses. Greg Norman, for instance, has made more than 10 visits to the Earth and Fire courses at Jumeirah Golf Estates.

As for your other point about 'real designers', we do agree with you. But this particular story was focused on designers who are professional golfers. Stay with us and we will have another special on guys like Harradine and RTJ very soon.

EMAIL INBOX

Well done, Leisurecorp!

I was a Dubai resident before moving back to London. I would like to use your magazine to convey my heartfelt thanks to Leisurecorp for making entry free to this year's European Open.

In this day and age, when organisers are always thinking how to increase the gate fee, Leisurecorp stands out as a company which really wants to make the game popular.

I also read that they have done the same with the inaugural Dubai World Championship. I was planning a trip to Dubai in October, but it looks like I might postpone it by a month!

Daniel Williams, London

MEG: Hey Daniel! We will certainly pass on your appreciation to the guys at Leisurecorp. And while you are here for the Dubai World Championship, don't forget to check us out – we are the official golf magazine of the tournament!

Public course in Dubai please

The US Open this year is being played at the Black course of Bethpage State Park. It was played at Torrey Pines last year.

The one binding factor between these two great venues is that they are both public courses.

What I really want to say is that if a Major championship like the US Open can appreciate the importance of public courses, why don't we do that here in Dubai. Setting up affordable public courses is the only way you can catalyse the growth of the game.

Even if it is not up to the standard of courses like Emirates Golf Club and The Els Club, Dubai desperately needs courses where a common man can play 18 holes for something like AED100.

Sujith Kumar, Dubai

MEG: We completely agree Sujith. But such are the market forces!