IGM has megaplan for ‘ultra-courses’

BY MARK LESLIE

Earth is expected to be moved by 1991 on the first of a dozen “ultra-prestige” golf courses that will usher into the United States the concept of marketable memberships.

“I’m enthusiastic right now. We’re moving well,” said John T. Killip, the man who purchased Bardmoor Country Club in Largo, Fla., March 30 plans to open one of the courses to the public and finish the last nine holes of a private, Tom Fazio-designed layout.

Ross Gentry, 45, converted the Bardmoor North Golf Course, for many years the

Continued on page 11

Hawaii lease brings $111M

BY PETER BLAIS

A Japanese company has bid $111 million to lease Honolulu’s recently completed, city-owned West Loch Golf Course in Ewa.

However, the city council, which was scheduled to decide in late April whether to accept Jurigi Co. Ltd.’s bid, could nick the deal, even though the $91 million profit (the course and clubhouse cost the city $20 million) would be used to build two new municipal courses and affordable housing.

Several councilors believe the lease arrangement may be illegal since the land was originally condemned to be used as a municipal golf course, not leased to a private course operator, said city Finance Director Ted Jung.

The lease arrangement requires 150 rounds a day to be reserved for residents for two years, at a cost of $27 a round, while the two new municipal courses are built.

Just prior to the March 15 deadline for submitting bids, opposition councilors issued a news release questioning the legality of the lease arrangement, according to Rom Duran, assistant to the city's

Continued on page 12

Sharpener breaks time barrier

BY PETER BLAIS

Fledgling Bell Turf Equipment Manufacturing has developed a reel sharpener company officials say will do the job in one-third the time at less than half the price.

The San Jose, Calif., firm is being wooed with joint manufacturing proposals from several large companies for Reel Mate, a test unit the company’s founder believes will be eagerly sought after by superintendents once it goes into production.

“There’s been a lot of interest,” said company President Pete Bell, 30, a former golf course mechanic.

The major appeal of Bell’s gang mower to a private course operator, said city Finance Director Ted Jung.

“It’s important in my personal

Continued on page 13

2nd woman, 1st Oriental join ASGCA

BY MARK LESLIE

“I am ecstatic,” said Jan Beljan, reacting to being just the second woman ever elected to the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

Nai Chung “Lee” Chang, the society’s first Oriental member, and former Jack Nicklaus senior designer Bob Cupp joined Beljan among the eight architects elected as associate members March 28 at the group’s annual meeting in California.

Others joining the exclusive association, which now numbers 108, are Keith Foster, from Arthur Hills’ Arizona office; Tom Marzolf, a colleague of Beljan in Tom Fazio’s North Carolina office; W. Bruce Matthews III from Gerald Matthews’ firm in Lans- ing, Mich.; Mark A. Munger of Cornish & Silva in Andover, Mass.; and Tom Pearson of Golden Bear International in North Palm Beach, Fla.

“I’m thrilled to get in,” said Chang, 43, a China native who has been living in the United States for 20 years.

“This is important in my personal development. I’ve been looking to

Continued on page 22
Sherman Hollow outlook 'optimistic'

BY PETER BLAIS
Sherman Hollow (Vt.) developer has finished presenting their case for a new golf course to local government officials and are "optimistic" they will receive a building permit for the controversial facility by mid- to late-summer, according to principal Paul Truax.

Expert witnesses for the developers of the Huntington, Vt., project concluded their testimony before the District 4 Environmental Commission in March.

Opponents, concerned about logging activities and pesticide contamination of ground water, began testifying April 2. Additional public hearings were scheduled April 23 and May 29, said Truax.

"The absolute earliest we'd get a permit would be July. But August or September are more likely," said Truax, who has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars over the past five years while navigating his $22-million project through the Vermont regulatory system.

"I think we've done more than any course in the country to show we have an environmentally safe golf course. Our witnesses have been good. The opposition found no major holes. We've satisfied all the state agencies. We even have a letter from a water quality agency praising us for being overly conservative in our approach. I'm optimistic we'll get the permit soon," he said.

The timing of the permit is important. If it comes in July, Truax believes he could begin clearing and grading operations this summer and have the course ready for play in 1992. If it comes later, weather and state law forbidding clearing after a certain date could delay the opening another year.

"We'd do as much as the weather and state permit," said Truax.

Truax believes Act 250, Vermont's main development-control law that opponents have used to delay the project, needs change.

"Five years is obviously too long to get something like this approved," said Truax. "The Act 250 process needs revision to prevent what's happened to us from happening again.

"A lot of what's been decided here should have been decided at the state rather than the district level. You have the expertise at state agencies. It's mind-boggling that a layperson on a local board can listen to opposing expert witnesses, both with years and years of experience in a particular discipline, and make an informed decision."

Continued from page 1

At Prestbury, both the owner and superintendent are impressed with our equipment

Dave Meyer is both. After 20 years of working as a superintendent at another Chicago area resort, Meyer and a partner jumped to the ownership side when they bought Prestbury Golf Club in 1988.

"Being an owner changed my perspective about equipment purchases," says Meyer. "I now have a whole new set of priorities to consider. That's one of the big reasons we went with John Deere. It made sense from both the business and performance side.

"John Deere financing helped us get the equipment we wanted. We got five machines on a 5-year lease/purchase agreement. That helped free up cash that normally would have gone toward a down payment. That was important to me as an owner.

"As a superintendent, it was the performance and durability of the Deere equipment that made the difference. We purchased a 3325 Professional Turf Mower, 1500 Utility Vehicle, F935 Front Mower and 850 and 950 Tractors. They've allowed us to raise our course standards to a whole new level.

"The 3325's ability to cross-cut and follow ground contours leaves our fairways looking like a country club. Our players love it."

For the name of your nearest distributor, or free literature on all John Deere's Golf and Turf Equipment, call 1-800-544-2122 toll free or write John Deere, Dept. 956, Moline, IL 61265. We know, like Dave Meyer, you're going to like what you see.

Dave Meyer uses a John Deere 3325 Professional Turf Mower to help maintain the Chicago area's Prestbury Golf Club—a course he owns.

Golf Course News
MAY 1990
13