Palmer, Faldo, Langer involved in major German project

A world-class destination resort and residential community outside Berlin, Germany, featuring golf courses designed by Arnold Palmer, Bernhard Langer and Nick Faldo, is being planned by International Management Group. The Cleveland, Ohio, firm said the community, The Sporting Club Berlin, will be located in the town of Bad-Saarow Pieskow, Sir Winston Churchill and Max Schmelling actually played golf on the property in 1928. Eighteen miles southeast of Berlin, construction of the 605-acre site will begin next spring, with the hotel and first course scheduled for completion in summer of 1994. The developers are Golf and Yachtshafen GmbH of Bad-Saarow, Germany, and Bau Holding/Aldingen/Schacht of Spittal/Drau, Austria. The Palmer course will be associated with the hotel for use by hotel guests while the courses designed by Langer and Faldo will be operated as a private club for members and invited guests. Each course will have distinctly different characteristics based on varying site locations as well as individual design philosophies. The Sporting Club Berlin will also feature a 25-acre tennis center managed by the Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy, which will include a tournament facility with a $3,000-seat stadium court; a tennis club with up to 20 indoor/outdoor courts, pro shop, locker rooms; and grill; and Germany's home for the Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy. Equestrian Olympic Gold Medalist in 1976 at Montreal, Alwin Schockemohle is designing the equestrian center, which will feature indoor and outdoor riding stables, polo field, and riding and jumping lessons. A yacht club and marina will have an outdoor cafe, boat slips, fueling area and a boat launch. A 214-room resort hotel will feature four gourmet restaurants, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, conference and banquet areas, fashion and sport shops, and a health and fitness spa. International Management Group will manage all golf facilities, the equestrian center, yacht club and marina.

Ecological area throws LA plan into question

SANTA CLARITA, Calif. — A local developer’s new plans for a residential golf development are drawing mixed reviews from county officials who ordered the redesign to protect an environmentally sensitive area. The Newhall Land & Farming Co.’s original Westridge project included 18 holes and 1,872 housing units that would encroach on 300 acres of a Los Angeles County Significant Ecological Area, according to the Los Angeles Times. The original plans called for removing 330 oak trees to accommodate nine golf holes and 335 housing units in the SEA. The Los Angeles County Regional Commission ordered developers to reduce the number of housing units. The revised plans call for just 202 units with the removal of only 159 trees in the SEA. The nine holes will remain in the SEA, but only half-a-million cubic yards of dirt will be removed, half as much as earlier planned. “They’ve made some great changes,” said Commissioner J. Paul Robinson, who objected to the previous plan. Other commissioners still objected. “It’s better than it was before, but I am still concerned about the removal of the oak trees, for one thing,” Wulliger said.

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