CROMWELL, Conn. — The recent Canon-Greater Hartford Open, the state's largest spectator event, passed golf's acid test.

PGA Tour players generally tipped their caps at condition of the course which a year earlier was being torn up for the purpose of building a new 18-hole layout.

The Tournament Players Club became the TPC-River Highlands, a par 70 with 6,820 yards of green, smooth terrain embracing 127 sand traps, four ponds and an attractive Connecticut River view.

The seven holes remaining from the old course had new greens and tees.

Five holes were built on previously unused land, closer to the


Howard Twitty, 1980 Greater Hartford Open champion, and fellow tour pro Roger Maltbie were part of the design team.

Cost of the project, which exceeded the normal maintenance staff of 27 to 75-100 with contractor workers, put a gaping hole in the budget.

GGS, through its hotel holdings in Dallas, and investments subsidiary in Portland, Ore., owns the Rancho Mirage Country Club in Palm Springs, Calif., Chase Oaks Golf Club in Dallas and Sophie's Island near Portland.

When the GA60 aerator was first introduced, it was the most effective reciprocating fairway aerator on the market. And thanks to its input, it still is.

Some of you ran into something unexpected when aerating 4 inches deep in a few regions of the country. Things like granite, one of the hardest rocks found on earth.

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