Well-known Atlanta course converts from private country club to daily-fee facility

ATLANTA — Lakeside Country Club, one of Atlanta’s well-known private country clubs for 30 years, has opened to all golfers for daily-fee play. LinksCorp, a golf management company based in Northfield, Ill., purchased Lakeside from its former members and intends to make it one of the best championship daily fee courses in the Southeast.

“We have committed more than $1 million immediately to return the golf course to championship condition, renovate the clubhouse, add a new fleet of golf carts and make other site improvements,” said Ben Blake, LinksCorp’s chief executive officer.

In addition to the capital improvements, Blake recently announced the appointment of Lakeside’s senior management staff.

David B. Fleming started immediately as general manager. For the past five years, Fleming was general manager of Kemper Lakes Golf Club in Hawthorne Woods, Ill.

Allen Chandler is Lakeside’s new head golf professional. A class A member of the PGA, he most recently was at Westbrook Country Club in Wilmette, Ill., and PGA National in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

Bobby Miller, LinksCorp director of agronomy, will manage all aspects of course maintenance and renovation. Prior to joining LinksCorp, Miller was head superintendent at Harbors Town Golf Links in Hilton Head Island, S.C., and later was director of course maintenance for Stokes-O’Steen in Jacksonville, Fla.

Poquoy Brook gains new manager

LAKEVILLE, Mass. — Poquoy Brook, one of the top public courses in the Massachusetts, is now under the management team of Basil Bartlett and Charlie Dickow.

The two are anything but strangers. Dickow owns and operates another Lakeville track, Heritage Hill — and Bartlett built Heritage Hill before selling it to Dickow a few years ago. Bartlett, who has built many golf courses in the Northeast, considers Dickow the “best agronomist” he’s ever met.

The duo had been in the market for some time, actively pursuing the owners of Willow Bend in Cotuit. But that fell through when Paul Fireman, chairman of the board at Reebok, beat them to the punch. Bartlett and Dickow soon learned of Poquoy Brook’s availability, however, and snapped it up.

Changes are planned at Poquoy, but not too many.

“We do not want to make wholesale changes to a magnificent golf course,” Bartlett told the Fall River Herald News. “We have some ideas to make it a little more enjoyable.”

Dickow plans to make the greens a bit smaller and quicker. The duo will also install lights for the practice area. Later, the par-5 18th may see some changes.

“If we expand the clubhouse,” Bartlett explained, “we would probably move the 18th green closer to the stream and then expand the stream into a pond and make it a tremendous par 4.”

GCN seminar to focus on public facility profits

YARMOUTH, Maine — Golf Course News has announced a new conference targeting profitability for public golf facilities. “Public Golf’92” will be held Nov. 1-3 at Oak Brook Hills (Ill.) Hotel and Resort.

“As the public demand for golf increases there are many opportunities to develop and expand daily-fee and municipal courses. The challenge for course managers is to find ways to profitably develop, manage, maintain, and market their facilities,” said Mark Leslie, managing editor of Golf Course News.

The conference program will provide a comprehensive look at management of public courses, according to Leslie.

Topics will include trends in public golf facilities; profit-minded planning, feasibility, expansion and construction; financing; approval processes; managing and maintaining the operation; and marketing strategies.

For more information call the United Publications conference group manager, Rebecca Quinlan, at 207-846-0600.

CDI to manage Sky Meadow CC

Dallas-based Club Development Interests, an affiliate of the Hyatt Corp., has been retained by Par Management Inc. to manage Sky Meadow Country Club in Nashua, N.H.

The addition of Sky Meadow brings the number of CDI-managed clubs to 22, with a heavy concentration along the Eastern seaboard.

Sky Meadow is 35 miles north-northwest of Boston and will be operated as a high-end, semi-private club. In 1991, Golf Digest rated Sky Meadow as the top course in New Hampshire.