The Rees Jones-designed Falcon’s FireGC in Kissimmee, Fla., is one of 17 Western Golf clients.

Western Golf adds acquisition component

By Peter Blais

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — After 10 years managing courses for the Western Golf Properties Inc., hopes to begin buying facilities this year.

“Our goal is to acquire courses over the next five years,” said Western Golf President Joe Black, who founded the company 10 years ago. “We don’t have a specific number in mind.

“We had intended to begin acquiring courses earlier. But the market was getting turned upside down when we first got in. We couldn’t financially justify buying. A course must be able to service its debt. We’re finally starting to see some good deals out there again.”

Black will bring almost 40 years in the golf business and 30 years of management experience to that first acquisition.

Black joined the PGA Tour in 1955. When his playing days were over, he moved to Club Corporation of America, where he served as company vice president and golf professional at Brookhaven Country Club in Dallas from 1964 through 1985. He is former president of the Professional Golfers Association of America, tournament director of the PGA Tour and chairman for the Ryder Cup, PGA Championship, and PGA Senior Championship.

Western Golf has 17 clients, including such widely known layouts as Pelican Hills Golf Club in Newport Beach, Calif., voted the “Best New Resort Course for 1992,” by Golf Digest and Desert Highlands Golf Club in Scottsdale, Ariz., site of the first two tournaments.

‘A course must be able to service its debt. We’re finally starting to see some good deals out there again.’

— Joe Black

CMAA tackles voter registration in San Antonio

Three such bylaws defeated; Shulz assumes presidency

By Peter Blais

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Like their brethren in the superintendents associations, Club Managers Association of America (CMAA) members had a bit of a bylaw amendment flap of their own at February’s annual meeting.

At issue was whether to automatically mail ballots for the election of officers, directors and bylaw amendments to all eligible voting CMAA members, whether they requested ballots or not.

The reasoning behind the proposed change was that there was more than the approximately 30 percent of eligible voters who traditionally cast ballots, it would do so if the process were made easier.

For the past two years, members could either vote at the annual meeting (about a third of eligible members generally attend) or by requesting a written voting authorization allowing them to vote by mail if they could not attend.

The amendment would have required CMAA staff to automatically mail out ballots 60 days before the annual meeting to all eligible voters.

The board of directors did not support the three proposed bylaw amendments that would have made the automatic mailings possible. One board candidate stated during the opening business session that he publicly rejected the proposals even though it could have cost him votes.

Voting responsibly required research and commitment to the organization, he argued. Automatic mailing of ballots worked against that, he added.

Apparently the eligible voters who took part in this year’s election agreed and voted for the proposals.

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Disabled Golfers Association taps board members

The Association of Disabled American Golfers (ADAG) has expanded its board. Appointed to one-year terms are Gary M. Robb, Robert D. Ochs, and Warren Simmons.

Robb is director of Indiana University’s Center for Outdoor Education and Leadership Training, Bradford Woods, and directs the National Center on Accessibility.

Ochs is senior VP and general counsel for the St. Andrews Corp., a golf course management consulting group. An attorney for 25 years, Ochs served as general counsel and senior director of communications for the GCSAA.

Simmons is immediate past president of the International Association of Golf Administrators and currently serves as the executive director of the Colorado Golf Association.

The second ADAG national tournament will be conducted again at Fox Hollow at Lakewood Golf Course in Lakewood, Colo., on Aug. 15 and 16. A full field is expected in 1994, and entries are available on a “first registered” basis. For more information, contact Fox Hollow at 303-220-0921.

NCA publishes three self-help books for club officials


This new handbook provides advice on pre-employment testing, interviewing techniques, reference checking, employment contracts, employment at will, and disciplinary procedures. The guide also contains a checklist for complying with the immigration law and guidelines on how to avoid illegal interview questions. The member price is $25; nonmembers pay $40.

Two other self-help titles and one research report, covering board preparedness, OSHA compliance issues, and operations, have also been made available in an effort to serve a broader section of the private club community:

- A Board Member’s Guide to Director Orientations (825 members, $40 nonmembers)
- The Model Hazard Communications Program
- NCA’s Club Operations Survey

For more information on the content of these publications, contact Senior Communications Manager Mary Barnes Embody. To order, contact Kathleen Scott, member services department, at 202-625-2080.

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CMAA meeting

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down the three bylaw amendments. They also rejected a fourth that would have allowed members who originally voted by absentee ballot prior to the annual meeting to recast their ballots if they eventually attended the conference.

On the officer and election front, William Schulz of Houston Country Club was elected president, and Norman Spitzig of Oak Ridge Country Club in Hopkins, Minn., vice president. Both ran unopposed.

In the race for secretary/treasurer, George Carroll of Town & Country Club in St. Paul, Minn., defeated Randall Guadanowski of Indian Trail Club in Franklin Lakes, N.J.

Newly elected to the board of directors were: Dennis Allred of Sara Bay Country Club in Sarasota, Fla.; Warren Arseneaux of Victoria (Texas) Country Club, and Henry Waddington of Piedmont Driving Club in Atlanta.