WICKED STICK NAMES MANAGER

Myrtle Beach, S.C. — John Daly’s Wicked Stick Golf Links has named TSC Golf Inc. as its management company. At 3 1/2 miles from the ocean, Wicked Stick is Daly’s first design project. He served as player consultant to architect Clyde Johnston. TSC is managed by Gary Schaal, immediate past president of the PGA of America; Steve Taylor, Wicked Stick’s general manager; and F. Darrell Childers, who recently spearheaded the opening of Whispering Pines Golf Course, Myrtle Beach’s first city-owned golf facility. Wicked Stick is scheduled to open this fall.

GOLF MANAGEMENT SEMINAR SET

JUPITER, Fla. — Reservations are being accepted for the National Institute of Golf Management’s 13th annual education program to be held Jan. 14-18 in Wheeling, W. Va. The National Golf Foundation and the Continuing Education Center at Oglebay Park Resort are co-sponsoring the five-day event, which introduces participants to all aspects of golf facility management. Participants completing both years of the overall, two-year curriculum are eligible for continuing education credits from North Carolina State University and continuing education/recertification units from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, PGA of America and Ladies Professional Golfers Association. The registration fee is $350. For more information contact NGF at 800-733-6006.

ISS SIGNS FLORIDA AGREEMENT

LEESBURG, Fla. — ISS Golf Services has reached agreement with Florida Leisure Communities (FLC) for the maintenance of nine-hole Pensacola Fairways Golf Course. FLC has added nine new Gordon Lewis-designed holes at Pensacola and plans to expand to 18 holes in 1998. ISS, a division of Tampa-based Landscape Management Services, provides custom-designed maintenance programs for golf facilities.

AGC ADDS SILVERHORN

OKLAHOMA CITY — American Golf Corp. has added SilverHorn Golf Club here to its management portfolio. AGC has agreed to a long-term operating lease with owner O-Sports Development. Randy Heckenkemper designed SilverHorn, along with pros Willie Wood and Scott Verplank.

Ocean Course sale settled, at last

CHARLESTON, S.C. — After years of wrangling, the sale of the Ocean Course at Kiawah Island has finally closed.

Bankruptcy Court Judge Falcon Hawkins approved the sale of the Pete Dye-designed layout to Virginia Investment Trust (VIT) on Sept. 27. The Resolution Trust Corp. (RTC) has operated the facility since Landmark Land Co. declared bankruptcy and the federal government seized the property back in October 1991.

The RTC took over 22 Landmark properties and managed to sell off all but the Ocean Course. The sale of the seaside layout, made famous as site of the 1991 Ryder Cup, was delayed by environmental challenges and failed agreements.

VIT — which operates the Osprey Point, Turtle Point and Marsh Point courses at Kiawah — was the lone successful bidder for the property at a RTC auction last spring.

VIT offered $27,000,100 for the Ocean Course. The closing has been delayed the past several months because of a dispute over ownership of nine of the Ocean Course’s 214 acres.

It was discovered that Kiawah Resort Associates (KRA), a major real-estate developer on the island, owned the disputed acreage.

In late September, the RTC and KRA reached an agreement on the nine acres, which included parts of several holes on the north section of the golf course, according to Resolution Trust Corporation spokesman Michael Fulwider.

“We are very pleased that the deal has closed and RTC was able to get a substantial return for taxpayers,” Fulwider said. VIT spokesman Beverly Armstrong said his company plans some maintenance work to the course, although he couldn’t specify what work would be done.

“We are delighted to have the Ocean Course under our ownership because it places all the public courses at Kiawah under one management,” he said.

CourseCo finds niche managing government-related courses

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — When CourseCo Inc. took over management of the nine-hole golf course at the former Mather Air Force Base earlier this year, it became the first private firm in the West to manage the privatization of a military golf course, according to President Tom Issak.

Working with the County Parks and Recreation Department and a local citizens group, CourseCo is helping develop a master plan for the course and the 1,400-acre regional park located on former Defense Department land. It’s the type of government entity-related project in which CourseCo has proven very effective, explained Issak.

“With the current.{...}continues on page 46
Distance devices

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1995 with 40 to 45 more per year in both 1996 and 1997. ProShot was available at 21 clubs nationwide as of late summer. In addition to ClubCorp, other clients include American Golf Corp., Western Golf Properties and The Pebble Beach Co. • SkyCaddie has been installed at the International Golf Club in Bolton, Mass., Badlands Golf Club in Las Vegas and Sailfish Pointe Golf Club in Stuart, Fla., according to Richard Beckmann, business development manager for the Boston firm.

"There's a big market out there for this type of product," Beckmann said. "I've heard of about 30 companies that are interested in getting into it. There are probably only five or six that are actually out there with systems that work."

Because of their price, many of the electronic-distance devices appeal to high-end daily-fee courses that can absorb the additional $1 to $2 per-round cost. One lower-cost alternative is the Iguana Yardage Guide, an 8-by-8-inch waterproof box attached to the cart's steering column. By turning a knob the golfer scrolls to a view of the next hole. The yardage and hazard information is similar to that contained in the yardage booklets Iguana has supplied for many years, but frees the golfer from flipping through a book or worrying about torn pages. Orchard Hills Country Club in Waukegan, Ill., Bent Pine Golf Club in White Hall, Mich., Mulberry Fore Golf Course in Nashville, Mich., and The Meadows Golf Club in Blue Island, Ill., have installed or plan to install the Iguana yardage units.

While conceding his product doesn't have the two-electronic capabilities of other systems, Iguana President Jeff Klings said the $275 per unit cost may appeal to many middle- and lower-cost courses.

Rain Bird Introduces EAGLE™ Gear Drive Rotors

The new EAGLE™ gear drive rotors from Rain Bird prove that advanced technology can have practical applications. EAGLE rotors are designed to work right out of the box and keep on working. Closed case EAGLE rotors provide superior reliability, unmatched debris resistance, labor-saving maintenance, uniform application and versatility from tee to green.