

## BRIEFS


**THOMPSON READIES SECOND  
AT GOLDEN PEBBLE BEACH**

DALIAN, China — Developers of Golden Pebble Beach will add a second course and other resort amenities to its seaside community here. Dalian Hua Feng Enterprises Group, Inc., managed by Liu Shulan and Ren Yun Liang, have again selected HRC Consultants Inc. Architects and Engineers of Arcadia, Calif., and golf course designer Peter Thompson of Thompson Planning Group, San Rafael, Calif., to complete the 600-acre resort development in this northern China city. Thompson said that Golden Pebble Beach's second 18 holes will be an inland course, more suited to the middle and higher handicap golfers.

**LOS ANGELES CC COMPLETES WORK**

LOS ANGELES — The North Course at The Los Angeles Country Club opened at the end of February following a major restoration by architect John F. Harbottle III. Restoration on the South Course began in mid-March.

**CONTRACTORS INSTALL RANDALL**

LITTLETON, Colo. — Rick Randall, founder of Randall & Blake, Inc. (RBI), has been installed as a national director of the Associate General Contractors of America (AGC). The AGC addresses issues such as legislation, safety, and training for contractors in the United States. The AGC also works closely with government agencies such as the Department of Transportation to create a partnership between contractors and the infrastructure engineers. Randall's parent company houses four companies: RBI, RBI Golf, RBI Maintenance and Contra Costa Landscaping, Inc. RBI has offices in Texas, Utah, California and Colorado.

**TREADWELL APPOINTS PARKS**

SOUTHGATE, Mich. — Treadwell Golf Associates, a golf course design, construction, and management company, has appointed Jeffrey R. Parks as vice president of agronomy and Michael E. Hopson as vice president of operations. This new management team, which includes Todd Johnson, PGA golf professional and director of golf, will oversee all operations for Treadwell Golf Associates, located at 19301 Northline Rd., Southgate, Mich. 48195; 313-287-2060.

## PGA, Norman team with new TPC in Atlanta

By MARK LESLIE

ATLANTA — TPC at Sugarloaf, Greg Norman's first design for the PGA, will open here May 5, just in time to host the week's activities for the BellSouth Atlantic Classic.

Built by the PGA Tour in conjunction with Crescent Resources, Inc., the facility features a major homesite component as well as golf, tennis and swimming. A huge clubhouse opened in April, and the recreation center is housed in and around the original show barn used during the era when the property was home to Tennessee walking horses owned by Rollins College patriarch Wayne Rollins.

Future plans call for a Norman-designed par-3 nine-hole layout as well.

Winding over very hilly and wooded terrain, and with three creeks meandering through the property, TPC at Sugarloaf will challenge golfers with tight fairways — tree-lined alleys requiring "a lot of great shot-making capabilities," according to one PGA official.

TPC at Sugarloaf provided the opportunity to try Greg Norman Turf's new



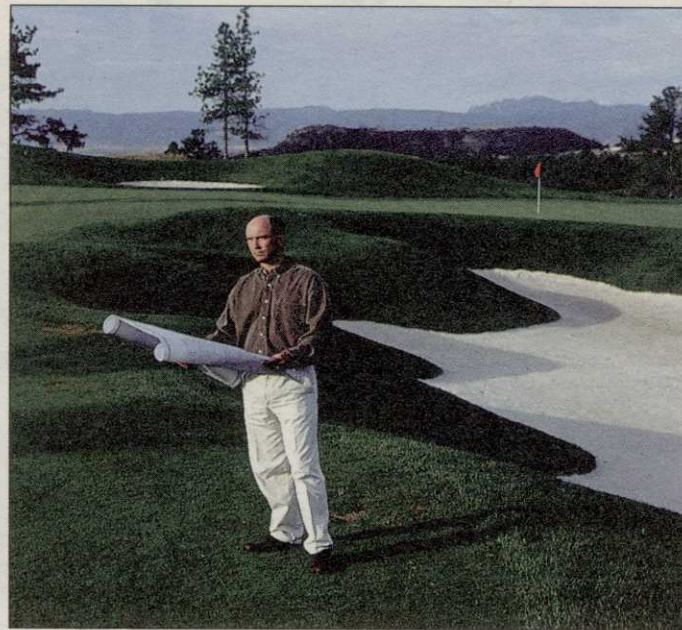
The new Greg Norman-designed TPC at Sugarloaf boasts a mix of terrain and trees.

GN1 Bermudagrass on the fairways, according to Cal Roth, PGA Tour director of golf course maintenance operations. Zoysiagrass roughs will add diversity and color to the track and the greens will be bentgrass.

"There have been a number of new, big golf course communities built in Atlanta over the last few years," said

Roth. "But the growth seems to be there. We're selling lots and homes very quickly. We started selling memberships four months ago and have 175 members already."

The TPC Network now numbers 15 in the United States, and under construction is the Gary Player-designed TPC at Jasna Polana in Princeton, N.J.



## Eng gaining exposure

*Jim Eng broke into design with Ken Dye and Joe Finger, before joining Dick Nugent's firm. From there he went to England as senior designer for Cotton Pennink & Associates. Because the owner of CP&A, A.H. Buckley, soon became president of International Management Group's (IMG) recreational development unit, Eng became involved, as well — designing European courses in the name of IMG clients like Bernhard Langer. Returning to the states in 1991, he founded Global Golf Design in Castle Rock, Colo. His first solo design on U.S. soil, the Sanctuary, opens May 1. Last month he broke ground on a municipal course for the city of Castle Rock.*

**Golf Course News:** Your experience at IMG was broad but fairly anonymous. How do you view your tenure there, in retrospect?

**Jim Eng:** Because I spent a good deal of time in Europe, when I came back to the States, a lot of people didn't exactly know who I was. So that wasn't very good... But I tell ya', it was

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## Despite obstacles, market in Germany improving

By MARK LESLIE

BERLIN, Germany — Despite the financial drain of German unification and the stiff opposition of a strong environmental lobby, golf course development in this country since the turn of the decade has soared. While the number of golfers has increased 120 percent, from 124,209 in 1989 to 272,830 in 1996, developers have built 214 golf courses, according to the German Golf Federation. That is an increase of 73 percent, or more than 10 percent a year, over the 293 courses the federation reported in 1989.

"Meticulous but steady" describes the growth. Cabell Robinson, a golf course architect headquartered in Marbella, Spain, said the former West Germany has been pumping \$75 billion to \$100 billion a year into the former East Germany, diverting funds that might have been spent on other investments (like tourism and golf courses). Meanwhile, strong environmental groups make it "very difficult to get planning permission to do anything in what was West Germany," and earth-moving is

often highly restricted on what is allowed, said Robinson.

It can take several years to get a proposal through the approval process to the groundbreaking stage.

"Germany and the UK are probably the two most difficult areas to receive environmental approvals," said Jeremy Slessor of European Golf Design, which helped design the Nick Faldo course at Sporting Club Berlin and has other projects underway in Germany. "It can be a long process. Four years is not unusual to obtain permits. Whether a project is completed depends on the determination of the developer. Many just give up because of the time and money it takes. But those who stay with it usually get their permits."

Indeed, the golf industry's growth seems to defy its obstacles.

Although agreeing "It's pretty hard to get things built in Germany," architect Kyle Phillips of Robert Trent Jones II International said the firm has designed one course that will open this summer 20 minutes southwest of Berlin and is planning another in Frankfurt.

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# German development pushing through obstacles

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The major construction obstacle is a regulation that limits any earthmoving on fairways to one meter up or down. Earth can be moved around greens, tees and bunkers, "but they basically don't want you to change the landscape," said Robinson.

Nevertheless, developers are turning some of the landscape into golf courses.

- RTJ II South Course is part of the private 36-hole Golf und Country Club Seddiner See. The developer, v.Bismarck Grundstücksgesellschaft M.B.H. & Co., opened the North Course,

designed by Rainer Preissmann of Deutsche Golf Consult, last fall.

- Hosel Golf Club in Dusseldorf, designed by Brit Simon Gidman, was built in 1996 and will open this year. It is an 18-hole private members course developed by DHC Bradford Ltd.

- Deutsche Golf Consult is designing four new courses and adding nine holes at two other 18-hole facilities — all of which it reportedly expects will open this year. The new tracks are the nine-hole Golf Club Michaelsberg in Cleeborn, 18-hole Golf Club Wutzschleife in

Hillstett and Golf Club Noitzscher Helde in Leipzig, and the 27-hole Golf Club Gleidingen in Laatzen/Hannover. The nine-hole additions are at Golf Club Heilbronn-Hohenlohe in Heilbronn and Golf Club Oschberghof in Donaueschingen.

- European Golf Design, a joint venture design company of the PGA European Tour and International Management Group, is planning three separate 18-hole courses in association with GolfProjekt Management GmbH in the Frankfurt area, as well as a 72-hole project near Berlin, with teaching academy and practice holes. The Berlin project will be developed in conjunction with three hotels and 500 houses and apartments.

- von Hagge Design has a contract with a group of people to design a course in Frankfurt. The group has found a new property for the project, following a public outcry against the original site.

Phillips described RTJ II's South Course as "a great golf course — a home run all the way around."

Golf und Country Club Seddiner See has housing, but it's only adjacent to three of the 36 holes.

And designers were allowed the latitude to be able to create some lakes and streams "that take on a natural look," Phillips said. "It was a flat site and we sculpted the dirt into nice flowing lines that blend into the surroundings."

The RTJ II project in Frankfurt, called Golfpark Romerbrunnen, has opened a practice facility but is awaiting funding for the rest of the course, Phillips said. The developer, Hu.M, Golfplatz Grundstücks-u.Berwaltungs-GmbH, will sell some form of memberships, "as they all do here," he said. Eighteen holes, it will play to a par 72 over 6,400 meters.

The doubling of golfers over the last seven years bodes well for these and other developments under consideration.

"Germany," said European Golf Design's Slessor, "is where France was 10 years ago in terms of the explosion in golf interest. But while projects dried up quickly in France, I don't think that will happen in Germany. There was never a solid base of players in France. People started playing, but their interest died off. It was really a fad.

"In Germany you have a solid base of players. You may be able to afford the \$5,000, \$10,000, or \$20,000 fee to join a course. But they won't let you play until you can pass a written and playing test and get your playing license."

While German consolidation

Continued on next page



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## iGOLF chooses Steve Smyers as its 1996 Architect of the Year

**L**AKELAND, Fla. — Steve Smyers has been named Architect of the Year for 1996 by iGOLF, an internet online golf site. This second annual award was given to recognize golf's most outstanding golf course architect of the year.

At 43, Smyers follows 1995 recipient Rees Jones.

"It's become clear," said Brad Klein, architectural writer for iGOLF, "that Smyers is skilled at translating classical design themes into a modern idiom in a way that allows daily-fee golfers as well as private club members



Steve Smyers

a chance to experience traditional shot-making. He's technically highly skilled and has seen an awful lot of

the old courses — and that shows."

Klein cites three Smyers designs that have received "the kind of notice that assures Smyers will be a force to be reckoned with as a champion of traditionalist golf design" — Wolf Run in Indianapolis, Southern Dunes outside Orlando, Fla., and Chart Hills in Kent, England, which was recognized recently by Following the Fairways as the No. 1 inland course in the British Isles — ahead of such famed courses as Sunningdale, Wentworth and Gleneagles' King and Monarch courses.

Recently, Smyers was also honored with an environmental

### Flint, Mich., signs up Childs

**SYLVAN LAKE, Mich.** — The city of Flint has awarded Don Childs Associates the contract for master planning and design services for its four municipal golf courses.

This relationship is designed to address improvements in playability, enhancement of maintenance procedures and overall course maintainability, liability concerns from current design standards, and improved shot values and the quality of the golfing experience.

### Germany

Continued from previous page hasn't helped the economy and "fewer speculative projects have gotten off the ground lately," Slessor said, "solid projects with good studies can find financing."

And Robinson added that although the environmental movement remains powerful, "Like in the States, they are coming to grips with the fact golf is not all bad."

design excellence award for his work on an 18-hole Tampa, Fla. project for the founders of Outback Steakhouse. The award presented by the Southwest Florida Water Management District is given for resource regu-

lation, design excellence and superior cooperation and innovation demonstrated during the permitting of the Tampa project currently under construction.

Smyers' design on the Tampa site minimized the acreage of turf

grasses requiring intense maintenance and thus requires a decreased water supply. Instead, native grasses are used which not only require less maintenance, but also provide wildlife corridors and habitat areas

while bringing contrast, definition and strategy to the golf holes.

"This type of positive and innovative approach to economic development and water resources management," said Deputy Executive Director Richard McLean, "represents a model for public and private interaction and can yield results that are beneficial to all concerned."

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