

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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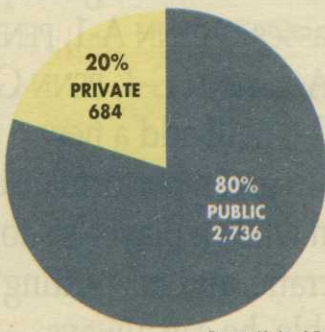
### Public Golf Forum: Biologicals

A half-day session on biological controls, led by Dr. Eric Nelson, will highlight PGF's second day ..... 54

### Barley Straw in Your Pond?

Yes. A sure-fire folk remedy that works wonders on your pond algae ..... 18

#### TOTAL GOLF COURSE OPENINGS BY TYPE: 1986-1996



Source: National Golf Foundation

#### PUBLIC GOLF ROLLS ON

After 1990, new golf course openings began to pick up steam. Public golf, specifically daily-fee golf, contributed most to the upsurge in golf course development. See page 3 for more stats on the growing public golf arena.

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## Toro, G&H ready for day in court

By M. LEVANS

BLOOMINGTON, Minn./LOS ANGELES — The battle between the Toro Company and Grizzle & Hunter Plastic Inc. — which has raged since December 1995 — will be tried by a jury on September 23.

Through the trial, Toro is seeking an injunction against Grizzle & Hunter that would permanently bar the manufacturer from producing its Bear Irrigation replacement sprinkler products.

In December 1995, Toro accused Grizzle & Hunter's top executives of stealing trade secrets related to the sprinkler conversion assembly — the guts of the sprinkler head. Grizzle & Hunter, a company spearheaded by Glendale Grizzle, an ex-Toro employee of 28 years, has been marketing a univer-

sal conversion assembly that can replace worn out Toro and Rain Bird sprinkler assemblies.

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#### COMING HOME

The 9th and 18th greens at Greystone Golf Club in Walworth, N.Y. This Craig Schreiner creation opened in June. See Q&A page 33.

## Widow's Walk places environment first

By MARK LESLIE

SCITUATE, Mass. — When Palmer Course Design Co. finishes rebuilding The Presidio in San Francisco, the country will be bracketed by its first two "environmental demonstration project" golf courses. The first, Widow's Walk Golf Course, located on an old gravel pit and dump site in this coastal Massachusetts community, opened for play on June 28, to the delight of

golfers and environmentalists alike.

"I don't think any golf course has had more publicity than this one. That's because of what it is and

what it represents," said Dr. Michael Hurdzan who, with lead designer Bill Kerman and input from various environmental

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## Whitbread takes lead

By PETER BLAIS

WARWICKSHIRE, England — This fall the European golfing community will turn its eyes to Whitbread Hotel Co.'s Marriott Forest of Arden Hotel & Country Club, site of the final European Tour stop before this September's much-anticipated Ryder Cup.

"We're hoping a number of the European team players will play in the One 2 One British Masters," said Whitbread Marketing Director Janet Matthews.

While the golfing public's attention will be fixed on the Warwickshire facility this September, the golf industry's gaze has turned with increasing

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## Casper to keynote Public Golf Forum

By M. LESLIE

OAK BROOK HILLS, Ill. — Hall of Fame golfer Billy Casper, who has followed his playing career by operating golf course design and management companies, will keynote the 1997 Public Golf Forum here on Oct. 27.

The only national conference and show targeted to the owners, managers, developers and superintendents of public-access golf facilities, the *Golf Course News*-sponsored Public Golf Forum will be held Oct. 27-28 at Oak Brook Hills

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The legendary Billy Casper



#### A FINE FINISH

Kyle Phillips liked this course so much he moved there. The 18th at Granite Bay (Calif.) Golf Club is an example of Phillips' work with RTJII. See story on Phillips' new solo career, page 33.



## Whitbread

Continued from page 1

regularity toward the Whitbread PLC subsidiary. Operator of 13 courses at eight UK venues, Whitbread has become the leading operator of golf courses in the United Kingdom.

Two years ago, Whitbread purchased the right to franchise Marriott hotels in Great Britain and attached the Marriott name to its golf course properties. The Whitbread/Marriott golf portfolio includes:

- St. Pierre Hotel and Country Club (H&CC) in Chepstow, Wales — two 18-hole courses and site of last September's women's Solheim Cup.

- Forest of Arden H&CC in Warwickshire — two 18-hole courses and site of the 1996 English Open.

- Dalmahoy H&CC in Edinburgh, Scotland — two 18-hole courses and a regular European Tour venue.

- Hanbury Manor H&CC in Ware — includes a Harry Vardon-designed course that was redesigned by Jack Nicklaus Jr. and hosted the 1996 European Open.

- Goodwood Park H&CC in Chichester — an 18-hole course.

- Breadsall Priory H&CC in Derby — two 18-hole courses.

- Tudor Park H&CC in Maidstone — includes an 18-hole Donald Steel-designed course.

- Meon Valley H&CC in Southampton — an established 27-hole golfing venue that will begin carrying the Marriott banner later this year.

- Treudenberg in Hamburg Germany — an 18-hole golf facility.

"They [Whitbread] are a franchise partner," explained Claye Atcheson, vice president of operations for Marriott Golf. "They operate the golf courses and we provide a consultant arrangement. All eight facilities are hotels with golf courses."

Added Kevin Hammock, Marriott Golf's director of operations and business development: "The courses are run by the pros at Whitbread. We simply work with them to try to make the Marriott golf experience a consistent, quality one throughout the world. Whitbread Group Leisure Director Rob Baruck runs the golf operations."

Whitbread will continue to develop its country club locations under the Marriott flag. In addition to the above facilities, Whitbread is building two 18-hole layouts in the U.K. that will both open in 1998 — one at the Marriott Manchester and the other at Marriott Hollins Hall in Bradford. The architect for both is European Golf Design.

While not as common as in the United States, the number of multi-course operators, like Whitbread, is growing throughout Europe, Atcheson said. There are no mega-management firms, like giants American Golf Corp. and ClubCorp in the United States. But there are a number of two- and three-course operators, Atcheson said.

"You'll see some more consolidation of course ownership as time goes on," the Marriott executive predicted. "We feel we can deliver a higher level of customer service and maintenance delivery than golfers are accustomed to... We don't want to Americanize the courses, we just want to raise the bar a little."



Whitbread's Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club in Edinburgh, Scotland: One of eight UK venues in Whitbread's growing stable.

## GRANITE FINALIZES \$100M FINANCING

PHOENIX — Granite Golf Group Inc. has finalized the contract for its \$100 million forward-financing package with Lone Star Opportunity Fund, L.P., a Dallas-based investment fund. The fund will be utilized for the acquisition of public golf course facilities throughout North America, with a target of acquiring 20 or more golf courses during the next two years. Granite will also pursue the acquisition of regional golf management companies that operate or own clusters of golf courses in areas of significant growth potential.

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