

Management troubles close city course

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The city-owned Boswell Highland Park Golf Course here is officially closed until the Park Board finds another group to assume operations.

Park officials have fired the private management group, Birmingham Greater Golf Associates (BGGGA), that was running the golf course. The Birmingham Park Board had received repeated complaints about ruined greens, unsafe conditions on the golf course, insufficient maintenance equip-

ment, sloppy record-keeping and a poorly stocked golf shop. BGGGA had managed the golf course since 1987. Its contract wasn't set to expire until 2007.

The management company had contracted to pay the Park Board a sum no less than \$2,000 a month, or 10 percent of its gross receipts to run the golf course. But park officials said the group has not paid anything since September.



Former Kemper site slated for remodel, again

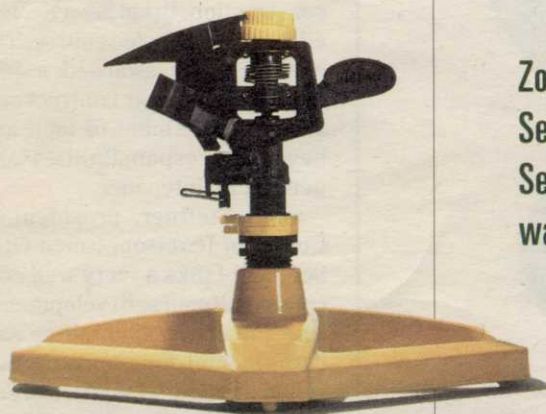
CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Extensive renovations are underway at Quail Hollow Country Club, an 18-hole private layout which has hosted the PGA Tour's Kemper Open (1969-1979) and the Senior Tour's Paine Webber Invitational (1980-1988).

Tom Fazio is overseeing this latest round of renovations on the 35-year-old course, originally designed by George Cobb, reworked by Tom Jackson, and re-

vised later by Arnold Palmer and Ed Seay.

Plans call for dramatic changes to several holes. Three on the front nine — Nos. 6, 7 and 8 — will be lengthened and have a stroke added to their par, while the former par-5 9th will become a par 4. If everything goes as planned, Quail Hollow could reopen for play in September. There is strong speculation the course will try to host a major golf event in the near future.

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Nicklaus finally gets go-ahead in New York

MONROE, N.Y. — Construction has started on the Mansion Ridge Golf Club here, a 6,800-yard Jack Nicklaus design that has been three years in the making. The course should be ready for play by fall 1997 or spring 1998.

The second component of the development — a "golf community" of 29 single-family homes and 80 golf villas — is still before the local planning board, but approval is expected soon. The Monroe project is only the second Nicklaus design project in New York.

The villas will be clustered directly on the fairways. Their country manor architectural style will reflect the character of the Mansion Ridge clubhouse, a refurbished stone barn that was one of the original properties on a turn-of-the-century estate.

SD grass roots deal goes sour

MANVEL, S.D. — Retired farmer John Sweeney and several friends who helped build the nine-hole Manvel Golf Course are calling it a slap in a face.

However, the Grand Forks Park Board is moving ahead with plans to sell the golf course here. The board says the golf course cost the Park District about \$50,000 each of the three years it's been open. The board estimated it has spent about \$400,000 on the facility. Only 10,000 rounds of golf were played there in 1996 while the course needs 15,000 rounds to break even.

Sweeney and those who pitched in to build the course in 1991 are upset with the decision. It was Sweeney's vision that created the course. He was struck by a piece of land along the Turtle River near Manvel and organized neighbors and Grand Forks County to sign on to the project.

Finances became a problem, however, and the Manvel group turned the nine-hole course over to the Grand Forks Park District to own and operate in 1992. The idea was to keep it publicly owned and open to the public.