CSM freshen up Olympia Fields for U.S. Senior Open

OLYMPIA FIELDS, Ill. — The golf course architecture firm of Cornish, Silva & Mungeam, Inc. has completed renovations here at Olympia Fields Country Club, site of this month's U.S. Golf Association Senior Open Championship, June 26-29.

Based in Uxbridge, Mass., Cornish, Silva & Mungeam (CSM) authored several changes at Olympia Fields' North Course, rebuilding the par-3 6th hole, reshaping all 18 putting surfaces to configurations conceived in 1923 by the original architect, the Scotswoman Willie Park, Jr.

"It was another example of the incredible shrinking greens," said Mark Mungeam, the CSM partner who handled the Olympia Fields renovation. "The Park greens are magnificent, sort of like [A.W.] Tillinghast greens. But time took its toll. As mowing patterns change over time, portions of the original greens were lost to apron and rough areas. They literally shrank over the years. We simply went in and restored the putting surfaces to their original design."

CSM also directed substantial alterations to the par-3 6th hole, which plays over Butterfield Creek. Mungeam and his team moved the green back some 30 yards. "The idea of moving the green has been around for some time," Mungeam explained. "Indeed, the members have long recognized the 6th green was in play from the 7th tee. So the green was moved back to create a safer green site and, secondarily, to improve the golf hole."

The Olympia Fields project follows closely on the heels of CSM's work at the Donald Ross-designed Rolling Rock Club in Ligonier, Pa., for years considered the best nine-hole course in America. Cornish, Silva & Mungeam opened a new nine holes there in May.

Olympia Fields, one of the premier golf clubs in the Midwest, has hosted two major championships; the 1928 U.S. Open and the 1961 PGA. The club retained Cornish, Silva & Mungeam in 1989 to conduct a long-range plan for both its North and South courses. Renovations began on the North Course in 1992.

Little work has been completed on the South Course, where work will now begin earnest, Mungeam said.

Private renovation for Illinois municipal

HAMMOND, Ill. — Two of the firms that submitted privatization proposals for the renovation of the public, 18-hole Wicker Park Golf Course will join forces on the project.

Town & Country Utilities Inc. and First Golf Corp. will team up with Phillips Golf Design to collectively design, renovate, build and manage the golf course.

According to the agreement, Town & Country, based in Merrillville, will lead the group; Phillips Golf Design, based in Arizona, will handle the architectural designs for the golf course improvements; and First Golf, also based in Arizona, will manage the golf course on a day-to-day basis.

Ill. developer plans $230m golf resort

POYNETTE, Ill. — An Illinois developer wants to build a $230 million resort village with an 18-hole golf course along Interstate 90-94 west.

The proposed development would be called "The Kingdoms of the Evergreen Forest," a reference to a pine plantation on the property, according to Bryan Clayton, president of Evergreen Enterprises in Morris, Ill., the course developer.

The massive project would include a 300-room luxury hotel, a camground, 200 time-share and permanent homes and the 18-hole golf course. There are also plans for year-round entertainment, several theaters, and restaurants. The project would also include castles, moats and a museum of medieval items.

CLARIFICATIONS

A chart on U.S. Turf schools in the May issue was missing the legend. In the chart, A=graduate program; B=4-year program; C-2-year associate's or certificate program and 1-year certificate program; D=winter programs, short courses, other seminars; E=correspondence and independent-study programs.

A story in the May issue incorrectly reported the status of the Park Meadows Golf Club in Park City, Utah. Pundy Yokouchi owns the course and will continue to operate the Jack Nicklaus-designed, 18-hole layout as an upscale, daily-fee, resort-style facility.

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