**TPC network takes off with new construction**

By PETER BLAIS

The network of PGA Tour Tournament Player Club facilities will reach the quarter-century mark by the year 2000 with seven courses currently under construction or in planning and others being discussed, according to Chris Smith, director of special projects for the PGA Tour.

The latest course to come aboard is the TPC at Wakefield Plantation in Raleigh, N.C. The Hale Irwin design broke ground Sept. 16 and is the first TPC course to be announced as the future home of a Nike Tour event, Smith said.

"It [the number of TPC facilities] is expanding because of the overall success of the TPC network," said Smith, adding that TPC clubs have garnered a number of operational and design awards.

The TPC network runs the gamut from private to public to resort facilities. With the exception of the TPC at Eagle Trace, which yielded the Honda Classic to the recently opened (1996) TPC at Heron Bay, all the PGA Tour Golf Course Properties owned and/or operated by the PGA Tour host Tour events.

The design arm of the PGA Tour — PGA Tour Design Services — works with the architect that the developer hires at each facility to make sure the Tour's needs are addressed. A PGA Tour player is usually also involved as a consultant or designer on the project. "Player involvement is important in the design of all TPC courses," Smith said. "All are built with the capability of hosting a major tournament, whether immediately or down the road."

Of the six courses currently under construction or in planning, three already have tournaments planned: The Energizer Senior Tour Championship at the Lanny Wadkins-designed TPC of Myrtle Beach (S.C.) scheduled to open in 1998; the John Deere Classic at the D.A. Weibring-designed TPC at Deere Run in Moline, Ill., opening in 1999; and the Burnet Senior Classic at the TPC of The Twin Cities opening in the year 2000 in Minneapolis.

In addition to the Myrtle Beach facility, three other TPC courses will come on line next year: TPC at Jasna Polana in Princeton, N.J.; TPC at Virginia Beach; and TPC at Snoqualmie in Seattle.

There's a huge benefit to tournament sponsors who use a TPC venue to host their tournament, Smith said. It gives

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**Old Head: New beauty in the Old Country**

By MARK LESLIE

KINSALE, Ireland — The site sits entirely in County Cork on a peninsula whose cliffs plunge down to the Celtic Sea. It contains what its architect calls "the most natural [golf] hole God ever built." And, now complete, it stands as the model for new golf course construction in this country, passing stringent environmental permitting that stretched over five years and resulted in an ecological sanctuary and protection for some fascinating historic landmarks.

The property is Old Head Golf Links, an 18-hole semi-private course with daily-fee play developed by Irishman John O'Connor, built by local contractor Haulie O'Shea and designed by the American Ron Kirby with consultant Dr. Joe Carr, possibly Ireland's most successful amateur golfer of all time.

"I've never seen anything like this in my life, and others I've talked to agree," said Kirby, who has designed golf courses around the world for more than three decades alongside the likes of Robert Trent Jones Sr., Gary Player

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**$10M in working capital pumped into Golden Bear**

NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla. — Golden Bear Golf, Inc. has announced completion of a definitive credit agreement with SunTrust Bank for a $10 million revolving credit facility to be used to finance the working capital needed to fund the company's continued growth as well as for general corporate purposes.

“We are pleased to have arranged additional working capital financing, especially for our rapidly growing Paragon Construction division, which through June ... has won contract awards in excess of $90 million for projects expected to be completed over the next nine to 24 months,” said Dick Bellinger, president and CEO of Golden Bear Golf, Inc.

“We are also actively pursuing possible additional financing which could take a variety of forms including public offerings or private placements of debt or equity securities, or bank financing.”

Under the terms of the commitment, the revolving credit facility will mature in two years with an option for a one-year extension.

Borrowings thereunder will be secured by company assets, excluding certain golf center properties and other assets pledged to secure other long-term indebtedness.