OB APPOINTS GREENWOOD TO SI REED

AURORA, Ore.—OB Sports has appointed Bret Greenwood project manager for the 45-hole golf facility at Si Redd’s Oasis Resort Hotel & Casino in Mesquite, Nevada. Greenwood succeeds Van Batchelder who was initially assigned to coordinate the transition of OB Sports management which began in March 1997. Greenwood will assume ongoing day-to-day management of the golf facilities. For the past three years, Greenwood directed all activities at Gold Canyon Resort & Golf Club in the Phoenix Metropolitan area.

TROON CREATES FOUR NEW POSITIONS

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz.—Troon Golf, a development and management company, has announced the promotion of four of its facility managers to higher positions. The move is part of the company’s regional re-structuring in preparation for its anticipated rapid growth during the next few months. The four named and their respective areas include: Paul Stringer (Southern California, Southern Arizona and Las Vegas), Jack Elliott (Central and Northern Arizona), Mark Kizzire (Colorado and Texas) and Jay Overton (East Coast). Collectively, the group provides Troon Golf with more than 80 years of golf industry experience.

NATIONAL GOLF LANDS EAGLE BROOK

SANTA MONICA, Calif.—National Golf Properties Inc. has acquired Eagle Brook Country Club in Geneva, Ill., a western suburb of Chicago. Eagle Brook is a private country club featuring an 18-hole golf course designed by Roger Packard and Andy North and a new clubhouse with a pro shop, grill room, banquet facilities and meeting rooms. Eagle Brook will be leased to American Golf Corp., which operates more than 250 golf courses throughout the United States and the United Kingdom. Pursuant to a triple net lease, National Golf Properties will receive minimum and annual base rent equal to 9.75 percent of its investment in Eagle Brook.

GRAYHAWK PROMOTES HEPBURN

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz.—Tiffany Hepburn has been named director of operations for Grayhawk Golf Club’s Kostis McCord Learning Center. As Director of Operations, Hepburn will handle the day-to-day operations, budgeting and marketing for the Learning Center as well as coordinate the Center’s three-day golf schools, half-day workshops and private lessons.

Capitol Golf takes Jones Creek

BETHESDA, Md.—Capitol Golf Group, a Maryland-based course acquisition and management firm, has purchased Jones Creek Golf Club in Augusta, Ga., and plans additional acquisitions in the coming years, according to Director of Operations David Allen.

Grayhawk Golf Club’s Kostis McCord Learning Center is designed to be a world-class golf facility.

National Fairways, RDC joint venture picks up Forsgate CC

GREENWICH, Conn.—Forsgate Golf LLC, a joint venture between National Fairways Inc. of Greenwich, Conn., and RDC Golf of Parsippany, N.J., has purchased Forsgate Country Club (CC), a private 36-hole club in Jamesburg, N.J. Forsgate CC, situated midway between New York and Philadelphia on exit 8A of the New Jersey Turnpike, is a private country club offering 36 holes of golf along with a 23,000-square-foot clubhouse.

National Fairways will manage the day-to-day operations of Forsgate CC. RDC’s food and beverage experience will play a major role in the club’s operations. The Forsgate acquisition gives National Fairways 19 courses with an additional two under development.

The Forsgate purchase is part of a proactive plan to increase the number of golf courses in the National Fairways fold to 50 over the next several years,” said Marc Bergschneider, founder and chief executive officer of National Fairways in a prepared statement. “We are focusing on the Northeast because we believe it’s more efficient and cost effective to stay close to home. We also see numerous development opportunities here because the Northeast is not yet overdeveloped like parts of the Southeast.”

RDC plans to add three to five golf facilities per year on the East Coast.
he asked for an exemption from the rule. A once-a-week player with a 16 handicap, he explained that his disability would not allow him to leave the cart and walk up to 60 yards on sometimes hilly terrain. The course refused his request because of what it considered tender turf and suggested he play at the other municipal course 11 miles away.

Duckworth went before the Boone County authorities, who likewise refused his request. Golfer and golf course dug in.

“Told him,” said Jones, “Don’t just sit there. Seek advice and you don’t need to pay an attorney.” Jones told him he had protection under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). He suggested Duckworth file a grievance with the Department of Justice.

After his request was refused in an exchange of letters to county authorities. Duckworth went before them personally and got no satisfaction, so he filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Justice in April 1996. Justice referred the matter to the Department of the Interior, which is the designated investigating agency under Title 2 of (ADA).

The matter was handled by Jack Andre, equal opportunity specialist for the National Park Service.

“The act requires that all state and local programs be available to people with disabilities,” reported Andre, “unless providing access would cause an undue burden, like financial, or alter the nature of the program in this case the game of golf.”

Andre communicated with the county, which held that based upon advice from the USGA and the course architect, the tender turf (three years after completion) could be damaged by carts deviating from the path. Andre went to the course for an on-site inspection. As Duckworth only golfed once a week, Andre argued, how much damage could his cart do, especially in light of daily tractor, mower and utility cart traffic. The county responded that its other course would allow Duckworth to deviate from the path.

“We found,” said Andre, “that each course is unique. That’s why people play golf. Along with this, Mr. Duckworth was playing in a league at Lassing Pointe.” He ruled that the course would “…have to allow this reasonable modification (driving off the path) to allow the man to play golf.”

According to Andre, the county wrote to him advising that it would comply on April 1, 1999. “[The date] was just too

Capitol Golf
Continued from page 35
bring a unique combination,” Allen said, “of golf experience and experience in other businesses — hospitality, service, real estate, management and acquisitions.

“The golf industry is changing dramatically. If you have only golf experience and don’t know how the golf industry mixes into general business management, you could lose out.

“The Mom-and-Pop operations are starting to reach the point where they are consolidating, just like the local department stores started to become parts of large chains. We don’t want to take away the atmosphere of the small operation. We just want to add the resources that are available through consolidation.”

Pro shop and clubhouse changes were set to begin in early September, Allen said.

“When we’re done it will be considered one of the best values in the Southeast,” Allen added. “There will be wonderful opportunities at Jones Creek.”

Capitol Golf purchased the course Aug. 1 for $5.15 million, the Capitol executive said. Work should be done by January or February. Reconditioning costs have run about $100,000, he added.

Continued on page 46