

BRIEFS



ALLENBRAND HIRED

CALABASAS, Calif.—Environmental Golf has named Gary Allenbrand to the position of business development manager for West Coast Golf Maintenance Sales. Allenbrand will be responsible for developing business opportunities for the western United States.



Gary Allenbrand

GOTHAM ADDS PAIR

MIAMI — Gotham Golf Partners (GGP) has added two courses, Fairfax National Golf Club in Centreville, Va., and Links of Challedon in Mt. Airy, Md., giving the firm 16 golf course facilities located throughout the Eastern Seaboard and Gulf Coast states. GGP purchased the two courses from an investor group led by Joseph Meyerhof, III, with NationsCredit financing the acquisition. Fairfax National is a 27-hole, semi-private facility and the Links of Challedon features an 18-hole, daily-fee course.

TWO FOR UNITED, TOO

NEW YORK — United Golf Group added Lakeside Golf Club and Atlanta International Golf Club to its portfolio at a total cost of \$18 million. The facilities are located in suburban Atlanta, and will be managed by Kemper Sports Management.

SCHOERKE JOINS FMAC

LOS ANGELES — FMAC has hired Douglas A. Schoerke as marketing vice president for FMAC Golf Finance Group LLC (FGFG). As a marketing vice president, Schoerke identifies financing opportunities and develops relationships with prospective customers in the central Midwest, Mid-Atlantic and Southeast regions of the United States. Schoerke earned a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Kansas in 1985 and works out of FMAC's office in Greensboro, N.C.

CMAA PROMOTES WALLMEYER

ALEXANDRIA, Va.—The Club Managers Association of America has promoted Henry Wallmeyer to manager of Premier Club Services. Wallmeyer will oversee all department programs and develop and implement new programs, products and services.

AG-UK takes St. Mellion, updates to follow shortly

By TREVOR LEDGER

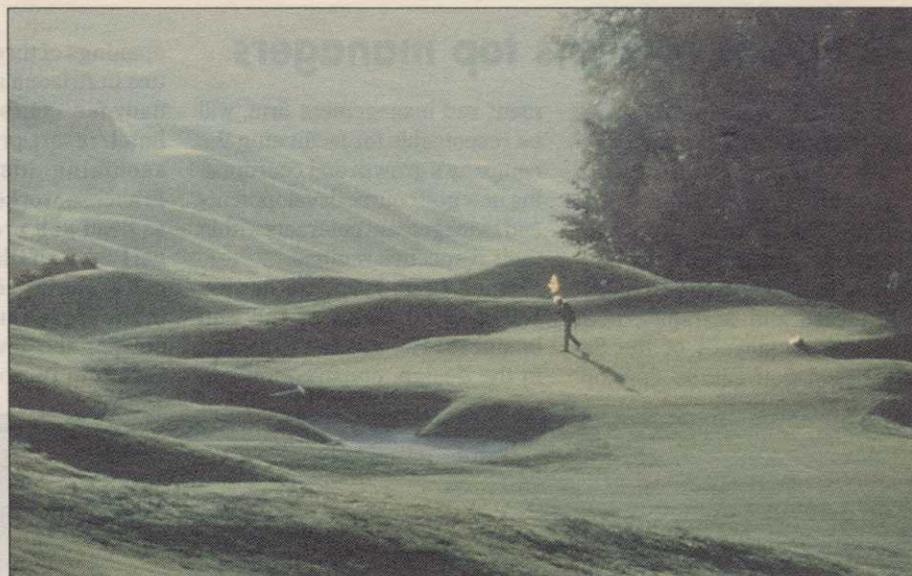
CORNWALL, England — American Golf (UK) Ltd. (AG-UK) has bought the prestigious St. Mellion Golf & Country Club from Martin and Herman Bond.

This is the 12th acquisition for AG-UK and marks the trend of its continued expansion into the United Kingdom golf market.

With AG-UK tripling in size over the last four years and up to seven further purchases planned in the next 10 months, the Santa Monica, Calif.-based parent outfit is feeling bullish.

St. Mellion boasts 36 holes and has hosted a number of Volvo European Tour events. The original 18-hole layout was designed by J. Hamilton-Stutt in 1976 with the additional Jack Nicklaus course opening in 1988.

Initial indications of AG-UK's intentions



The 2nd hole at St. Mellions. AG-UK's latest acquisition.

are promising. Course Manager Robert Brewer confirmed: "It's very positive. Our biggest problem has been the inability of the Nicklaus course to drain adequately. In August we are planning to install improved drainage. Also, we are going to install a new irrigation system on the tees of the Old Course in October."

Also planned is the construction of a new workshop and creation of a new post, that of in-house mechanic.

The mechanic will be responsible, among other things, for the upkeep of a substantial amount of new turf-care machinery, which will be brought in within the next few months.



LINKSCORP PURCHASES STONEBRIDGE

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—LinksCorp, Inc. has purchased George Cobb-designed Stonebridge Golf Course in Memphis, Tenn. "We've been looking for some time to expand our presence into Memphis," said LinksCorp Chief Executive Officer Ben Blake. "It's a great golf market. And with two properties in Nashville, and the No. 1- and No. 2-rated daily-fee courses in the state in Crossville (Stonehenge Golf Club) and Knoxville (River Islands Golf Club), we are pleased to get a foothold in Memphis." Planned improvements to the course include turf and bunker work as well as enhancements to the clubhouse. Said Tom Lenz, LinksCorp's senior vice president of operations, "We plan to immediately make the improvements to the course and clubhouse while maintaining the high level of service to our customers."

Clubhaus expands into fitness arena

LONDON — London-based Clubhaus PLC is expanding its interests following a busy year, spending £36.3 million (roughly \$60 million) on acquisitions during 1997.

Nine of 16 golf clubs (all situated in Europe) will have fitness centers attached to them, increasing the facilities available to the 15,000-plus Clubhaus members.

Clubhaus Chairman Robert Bourne was upbeat about the group's activities. "The group is now in a position to consolidate the asset base and to develop other facilities that will complement the golf clubs," he said.

Clubhaus' profits tripled to more than £5 million (\$8 million) in 1997. During the same period, £6 million (\$10 million) was spent on improvements and upgrades throughout the group.

Significant U.K. developments include another 18 holes at Three Rivers Golf Club in Essex, designed by European Golf Design, which opened June 23. Castle Royle Golf Club in Berkshire has been treated to a new clubhouse to replace the converted barn, which has served up until now. The new building will be officially opened Saturday, June 27. The Nizels Golf Club in Kent has undergone signifi-

Continued on page 42

PERSONNEL CORNER

Hiring necessitates different strokes for different golf folks

By VINCE ALFONSO JR.

Vince Sr.'s philosophy of being a manager is simple: Never ask an employee to do anything you would not do yourself.

He carried that philosophy through his days as owner of his grocery store, Weona #88, to his head professional days at Bella Vista Country Club in Memphis, Tenn. Besides managing his employees, Dad cleaned clubs, fixed golf cars, sold clubs, vacuumed the shop, changed grips, etc., etc., etc.

Uncle Mario shared Dad's philosophy. So, when he left his grocery store, Weona #68, to become the builder and superintendent of Bella Vista, this philosophy and style of management came with him, also. Besides managing his employees, Uncle Mario fixed mowing and irrigation equipment, mowed greens and fairways, planted trees, etc., etc., etc.

Just in case you haven't figured it out on your own, I'm a lot (a whole lot) like Dad and Uncle Mario. I, too, have adopted their philosophy and style of management. I would never ask an employee to do anything I would not do myself.

Now, let's talk about how this particular philosophy and management style affects the hiring practices we use in hiring some of our key people.

You and I know that if you are from the old school, you hire golf professionals and superintendents expecting them to work as you do, hands on. We know they are going

Continued on page 44

OB Sports realigns top managers

SEATTLE, Wash.—OB Sports has realigned its top management staff, appointing Bob Marshall president of OB Sports/Northwest and Ed Francese president of OB Sports/Southwest.

Francese and Marshall, both long-time employees of the Seattle-based golf course develop-

ment and management firm, will be responsible for facilitating the company's growth and coordinating new golf course developments and management contracts within their respective regions.

Since 1972, Francese has excelled in all facets of the golf business. He was instrumental in the design, construction and

openings of three new golf facilities in Arizona and has operated daily-fee courses, private, and hotel/resort properties. Before assuming his current role, Francese worked for OB Sports as head golf professional at Angel Park Golf Club and director of golf at The Legacy Golf Club, both in Las Vegas. Currently he is coordinating the development of The Gallery in Tucson, Ariz., as well as

other new OB properties in Palm Springs, Calif., and Nevada.

Throughout his career, OB Sports co-founder Bob Marshall has worked in almost every aspect of golf course management. His diversified abilities were fully exhibited by his performance as director of golf, club manager and superintendent at Teton Pines Golf Club in Jackson Hole, Wyo. Marshall acted as project



manager and construction supervisor from inception and contributed significantly to the design of this highly regarded facility. With OB Sports, he was directly responsible for the "turnkey" development of The Reserve Vineyards and Golf Club, a 36-hole facility in Portland, Ore.

OB Sports operates, or is in the process of constructing, courses in Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Arizona and Texas.

In related personnel announcements:

Jeff Fought has been named project manager at Langdon Farms in Portland. Fought previously held head golf professional positions for OB Sports at Angel Park and at Langdon Farms.

Sean Cracraft has been named project manager for The Reserve, a 36-hole facility designed, built and managed by OB Sports in Aurora, Ore. He previously served as head professional for OB Sports at Angel Park and Teton Pines and as head superintendent at Langdon Farms.

Wade Dunagan was appointed project manager for The Gallery at Dove Mountain, a new 18-hole course and residential community opening in Tucson this November.

Clubhaus

Continued from page 41

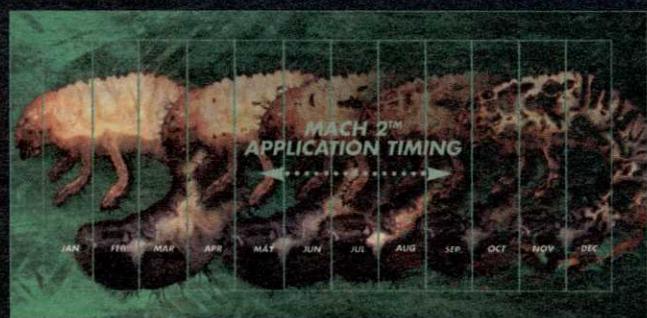
cant upgrading.

Elsewhere in Europe, the Forêt de Montpensier club in Vichy, France had a new clubhouse open in May, making the club fully operational.

March 1998 saw the launch of Clubhaus' own brand of golf merchandise ranging from clothing to clubs under the brand name 'Ikarus.'

Jonathan Talbot-Weiss of Clubhaus' group marketing and sales confirmed chairman Bourne's plans for the immediate future. "We have no plans for further expansion at the moment. We shall continue to focus on the UK and Germany. We believe that the long-term trend for these areas is positive. The German golf market is robust and growing. With three courses already in place there, eventual further expansion is a natural progression for us as we will need very little further infrastructure."

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