



The shot from the 14th tee box at Yin Shi Fu Golf Resort near the Great Wall of China.

## Ian Woosnam to design golf course near China's Great Wall

BEIJING — Ian Woosnam announced recently that he is designing an 18-hole golf course near the Great Wall of China, about 45 minutes north of downtown Beijing.

"We have been purchasing this land near the Great Wall since 1995, and we believe we have superb terrain that will allow Ian Woosnam to design a truly unique course," said Yin Jian, chairman of the Long De Hang Co Ltd. the project's developer.

According to Woosnam, "This is going to be a phenomenal project. My team has walked the site and we are absolutely thrilled by the land and its proximity to one of the world's great landmarks."

Construction of the 7,200-yard, par-72 Yin Shi Fu Golf Resort course is currently underway and is scheduled to open in the spring of 2000.

Located 40 minutes from the Beijing International Airport, the club is situated in the foothills of the northern mountains,

in close proximity to The Great Wall.

"On clear days," said Brit Stenson, senior designer on the project, "The Great Wall can be seen from the site and will be visible from the golf clubhouse dining room."

According to Stenson, the site combines existing hills, rolling farmland and thousands of trees. "Much of the upland area is in orchard use, as was the original Augusta National, with flowing crabapple, apple, and cherry trees, while the lower areas of the site are studded with towering poplars."

Woosnam added that he'll be incorporating a "least disturbance" concept when designing the golf course.

The project follows the opening of Dale Hill Golf Club in Sussex, England — a Woosnam-designed course — and two other recent projects by Ian Woosnam Design — one in La Union, the Philippines and the other in Shenzhen, China.

## Hills takes his talents to UK, promises not to impose U.S. style

By MARK LESLIE

WATFORD, England — American golf course architect Arthur Hills is designing his first course in the United Kingdom, but he promises not to impose the American style on the English countryside.

"We're not going to pop in an American-style golf course there," he said from his Toledo, Ohio, headquarters. "We'll build one that looks like it's been there a long while. It might be parkland style because of where it is located, but nothing in the design will look American and we won't heavily water it."

Owned by real-estate developers Stewart and Daniel Levy, the 200 acres just outside London is a "beautiful prop-

erty," Hills said, "and a tremendous opportunity. It is typical English countryside: gently rolling land with huge beech trees and oaks, sheep in the pastures and a barge canal along one edge."

The former railroad-owned land boasts a large hotel building which will serve as a conference center and hotel. The Levys will develop it as a destination resort.

Hills and his lead architect, Drew Rogers, anticipate British-style maintenance practices, Hills adding, "I certainly hope it's kept drier than over here."

The developers are waiting for the last of the necessary permits to be issued and hope to start construction on the course as early as fall.

## Golf Strategies in New South Wales

DOORALONG, New South Wales, Australia — Golf Strategies is designing an 18-hole golf course to complement the existing accommodation and conference facilities of the Dooralong Lodge here.

The lodge is located just outside Dooralong, a small town in Wyong Shire, around 100 kilometers north of Sydney. Adjacent to the Olney State Forest, the golf course property consists of rolling hillsides and gentle valleys with meandering streams. Native eucalyptus forest fills a large proportion of the site.

The owner plans a number of villa lodges to be clustered around the course which has been planned to ensure retention of wide belts of vegetation between holes to retain the bush character of the site.

This is Golf Strategies' first new course project on the eastern seaboard of Aus-

tralia. It has concentrated its focus on South and Western Australia.

Golf Strategies' principal Neil Crafter will head up the design for the project. "We are pleased to be designing our first course in New South Wales and with the inherent potential and great natural beauty of this site we are confident that this course will establish our reputation in eastern Australia," he said.

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Elsewhere, Golf Strategies has completed its redesign of the South Course at Patawalonga in Adelaide, South Australia. The course reopened in December.

The redevelopment was necessary due to the lengthening of Adelaide International Airport's main runway by 570 meters and the realignment of a major road around the new runway which caused nine holes of the existing course to be lost.

## Pitman begins Singapore track

SINGAPORE — Having first provided a feasibility study for upgrading the 18-hole Seletar Country Club here, Chris Pitman Golf Course Architectural (S) Pte Ltd has been awarded the contract for full design and working drawings to fulfill the site works over the next two years. The construction of the first nine-hole phase began in April. Next to a reservoir on the north part of the island, Seletar Country Club boasts one of the most beautiful settings in Singapore. The extra tropical rainfall of the area is the prime factor in the specifications for the reconstruction operation, and strong shaping under a deep sand layer is the proven drainage technology in this part of the world.

### THOMPSON CHANGES NAME

SAN RAFAEL, Calif., USA — Thompson Planning Group Ltd., a long-time player in the Asian golf design market, has changed its name to Thompson Golf Planning Ltd. According to company president Peter L.H. Thompson, the new name more appropriately reflects the organization's "overall work in golf course planning and architecture."

GOLF COURSE NEWS



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