**FLAT PIPE A MONEY-SAVER IN GREENS CONSTRUCTION**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Operating on the philosophy that it is more profitable to reduce expenses through innovation than by cheapening the product, a growing number of golf course projects are installing or remodeling putting greens with a new drainage technique.

The key ingredient is a flat, perforated corrugated plastic pipe called AdvanEDGE, made by Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc. (ADS) here. Developed in 1988 as an edge drain to be installed vertically alongside highways, AdvanEDGE reportedly has about twice the soil contact area of 4-inch round pipe, and will collect and drain water almost twice as quickly.

In the early 1990s, football stadiums began laying the pipe horizontally under the playing turf and found that this accelerated water collection from heavy rainfalls. The concept has since spread to other recreational areas, and now golf courses.

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**DIABLO CREEK GETTING REDO**

CONCORD, Calif. — The city of Concord has selected Golf Dimensions to provide development management and construction management services for the $2 million renovation of the city-owned Diablo Creek Golf Course. Robert Muir Graves & Damian Pascurro Limited will design the renovation of the daily-fee course, originally built in 1963 as the Concord Municipal Golf Course. The design phase is scheduled for completion in May, and the completion of the renovation work is anticipated by October.

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**SNEVA BUILDS SECOND COURSE**

LAVONDALE, Ariz. — Former Indianapolis 500 winner Tom Sneva has announced his newest golf course project, Coldwater Golf Club here. "The site presents a terrific opportunity," said golf course architect Forrest Richardson. "We are basically taking a flat canvas and transforming it into a golfing roller coaster." Sneva’s first project, The 500 Club, is located in north Phoenix and opened in 1998. Richardson has routed the 18-hole, par-72 course as part of a master drainage and floodwater system for the community. The course is expected to open for play in the fall.

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**TOLL BROTHERS BUSY BUILDING**

HUNTINGDON VALLEY, Pa. — Toll Brothers, Inc. has formed a joint venture with Aera Energy LLC, California’s largest oil producer, to initiate development of an 840-acre community in northern Orange County, which will include more than 2,100 lots and a 200-acre public golf course. Toll Brothers spokesmen is in various stages of design, planning or construction for master-planned communities in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, Florida and Michigan.

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**ATLANTIC CITY TAKES AGGRESSIVE GOLF TACK**

By JOHN TORSIELLO

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Atlantic City is known for its casinos, the Miss America Beauty Pageant and saltwater taffy. If the Greater Atlantic City Golf Association (GACGA) gets its way, the city and surrounding area will be known also for its golf courses.

The association is in the midst of an effort to attract golfers and grab a higher profile for its eight members: Sand Barrens, Harbor Pines, Blue Heron, Cape May National and Mays Landing golf clubs, Brigantine Golf Links, Great Bay Resort and Country Club, and Seawave Resort. The group is aggressively marketing stay-and-play packages, some in consort with casinos and hotels in the area. While a few casinos have bought into golf as a selling point, the owners of most of the city’s gambling establishments have yet to embrace the game as a means to lengthen the time visitors stick around the city.

The reason? An old fear that anything which takes gamblers out of the gaming rooms is bad for business. Despite the reluctance of some casino owners, GACGA

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**ROSS WATSON TO KEEP FOOT IN ASIAN DOOR**

INDOOROO PILLY, Queensland, Australia — Ross Watson is a past president of the Society of Australian Golf Course Architects and one of GCN's first sources for background on Australia and Asian course development. GCN recently spent a few minutes with Watson to discuss the recent downsizing of his Malaysian office and how he sees his architecture business riding out the waves of the current economic storm. The smart money, said Watson, will be poised and ready when the inevitable recovery comes around.

**GOLF COURSE NEWS**

As an architect who has used Asia as a primary target, can you give us a snapshot of the Asian market from where you sit today?

**ROSS WATSON:** We’ve had an office in Malaysia for about 4 years or so. In fact, I lived there three years up until a year ago. Just a few weeks ago we downsized that operation significantly, obviously due to our read of the economic situation. Projects were, virtually, overnight, being put on hold or canceled. We made a major effort there building our niche in the market, and frankly we were looking forward to finally reaping some rewards. And then this happens. So, from where I sit, I see four years of hard work and not much to show for it at this point of time.

**GCN:** What did you have to do to achieve this downsizing?

**RW:** Whether it’s two years or five years, I couldn’t

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**DEVELOPMENT**

**FLAT PIPE A MONEY-SAVER IN GREENS CONSTRUCTION**

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