

BRIEFS



CASPER APPOINTS MAURAGAS

VIENNA, Va. — Billy Casper Golf Management, Inc. appointed Robert Mauragas to the position of Regional Golf Operations Manager, a capacity in which he will direct the implementation of myriad programs for several Mid-Atlantic region golf properties under the company's operation. Mauragas will work with on-site, golf course personnel in managing projects related to golf operations, customer service, capital improvements, turf management, equipment/supplies, MIS, financial and activities reporting, training food and beverage, and merchandising. Since 1988, Mauragas, a PGA member, was head golf professional at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club, an exclusive 54-hole private facility in Far Hills, N.J. He also participated in Fiddler's Elbow's development and construction of 18 new holes designed by Rees Jones.



Robert Mauragas

KEMPER NAMES LESNIK GM AT BANDON

CHICAGO — Kemper Sports Management has named Josh Lesnik general manager of Bandon Dunes, a 54-hole, 2,000-acre oceanfront development under construction on Oregon's South Coast. Lesnik has served as Kemper's marketing director for the past several years. The first course at Bandon Dunes, designed by Scottish architect David McLay Kidd, is scheduled to open in June 1999.



Josh Lesnik

MYRTLE BEACH RESORT RENAMED

DALLAS — Patriot American Hospitality, Inc. and Wyndham International, Inc. announced that the Myrtle Beach Hilton Oceanfront Golf Resort converted to a Wyndham resort on February 1. The property will be renamed the Wyndham Myrtle Beach Resort and undergo an \$8.5 million renovation. Patriot American acquired the resort last August and owns the proprietary Wyndham brand. The 385-room property includes Arcadian Shores Golf Club, a Rees Jones championship design.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Cobblestone acquires two new properties

DEL MAR, Calif.— Cobblestone Golf Group, Inc., the Del Mar-based golf course ownership and operating company recently acquired by Meditrust, has purchased Sabal Point Country Club in Longwood, Fla., near Orlando and The Champion's Club of Apalachee Farms near Atlanta.

Sabal Point is an 18-hole semi-private club. The purchase from American Skiing Company, which operates numerous ski resorts and affiliated golf courses throughout the country, represents Cobblestone's third acquisition in Florida.

The Champion's Club of Apalachee Farms is also an 18-hole semi-private club. It was purchased from Fairway Properties, L.P. and is Cobblestone's second holding in the Atlanta area.

The two acquisitions expand Cobblestone's portfolio to 27 golf properties in six states.

"We are very excited about the purchase of both Sabal Point Country Club and The Champion's Club of Apalachee Farms and expanding our portfolio of golf courses in the Southeast Region," said Cobblestone President Bob Husband.

In January, Cobblestone Holdings, Inc., parent of Cobblestone Golf Group, Inc., reached an agreement to be acquired by Meditrust Companies. Meditrust is a paired shared real estate investment trust and among the nation's largest health-



ACQUISITIONS

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ClubLink's King Valley GC outside Toronto recently picked up a number of public relatives.

ClubLink makes major move into Canadian daily-fee course market

By PETER BLAIS

KING CITY, Ontario, Canada — ClubLink Corporation has acquired 10 public courses and 450 neighboring acres of developable land in the Greater Toronto Area. The new facilities nearly double ClubLink's holdings to 22 courses and substantially increase the course operator's presence in Canada's daily-fee market.

The acquisitions totaled \$43 million, which will be paid from existing cash, debt and \$3.5 million in ClubLink shares, noted Bruce Simmonds, president and chief executive officer of ClubLink.

The new ClubLink properties include:

- Blue Springs Golf Club (27 holes) located near ClubLink's existing Greystone Golf Club and RattleSnake Point Golf Club on Toronto's west side. "Strategically it is important to us because the west end is an explosive growth area," Simmonds said. "Presently that market is undeserved by high-end, daily-fee courses. ClubLink is also building an upscale, 45-hole facility in [nearby] Oakville called RattleSnake Point that will open in early 1999. We're now far and away the dominant player in western Toronto with 120 holes once RattleSnake opens."

- Georgetown Golf Club (18 holes) and Bolton Golf Club (27 holes) are also

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Assumption of risk still a dicey issue

By EDWARD EVERETT VAILL

For years, participants in potentially dangerous sporting activities accepted that their pastimes were protected by the legal doctrine of "assumption of risk," which held that if the participant knowingly or implicitly assumed the risk and was injured, there was no liability. That isn't entirely true, anymore. In the wake of some of California's recent legal rulings, it is apparent that assumption of risk is a complex legal area in which the stakes for potential liability to sports operators can be very high. The point is, the provider is never automatically absolved of responsibility in participant

injuries.

Two interesting California cases demonstrate the gamut of interpretations of this law and serve to reinforce the need for recreational operators to identify and prevent safety problems, and for participants to use common sense. In some instances that isn't enough, and the issue of fault must be decided in the courts, often at a daunting cost to defendant and plaintiff.

In one troubling 1995 lawsuit, the plaintiff was hit on the head by a golf ball and sued the golf course operator for negligence. A frequent golfer on this particular course, the plaintiff claimed he was injured near the 5th tee, because the operator had removed a diseased pine tree that had protected the plaintiff in the past from balls flying from the 4th tee. The appellate



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Fuller seized opportunities, made his own

By PETER BLAIS

William "Billy" Fuller, 48, has what many superintendents would consider a dream job. "You don't sit back and plan every activity that happens in your career," Fuller said. "Some of those things just evolve. Opportunities come up and I've been very fortunate in that regard."

Fuller is senior agronomist/associate for Cupp Design, making him responsible for meshing agronomic technology with the golf course architectural firm's design and construction programs.

His involvement begins with the first day of planning a new course, and includes such items as qualifying turf selections, evaluating equipment



Billy Fuller

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PGATTA selects board members

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — The PGA TOUR Tournaments Association (PGATTA) recently elected new officers. Formerly known as American Golf Sponsors, PGATTA is an organization for all PGA TOUR tournaments, with tournament directors the primary members.

Elected to two-year terms were Dwight Drinkard, FedEx St. Jude Classic as president; Peter Calihan, Phoenix Open as incoming vice president; and

Tony Piazza, LaCantera Texas Open as secretary/treasurer. Assuming board positions are Ms. Johnnie Bender, Michelob Championship at Kingsmill; Bill Paul, Bell Canadian Open; Kym Hougham, Quad City Classic; Tom Strong, Greater Milwaukee Open; Lou Russo, AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am; and Jim Wisner, The Memorial; Immediate Past President Tommy Wulff, Freeport-McDermott Classic.

Assumption of risk

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court agreed with the plaintiff, determining the operator owed a duty of care to the plaintiff in the design and maintenance of its golf course and should not have removed the tree. (One wonders how the court would have ruled had the golf ball hit a branch of the diseased tree, causing it to fall on the plaintiff.)

In its ruling, the appellate court

differentiated between the duty of a golfer, which is to not intentionally injure another player or engage in reckless conduct totally outside the range of the ordinary activity involved in golf, and the duty of a golf course operator. The court found that the operator must provide a reasonably safe course, and minimize the risk that players will be hit by golf balls, for example, by the way the various tee, fairways and greens are aligned or separated.

Fortunately, such judgments against operators are rare. The courts usually hold that liability for unintended accidents must be eliminated to ensure that the fervor of athletic competition will not be chilled by the constant threat of litigation.

We see this doctrine applied in a 1996 superior court decision involving a rock-climbing accident in which the plaintiff's husband was killed during a rock-climbing class. The complaint alleged that the decedent's fall was the result of the instructors' negligence in placing four rope anchors into a single-crack system resulting in the release of the climbing rope holding him. The court found that "inherent in the sport of rock climbing is the fact a fall can occur at any time, regardless of the negligence of one's co-participants."

As the law in California stands, co-participants in sporting activities — golfers, for example — are largely found not to be liable for causing sporting accidents, even if the golfer does not yell "fore," unless their conduct was reckless or intentional. In the operator or instructor-student setting, liability is generally not found unless the instructor acts recklessly or with intent to injure, or in controlling the sporting "playing field," the operator or instructor fails to provide a "safe environment." It is important to remember, however, that when the risk causing the accident is not inherent in the particular sports activity, the chance of operator liability increases.

Cobblestone

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care real estate investment trusts. Meditrust has a market capitalization of more than \$4.5 billion.

Cobblestone Golf Group, Inc. and Cobblestone Holdings, Inc. recently extended their tender offers for all of the outstanding 11.5-percent Senior Notes due 2003 of Cobblestone Golf Group, Inc. and all outstanding 13.5-percent Senior Zero-Coupon Notes due 2004 of Cobblestone Holdings, Inc. until 5 p.m., New York City time, on March 6. The tender offers were being extended to coincide with the expected consummation of the merger with Meditrust.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

QUELANT™-Ca

Calcium & Amino Acids

CALCIUM DEFICIENCY CORRECTOR

Addition of calcium to the soil by traditional means is not usually efficient or effective in treating the calcium deficiency of turfgrass. Once applied, the common forms of liming materials can rapidly change to compounds that are insoluble in water and not readily available to the plant. Continuous applications over long time periods are necessary to effect even modest improvements in calcium uptake.

Quelant™-Ca is a newly available amino acid chelated calcium product that corrects calcium deficiencies in turfgrass upon application. Quelant™-Ca provides readily available calcium chelated with amino acids so that it is easily absorbed by the leaves and/or the roots of the plant regardless of most soil and water conditions. The unique formulation of amino acids used for chelation was



developed not only to facilitate absorption by the leaves and roots, but to increase mobility of the calcium within the plant as well.

Quelant™-Ca is normally applied as a foliar spray and may also be applied through fertigation. Either way, it is tank-mix compatible with herbicides, soluble fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides and plant growth regulators. It will even help improve the efficiency of most of these treatments by increasing their absorption and translocation within the plant.

Best of all, Quelant™-Ca is economical to use and it protects the environment.

Quelant™-Ca — a true systemic. It's new...it's unique...and nothing else works quite like it!

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