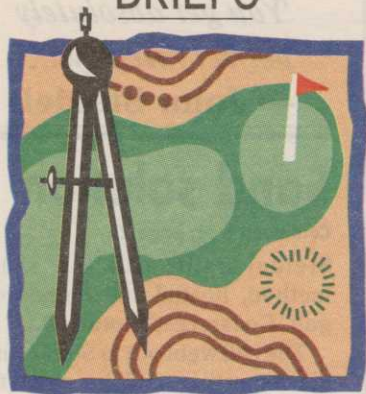


## BRIEFS



## ASPEN GOLF NAMES KELLY

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Aspen Golf has announced the addition of Kraig Kelly as Southwest region manager. Kelly is based here and will be responsible for providing services in Arizona, Nevada and California. Aspen Golf specializes in the design and construction of golf course water features including lake construction, rock walls and waterfalls, aeration, timber walls and bridges, decorative shorelines and streams. Kelly may be contacted at 602-307-0285.

## GOLF RESOURCES CHANGES NAME

DALLAS — The golf course design firm Golf Resources Group has changed its name to D.A. Weibring/Golf Resources Group Inc. (Weibring/GRI) to capitalize on the national identity of 22-year PGA professional golfer and company chairman D.A. Weibring. Weibring was one of the founding principals of the company while continuing to play on the PGA Tour, where he won five championships. The Plano resident also won twice overseas. The company has also announced the addition of Steve Wolfard to its design team. He is a former executive with Jack Nicklaus/Golden Bear International, Inc. and Gene Bates.

## IMG'S RIELLY MOVES TO SAN FRAN

SAN FRANCISCO — Mike Rielly, senior international vice president at IMG, transferred on July 1 to IMG San Francisco, from where he will oversee IMG's global golf course design business and assume direct responsibility for these activities in North and South America. Rielly has lived in Asia since 1990. He first moved to Tokyo from IMG's world headquarters in Cleveland in order to establish IMG's first Asian real-estate office. Rielly was most recently managing director of IMG Singapore, headquarters for Asian real estate, and managed IMG's real-estate staff in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Beijing, Manila, Jakarta and Singapore.

## ERIC WEISKOPF JOINS RODGERS

Eric Weiskopf is the newest member of Larry Rodgers Design Group (LRDG), a golf course irrigation consultant. LRDG opened a Phoenix office in May, managed by Weiskopf, to respond to the demand of existing golf course GPS mapping services. PGA Tour great Tom Weiskopf's son, he was on the golf teams of Ohio State and the University of Arizona, followed by four years of caddying on the PGA Tour, and worked in the construction industry for one year. Weiskopf's office is located at 4408 N. 24th St., Phoenix, Ariz. 85016; phone 602-725-4693.

GOLF COURSE NEWS



As shown on Cedarcrest Golf Course's 12th hole above, once the sod is stripped off the fairways, 4 inches of sand is laid atop new drainage tiles. At right is Cedarcrest's 3rd hole after construction.

By DOUG SAUNDERS

MARYSVILLE, Wash. — Strip the sod, lay down drainage lines and 4 inches of sand over the entire course and you've solved the shoulder season scramble in the Great Northwest. That's The World According to John Steidel.

A golf course architect, Steidel had used this procedure, minus the sod-stripping, on a couple of new courses but had never closed down a facility and completely rehabilitated it in this manner. That was until the opportunity came at the municipal Cedarcrest Golf Course here.

"The reason we did this," Steidel said from his Kennewick offices, "was that the financial success of a public golf course mostly concerns how successful you are in the shoulder season — March, April, part of May, and September and October."

The prime advantages of the sand solution, he said, are that the course drains quicker, stays firmer and allows for maintenance work to continue on a more regular basis."

## Not all 100% sand greens 'California'

By DR. MICHAEL J. HURDZAN

There seems to be a false notion that any golf green constructed of 100-percent sand is a California green. This is incorrect and I will explain why people have experienced such varying degrees of success with pure sand construction.

When someone tells me that they built a California green, the first question I ask is "Which lab did the testing to help you select your sand?" Nearly always I am told that no laboratory was used, so my second question is "Then, how do you know it is a California green?" The point



Michael Hurdzan

is that not all 100-percent sand greens are true California greens as defined in publication #21448, The Sand Putting Green Construction and Management available from: Publications Division Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California, 6701 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, CA 94608-1239.

By definition, California greens are made of 100-percent sand that meets the following particle size distribution: 90 to 100 percent of particles with a diameter between 0.1 and 1.0mm; and 50 to 70 percent of particles with a diameter of 0.50 to 0.25mm. Angular to sub-angular shape is preferred. Any sand outside that range may work just fine, but it is technically not a California green — it is a 100-percent sand green.

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## Steidel perfects sand solution in Northwest



"The question is, what happens in the spring when people are watching The Masters and want to golf and it is sunny, but the course is a bog and the balls are plugging," Steidel said. "Here in the Northwest we get 40 inches of rain a year, but we also have 240 days of clouds, which means the golf courses don't get the sunshine needed to dry out. Muddy conditions can be standard in March and April, cutting down on play."

The 75-year-old Cedarcrest is tucked into 120 acres of rolling, tree-covered terrain. For years it was the only place in the area to play, but as new courses opened, the need to improve in order to keep up with the competition became evident.

The city officials' decision to follow Steidel's advice and close the course for a new "topping" came on a sunny day in January 1997 when nearby Lynwood Municipal Golf Course, which

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Twin Bridges is architect Bob Lohmann's latest creation.

## Twin Bridges opens for play; USGA Seniors visit a month later

DANVILLE, Ind. — Twin Bridges Golf Club, a unique environmental collaboration between Lohmann Golf Designs (LGD), Heritage Golf Management, Waste Management Inc. and Audubon International, has opened for play here outside Indianapolis. One month following a May 29 grand opening ceremony, Twin Bridges played host to USGA Senior Amateur qualifying.

Named for a pair of railway trestles that criss-cross the property, Twin Bridges is owned by Waste Management, the rubbish disposal company which operates a landfill on another portion of the 800-acre property. Bob Lohmann routed the 18 holes so as to skirt the landfill completely. His construction firm, Golf Creations, built the course with help from Heritage, which stayed on to manage the facility.

Twin Bridges was constructed with the utmost environmental sensitivity; it has already earned "Signature" status, the highest designation bestowed by Audubon International (AI). "The course is a real showpiece," said Ron Dodson, president of Selkirk, N.Y.-based AI, a nonprofit organization that facilitates responsible golf course development and maintenance practices worldwide. "The work Bob Lohmann has done at Twin Bridges has been so tremendous. He wouldn't even authorize the clearing of site lines until we walked the parcel together. When we had, he went out of his way to maintain natural riparian corridors."

While the sensitive design and construction of Twin Bridges stand as considerable achievements (albino deer have

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## Twin Bridges

Continued from page 27

been sighted on the back nine), they take a back seat to the layout itself. Lohmann has created an exhilarating variety of golf holes here: Existing ravines strategically frame several fairways while others swoop downhill into more gentle, rolling terrain. "The course looks like it has been here for years," said head pro Jeff Peters.

Indeed, Lohmann said the site's environ-

mental sensitivity never hindered his design team. "It was an opportunity, to tell you the truth," said Lohmann, president and founder of Marengo, Ill.-based LGD and Golf Creations. "The owner was obligated to leave many areas untouched, so we used those areas to the advantage of the environment and the golfer. Snake dens and other habitats were left untouched, for example, which provides nice separation for the golf holes."

Because much of the site is gently rolling and treeless, Lohmann incorporated an off-beat series of mounds and depressions

to provide definition. Lohmann has also created a unique grading scheme around the putting surfaces through use of expanded collars, depressions and various bunker patterns, including old-fashioned pot bunkers on the 15th. "It's a different sort of look," Lohmann explained.

"The effect is interesting: The expanded collars make the putting surfaces look larger than they are. And these chipping areas invite all sorts of creativity around the greens. If you miss, you can putt, chip or hit a 3-wood like Tiger."

*You get absolutely perfect fairways...'*

— John Steidel

## Sand solution

Continued from page 27

Steidel built with the sand method, hosted 160 rounds of golf. Cedarcrest's total: 60.

The call went out to Steidel for his expertise, and he went to work.

"We tried to correct all the problems," he said. "If areas were not draining well, we tried to correct them. If areas were too flat, we raised them and graded them. We put drain lines down and 4 inches of sand over the entire course — from the edge of the cart path to the far side of the fairway."

The fairways were then hydroseeded and quickly established a strong root system in the sandy base.

One complication during the procedure is connecting the new drainage lines to the old ones "so that they don't weep out and leave wet areas everywhere," Steidel said. "The two or three problems they found in the last year were drain lines that had been cut and no one knew about it."

Every tee and 16 greens were also rebuilt in the process.

The result of the renovation? "You get absolutely perfect fairways instead of fairways full of stump holes that are impossible to mow and holes 3 feet in diameter and a foot deep where the grass is 2 inches long in the middle of the fairway," he said.

Steidel said that in western Oregon and Washington superintendents top dress the fairways to improve drainage. His method is an alternate.

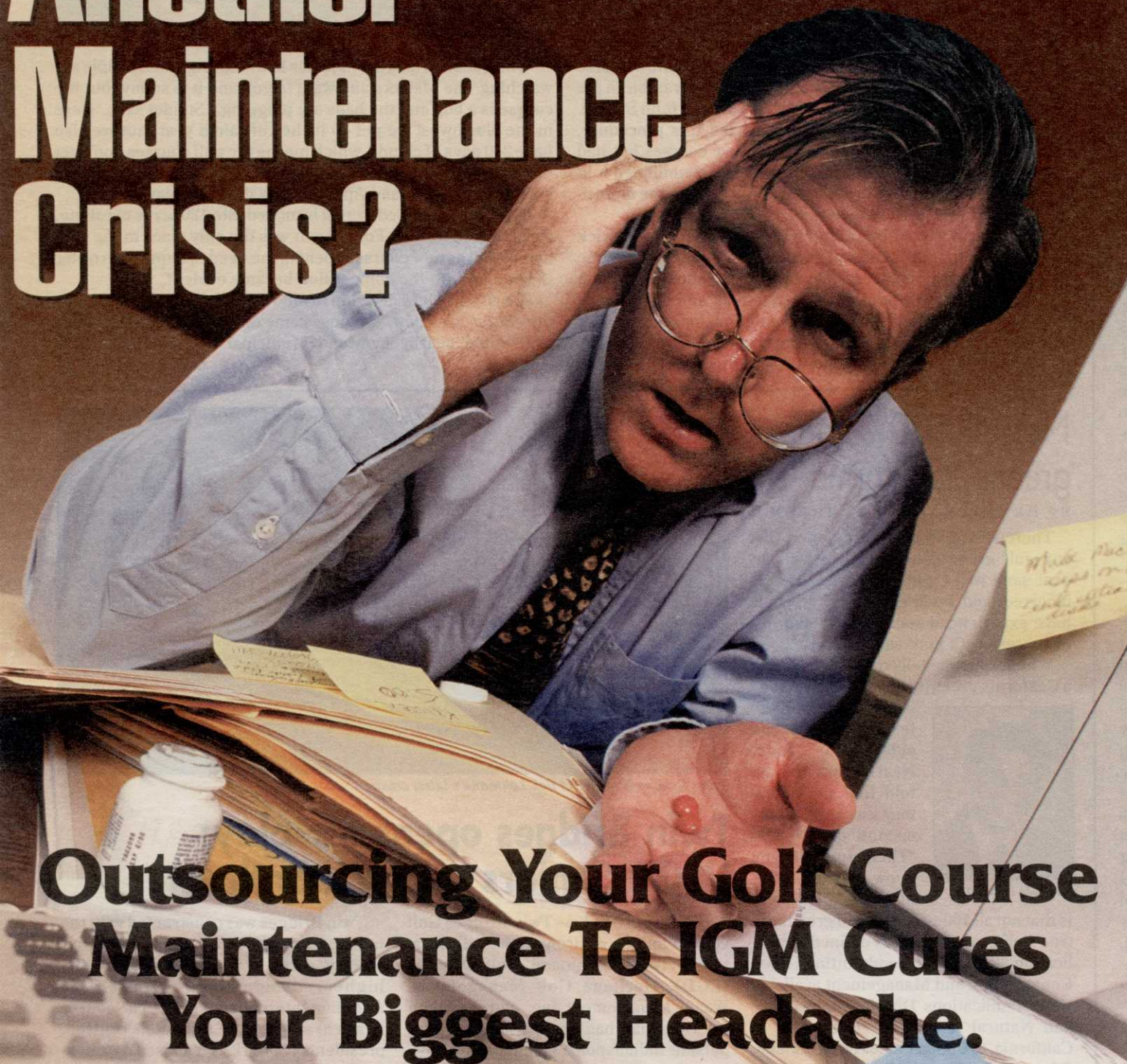
"Do you close down and put in the 4 inches of sand, or do you put in drainage lines and top dress for three or four years (and that assumes your course is in fine condition to begin with)?" he said. "What we've done is a better solution."

...

"I was proud of the town that they had the courage not only to close the course to do the needed work, but to do everything possible to address all of the problems at once," Steidel said. "The total cost of \$3 million was close to the cost of building a new course, but they saw the value of making the effort."

Cedarcrest was closed in May 1996 and reopened in August 1997. Upon reopening, the city could increase green fees from \$14 to \$25 because it offered a better product. In its first year of operation the city has seen an increase of \$380,000 in revenues.

# Another Maintenance Crisis?



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