

BRIEFS



JOHNSTON DESIGNING ATLANTA TRACK

ATLANTA — Clyde Johnston has been retained to design an 18-hole upscale, daily-fee course at Hampton Creek, a 514-acre planned community located just north of metro-Atlanta. The dominant natural design feature on the course is a set of four creeks that meander through the property and create both forced-carry and lateral hazards. Additionally, an 18-acre manmade lake that dates back to the 1940s will frame the 18th hole and retain water for irrigation uses. Johnston will work in concert with Landscape Unlimited of Lincoln, Neb., on the construction of the course.

GOLF RESOURCES CHANGES NAME

DALLAS — Golf course design firm Golf Resources Group has changed its name to D.A. Weibring/Golf Resources Group Inc. to capitalize on the national identity of 22-year- PGA professional golfer and company chairman, D.A. Weibring. The company has also announced the addition of Steve Wolfard to its design team. He formerly worked with Jack Nicklaus/Golden Bear International, Inc. and Gene Bates Design. Wolfard will oversee all Weibring/GRI design and renovation projects and the staff of Maury Miller, Jimmy Fechter and Mike Brown.

SHORT-GAME AREA HELPS PAR-3 TRACK

SAN DIEGO — The Four Points Hotel Sheraton San Diego has opened a short-game practice facility at its nine-hole par-3 course, according to General Manager Nabih Geha. Geha said the new facility, which features a large putting green, chipping area and sand bunker, is ideal for golfers to practice their short game with shots up to 40 yards away. Designed and built by Agoura Hills-based Golf Projects International, the 3 Par At Four Points golf course features a challenging golf experience for players of all abilities. The eight-acre course has nine holes ranging from 60 to 130 yards and includes sand bunkers, grass bunkers and two-tiered greens.

PALMER OFFICE OPENS IN MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Palmer Course Design Inc. has opened an Asia-Pacific regional office here. J. John Hamilton is operating the office as regional vice president. Hamilton, a registered landscape architect, planner and golf course architect, has nearly 20 years of design experience and has worked six years in Asia.

A Tillinghast tour de Force

Ron Forse renews several designs by the master

By MARK LESLIE

NEWPORT, R.I. — The year 1998 was "The Year of Tillinghast" for golf course architect Ron Forse, and it is spilling over into 1999 with work on one of the great historic clubs in America: Newport Country Club.

"It's really a restoration 'tweak,'" said Forse of his work at Newport CC, which was one of the original five clubs that formed the United States Golf Association. "The course is so pure. The character is very strong and it's still there. The [A.W.] Tillinghast greens are magnificent."

"I'm really excited about this," he added. "They approved the master plan a couple years ago, and it's great to get started."

While awaiting the go-ahead here, Forse was busy restoring the Tillinghast mark elsewhere:

- Last fall he restored the bunkers on three holes at Sunnehanna Country Club in Johnstown, Pa., "a job done wonderfully by Frontier Construction,



The 18th hole at Golden Valley Country Club in Minnesota before reconstruction, left, and afterwards, above.

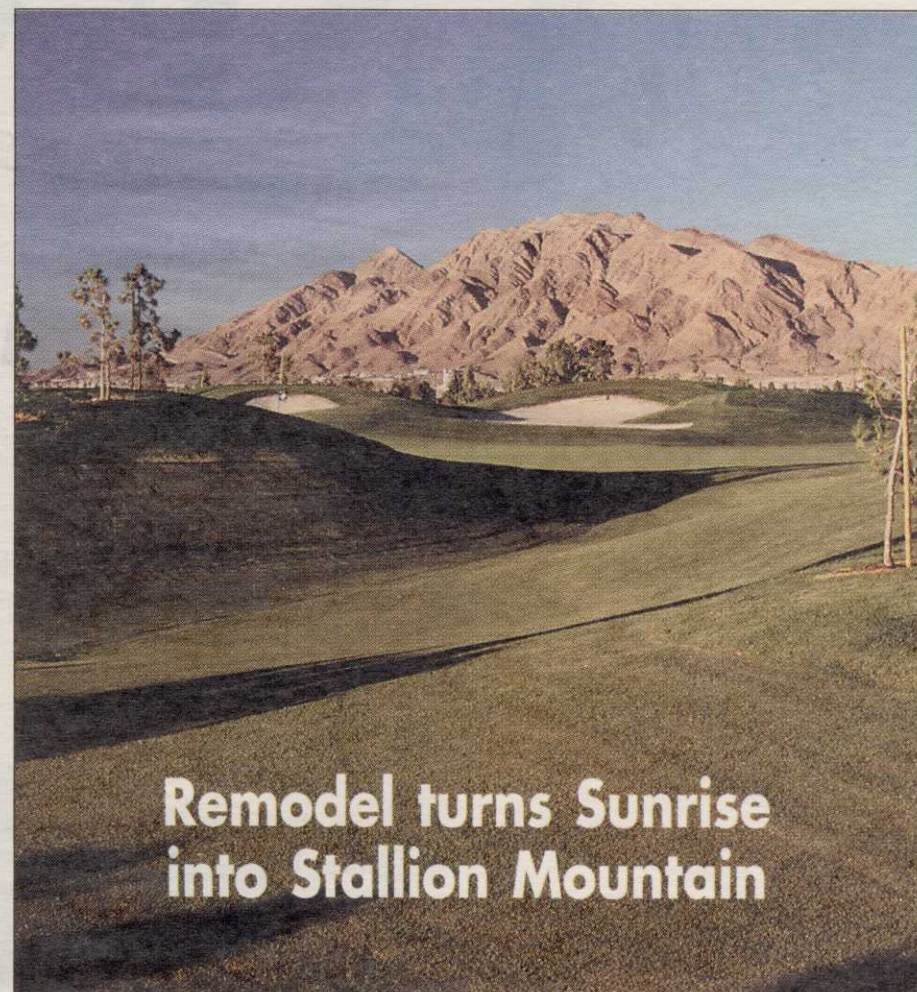
by the way."

- Last fall, working with Zona and Henderson Construction Co., he also restored half the bunkers at Valley Country Club near Hazleton, Pa., and

rebuilt three green sites because they were too steep for today's low-cut turf.

- He is in the process of "one of the best projects we've ever done," at

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Remodel turns Sunrise into Stallion Mountain

LAS VEGAS — Several million dollars have been spent remodeling Sunrise Country Club since June 1977, when Southwest Golf bought the 640-acre property from a group of individual investors.

Now known as Stallion Mountain Country Club, the facility includes three 18-hole golf courses — Secretariat, Citation and Man O War, a 16-acre practice facility and an 18,000-square-foot clubhouse.

Southwest Golf has enhanced and refurbished Stallion Mountain and its clubhouse.

More than 500 pine trees and 2,000 shrubs were planted, and a number of colorful flower gardens were added. Irrigation systems have been upgraded to improve watering schedules and to prepare for the planting of a new hybrid Bermudagrass next summer.

RTJ II CHANGES

Charlton returns; Jones, Phillips ink an alliance

PALO ALTO, Calif. — Bruce Charlton, who in January left Robert Trent Jones II International to form a design firm with colleagues Don Knott and Gary Linn, has rejoined RTJ II as a senior designer.

Robert Trent Jones Jr. announced that Charlton and Ty Butler are his new senior designers.

"I spent 18 years of my career working with RTJ II and I'm excited about carrying forward Bobby's and Mr. Jones Sr.'s legacy of building the world's great golf courses," Charlton said. "I wish my good friends, Don Knott and Gary Linn, who I believe to be among the finest golf course architects anywhere, success in their new venture."

Charlton is a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects and a graduate of the University of Arizona

Butler, a graduate of Kansas State University, has nine years of experience with RTJ II in all aspects of golf course design.

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Meanwhile, Jones also announced he has formed a strategic alliance with another former employee — Kyle Phillips.

Kyle Phillips Golf Course Design of Granite Bay will design a limited number of golf courses each year

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McFarlane brings a bit of Scotland to America, and vice versa for Garl

By MARK LESLIE

LAKE MARY, Fla. — Citing the travel both ways “across the pond,” with Brits seeking golf course design jobs in The States and Americans taking on projects in the United Kingdom, American designer Ron Garl believes he has jumped out in front of the pack on both accounts.

Ending a search that began two years ago, Garl has hired Scotsman Steven McFarlane. On the one hand, McFarlane will bring “a touch of Scotland” to the Garl team’s designs in North America and elsewhere around the world. On the other hand, having the Scotsman in his stable should help land projects in the UK, Garl said.

A native of Troon, McFarlane graduated from the University of Glasgow with a degree in civil engineering and spent the last 12 years working with British architects Hawtree Golf Design.

“We worked on the renovation of a lot of the old courses in Britain, including Portmarnock and Royal Birkdale,” McFarlane said. “A lot of that rubs off. It’s going back to the traditional look in design. That style of golf suites me quite well.”

McFarlane has spent years playing the great courses of the UK.

Yet, having married a North Carolina lady, he has spent a lot of time on the East Coast, particularly the Carolinas, Georgia and the Boston area.

“I’ve been planning to come over [to work] for quite a few years,” McFarlane said. “It seems a great time to be working in The States. The golf industry is very bouyant now.”

At this point in time, he added, there is “a far greater scope of sites” in America than Great Britain.

“In England — and Scotland,

to a lesser extent — not many courses are being built,” McFarlane said. “Scotland only has five or six courses per year being built. Twenty to 30 in England. Planning and restrictions on decent land are so difficult now in England. You certainly can’t get any linksland, though in Ireland you can. In England

it’s very difficult to even get woodland, or parkland, or heathland either for environmental reasons or the ‘landscape character,’ where they call the land of Special Scientific Interest.

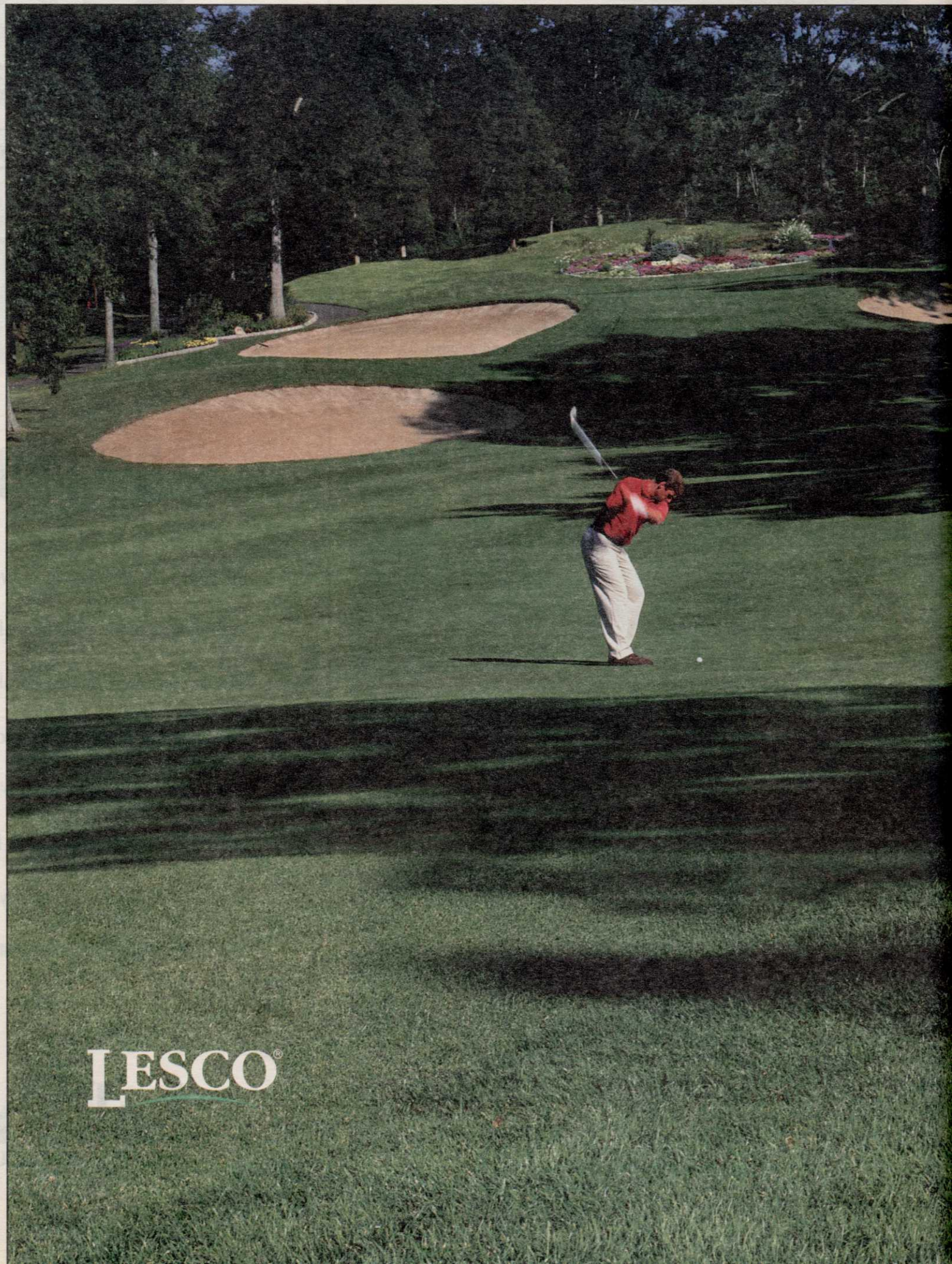
“On 90 percent of the courses where you can only get permission, it is really dull farmland.”

Working with long-time Garl designers Ricky and Ty Nix, McFarlane is especially excited to work on what Garl called “a true Irish-type links course” in Port St. Lucie, called Waterville; a seaside site in Puerto Rico called Cayo Largo, which has 2-1/2 miles of oceanfront; a property 30 miles south of Salt Lake

City, Utah; and a couple of courses in Costa Rica.

“I have worked on a lot of different types of land — different characters and different environments throughout Northern and Southern Europe, and on desert land,” McFarlane said. “I adapt what I’ve learned to each project

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RTJ II changes

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with RTJ II, Jones said. The two are currently collaborating at the Golf Course De Lage Vuursche in The Nether lands, which is in the early stages of construction. They will also work together at Real Club Puerta de Hierro in Madrid, Spain.

Phillips, a lead designer with Robert Trent Jones II for 17 years, began his own company in 1997. His current work includes The Kingsbarns Golf Links 7 miles from the home of golf, St. Andrews, Scotland, which is scheduled to be completed in the spring; and Golf Eichenheim, in the Austrian Alps, due to be finished in the fall.