Dallas — ClubCorp and Golden Bear International, which recently formed a partnership to build, own and operate Jack Nicklaus signature golf courses around the world, will develop their first joint venture project in Dahlonega, Ga., just one hour north of Atlanta.

The newly formed joint venture is developing the signature Nicklaus links and related club facilities at BirchRiver, a new 1,043 mixed-use development. The layout will be semi-private when it opens in the summer of 2000, with plans for it to become fully private as the BirchRiver community matures.

“Our joint venture with Golden Bear is the perfect merging of operational expertise and superb design capabilities, which, combined, will deliver some of the finest golf experiences in the world,” said Dave Richey, vice president of development at ClubCorp. “We know this project at BirchRiver is only the beginning of a highly successful partnership.”

The new course at BirchRiver will be situated in the picturesque Chestatee River valley, surrounded by mountain views and known for its past and present opportunities to pan for gold. The course will play across the river five times, and will feature a showpiece island green to challenge golfers. Other amenities will include a finely appointed clubhouse, swimming pool, tennis court, pro shop, and dining facilities.

“Over the years, we have teamed with ClubCorp on several notable projects, such as the Jack Nicklaus/Jack Nicklaus II signature course at the Aspen Glen Club (Colo.), the Golf Club at Indigo Run on Hilton Head Island (S.C.), and the Melrose Course at Daufuskie Island Club & Resort (S.C.),” said Ira Fenton, president of Golden Bear Financial Services. “Under our new formal joint venture, we look forward to creating many more memorable links to be enjoyed by golfers all over the world.”

The BirchRiver community is being developed by Habersham Investment & Developer Corp., an Atlanta-based residential and mixed-use developer, in partnership with Owens Valley Farm, L.P. North Palm Beach, Fla.-based Golden Bear International is a privately owned company controlled by the Nicklaus family. It is involved in golf course design, residential community development, golf equipment and the production of televised golf events.

Currently, ClubCorp affiliates oversee 176 golf courses and annually prepare 14 million meals served in approximately 700 dining rooms. In addition, more than 20,000 Employee Partners are expert in the care of nearly 500,000 members and 250,000 guests who are warmly welcomed at ClubCorp properties each year.

Northeast Golf schedule full

The Northeast Golf Co. will begin 1999 with a diverse range of projects on the boards or under construction, including two new facilities scheduled for completion: Skyview Golf & Country Club (CC), an 18-hole, par-72 layout cut within the rocky terrain and open meadows of Sparta, N.J. and Strykers Glen, in Lopatcong, N.J., a 27-hole, daily-fee course featuring an 18-hole, 6,900-yard championship layout and Old Aggie, a nine-hole short course. Also in design are Colts Neck CC and Cannon Farms in Monmouth County, N.J.

Master planning and renovations are ongoing throughout the Northeast, including work on the 72-hole Bergen County, N.J. Golf System, Cedar Hill CC in Livingston, N.J., Sterling Farms in Stamford, Conn., Agawam Hunt in Providence, R.I., and Pleasant Valley in Sutton, Mass.