

## Boulders' \$1M restoration under Morrish's eyes

By PETER BLAIS

CAREFREE, Ariz. — The Boulders Resort here is in the midst of a \$1 million renovation designed to restore the AAA Five Diamond-rated resort's two golf courses to the original Jay Morrish design.

"It's not major surgery. But the work we are doing will make a significant difference in the way the golf courses play," said Rick Reiss, vice president and general manager of The Boulders Resort.

"The North Course and South Course are still among the finest in the country. But time does take its toll, particularly in the desert.

Morrish is overseeing the facelift. Signature Golf Co. of Fountain Hills, Ariz., is the course contractor.

The most notable efforts, Morrish said, will be restoring the game strategy and playability of the courses to their original intent.

"During the 10 years or so since I first designed these courses," Morrish explained, "the desert around them has changed dramatically. And, in many cases this growth has affected the shot values and strategy of many golf holes.

"For example, the growth of the



Boulders Resort in Scottsdale, Ariz., is in the midst of a 36-hole renovation to the Jay Morrish design.

desert plants in front of the tees has, in some cases, created blind shots where none existed just a few years before. We went in and evaluated the courses hole by hole and are making the necessary adjustments to ensure

they provide the types of golf experiences we intended when we designed them."

Among the more notable adjustments are the removal of a greenside creek and an expansion of the green on the

South Course's 1st hole; a makeover of the South Course's 12th hole to restore it to its original design — a potentially drivable par-4; the addition of several intermediate tees throughout both golf courses to give average players greater playing options; and a thorough rebuilding of all bunkers.

Alterations to the South Course were completed last fall. Work on the North Course will begin in late spring 1999. The North Course will remain open until then.

"The new sand has been put in the North Course bunkers down to a depth of about 2 inches," said Club Manager Mike Kelly.

"The plan is to do similar bunker work to the North Course [dig down to the drainage tile and replace all the sand] next spring and summer, since business now is at its peak. We'll close nine holes at a time to do that work. We've spent about \$500,000 on the South Course, so far."

The Boulders Resort is owned and operated by Grand Bay Hotels & Resorts. Other Grand Bay properties include: Carmel (Calif.) Valley Ranch; The Lodge at Ventana Canyon in Tucson, Ariz.; Grand Bay Coconut Grove (Fla.); Grand Bay Toronto, Canada; and The Peaks Resort & Spa in Telluride, Colo.

## Pebble Beach puts 'missing link' in place

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ocean properties of the Del Monte Co. in 1919. This makes this great course one of the first real-estate-driven golf developments in the West. As such, the balance between land sales, cash flow and construction costs all became factors in the creation of the golf course.

In April 1915 Del Monte Properties brought up Samuel B. Morse from the San Joaquin Valley to help stimulate land sales in the Monterey area. Morse brought an eagerness to impress and plunged into the task at hand. His efforts were rewarded as he quickly made a sale of a 5.436-acre parcel on the bluff overlooking Stillwater Cove. The parcel was sold to William T. Beatty, president of Austin Manufacturing Co. of Chicago.

This choice spot overlooking the ocean would become a prized piece of property during the next few decades, a fact that Morse actually seemed to realize even when he sold it to Beatty. In his unpublished biography, Morse noted his comments at the time of the sale: "I will probably regret this."

During 1915 Morse invited a group of architects and premier golfers of the era to look at the Pebble Beach area to discuss the possibility of a golf course. All who came agreed that the course should run along the ocean as much as possible. Morse began an effort to buy back some of the parcels that had already been sold. But one owner, Beatty, was not interested in trading for another parcel or selling the coveted spot.

This forced the designers of Pebble



The new 5th hole at Pebble Beach Golf Links offers Monterey Bay views.

Beach — Jack Neville, and Douglas Grant — to route the course around the Beatty estate with the uphill 5th hole that exists now. While they made every effort to set this dramatic course out along the ocean, the area at the 5th hole became the awkward bend inland that has existed for 80 years.

The hole sits in a secluded area and is surrounded by tall eucalyptus trees that inhibit both sunlight and air flow. For many years the maintenance crews have battled to keep this green healthy. Drastic measures, such as an underground heating system, have been installed to help. During tournaments, this area is a notorious bottleneck where spectators and players have to walk up the narrow path to the green.

Over the years the coveted Beatty Estate twice came up for resale — during the Great Depression and World War II, but Pebble Beach Co. did not have the funds to buy it back. A Mrs. Jerkins bought the land and held on to it until her death in 1995. It

was at this time that Pebble Beach finally secured this five-parcel, for \$9.5 million.

Construction of the new hole began in June and should be completed by January. Plans are to have it ready for the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro Am. The hole tees off just behind the 4th green, boasting a stunning view of the 6th hole rising up the cliffs and the back of the 7th tee clinging to the rocks. The prevailing winds will swirl into this green site to help make it a challenging hole.

In order to make the golf hole blend into the rest of the course, The Pebble Beach maintenance staff has painstakingly created a sod nursery from cores harvested from the course's other greens. The goal is to blend the new hole into the course so that it feels and plays as though it has always been there. Finally, the missing link of Pebble Beach will complete a string of uninterrupted golf holes from The Lodge at Pebble Beach all the way to Carmel Beach. Finally, the dream that Grant and Neville had in 1915 will be realized.

### RYANGOLF REBUILDING BOCA WEST

BOCA RATON, Fla. — RyanGolf of Deerfield Beach has been awarded the total reconstruction of Boca West Golf Course No. 3 here. The course is one of four in the exclusive residential community. This will be the second Arnold Palmer reconstruction that RyanGolf has contracted with Boca West since 1997. The accelerated construction schedule will begin in March, with completion planned for July. Anticipated grand opening is December for club members.

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