Mark O'Meara, winner of 23 professional tournaments worldwide—including the 1998 Masters and British Open—has teamed up with IMG Design's Brit Stenson and the ClubLink Corp. to design his first golf course at the Grandview Inn in Huntsville, Ontario. While O'Meara has consulted on several golf course designs, this will be his first signature layout. Golf Course News recently caught up with Mark between the Masters and his departure to play in the Chunichi Crowns in Togo, Japan to talk about his first venture into golf course design.

GCN: Has design work been something that you've always wanted to do?

O'Meara: Actually it has. I remember in high school when I was playing on the golf team, I would sketch out different golf holes with bunkers and greens. I've always had a fascination with golf course design. And having played for 19 years as a professional, while I do not classify myself as an expert, I've learned a lot from playing all over the world and playing with all different types of players.

GCN: What made you decide to jump into the design business now?

O'Meara: I felt like at 42 years of age, my playing career, while still busy now, will be slowing down in the next couple years. There wasn't any reason why I shouldn't take a look at golf design to see if this is something that I wanted to do.

GCN: You won two majors last year, what impact did that have on your decision to design golf courses?

O'Meara: For the last ten years, people have been trying to get me to design courses. I have consulted on some, like the TPC in Los Angeles. But since I won the Masters and the British Open, people have been asking me a lot more, the exposure helps.

Camelback GC undergoes $12M renovation

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Camelback Golf Club at Marriott's Camelback Inn has broken ground on a $12.1 million enhancement project that will include a complete re-design of the Padre Course and practice range, along with an expanded clubhouse, pro shop and restaurant. During the renovation period, through Dec. 31, the Indian Bend course will remain open and a temporary clubhouse will serve food and beverages on a limited basis.

The renovation of the Padre course will be designed and managed by course architect Arthur Hills.

According to Hills project manager Chris Wilczynski, "The golfing experience at the new Padre golf course will be very unique to the Southwest. The course is not within a desert setting like most golf courses in this area. It is a parkland setting with large mature trees and lush green turf."

The finished product will be a classic design with strategic bunkering, traditional square tees and very subtle land forms. Every hole will feature a new green, tees and bunkers. While some holes will maintain their current routing, others will be re-routed to increase the overall playability, competitiveness and appeal. In addition to lengthening the course from 6,500 yards to 6,800 yards, three new lakes will be added to create extra beauty and challenge.

Jacobson's Bull Run opens in June

HAYMARKET, Va. — The creator of the acclaimed Augustine Golf Club in suburban Washington, D.C., has designed another daily-fee course here at the foot of Bull Run Mountain 40 miles west of the nation's capital.

Rick Jacobson of Jacobson Golf Course Design used the heavily wooded and naturally rolling terrain of northern Virginia to give Bull Run Country Club the traditional look and feel of a course born decades ago. At the same time, he employed contemporary design principles to create a memorable course.

"The course can be set up to be challenging enough for tournament play, but it's user-friendly from the front and middle tees," Jacobson said. "The fairways have nice landing areas and there are bail-out areas around the greens."

The course had a "soft" opening on April 1. Nine holes opened last fall. A grand opening is planned for late June.

"Rick did a great job," said Director of Golf Larry Spielberg. "We've had people tell us it's the best golf course in the area. There's not a weak hole out there. From the time you tee off, the course just keeps getting better and better."

The par-72 course measures 6,961 yards from the back tees, with Bull Run Mountain providing a dramatic background. Water comes into play on nine holes, thanks to three lakes. There are 73 bunkers in addition to streams, environmentally sensitive wetlands and ravines.

The practice area includes driving range, putting green, chipping area and sand bunker. Continued on page 36