Access for all: A 'golf court' could be coming to a green space near you

By TREVOR LEDGER

HERTFORDSHIRE, England—A revolutionary concept in golf course design, which has the potential to bring the game to a whole new section of society, has received a massive boost following the signing of a deal with the European Professional Golf Association (PGA).

A triumph of land use and organization has resulted in the invention of "golf courts," which allow for a full 18-hole, 6,500 yard, par 72 facility to be built on just 15 acres of land.

Bob Hunt, technical director of PGA Management, said he’s delighted with the deal, in which he sees the formation of a new company, Golf Courts International of Barnet, Hertfordshire, to be headed by John Sale.

"We see golf courts as being an ideal opportunity for us to improve the accessibility of golf for beginners," said Hunt. "Golf courts can be built close to inner cities, they increase the opportunities for group teaching and provide an ideal transition from driving ranges to full blown golf courses. A golf court is like a giant academy. The PGA is being very active in promoting the concept and we are talking to contacts around the world: from China to South America to Norway. I have seen people try to develop small golf courses but I’ve never seen anything in the world like this."

As opposed to paying for a round of golf, on a golf court the players book the court by the hour — as with a tennis court. Thus, the player has the option of playing 6 holes per hour (or any multiple thereof), giving flexibility of both cost and time — not an easy option on a traditional course.

Due to the compact nature of a golf court, the option to install floodlights is feasible and provides the owner and the

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Golf courses that are set up to accommodate the needs of the community offer a great opportunity for residents to enjoy nature and outdoor activities.

With Christy O'Connor Junior and Laura Davies lending their support in the community, the following golf courses have been named:

1. The Links at Morristown
2. The Terraces at Harrison
3. The Greens at Parsippany

These courses offer a variety of options for both beginner and advanced golfers.

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Golf courses in the United Kingdom have already been certified for their environmental practices, and with the help of Zeneca Professional Products, they are able to maintain a sustainable and healthy environment for the local community.

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