

**FREE CLINICS AT NEW MATTHEWS TRACK**

When new owners Ed and Pam Dangler added nine holes designed by Jerry Matthews to their nine-hole Edgewood Hills Golf Course and changed its new 18 holes to Hidden Oaks this summer, they also targeted new golfers. Among their initiatives at the St. Louis, Mich., facility were free clinics for women, juniors and beginners as well as new leagues. They also added a driving range with three target greens. The original nine was built in the 1970s and designed by Matthews and his father, W. Bruce Matthews.



**First Tee expands rural reach at Old English**

By ANDREW OVERBECK

ENGLISH, Ind. — Cary Hammond, developer of the Old English Golf Course here has signed on with the First Tee program to build a 3-hole practice course, driving range, practice area and education center. The practice course will be part of an 18-hole, Michael Hurdzan-designed course that is being built on a flood plain that was formerly the site of downtown English.

While Hammond's intent is to build an 18-hole course that will rejuvenate the town of English, he also wants to help promote the game of golf through the First Tee program.

"We had already committed to doing the things that First Tee is trying to do, said Hammond. "When they started to look at southern Indiana, which is a rural area with a low golfing population, they decided to come on board and help us expand our reach."

The concept of the Old English First Tee center will combine environmen-

tal education with an introduction to the game of golf and will serve the populations of Louisville, Ky., Evansville and Bloomington.

Hammond has designed a program for school field trips consisting of classes on golf etiquette and instruction as well as water ecology.

"We will have stations where students can collect water as it enters the golf course and then compare those samples with ones taken from where the stream exits the property. The purpose is to show the minimal effects of a golf course on water ecology," said Hammond.

Mark Lowry, Midwest representative for First Tee, is excited about the concept. "The First Tee is not only trying to teach kids how to play the game, but it is also trying to help them develop life skills. This project has been set up to do just that," said Lowry.

The Old English program also brings the First Tee into another rural location. "Naturally our target audience is inner city and minority populations, but at the

**Reaching out**



This package of stories is one of an ongoing series covering initiatives and projects developed to bring new golfers into the game, particularly youths and minorities. People wishing to submit projects for articles should contact the editorial department of Golf Course News at 106 Lafayette St., Yarmouth, ME 04096; e-mail: mleslie@golfcoursenews.com

same time we want to open up the game to rural kids as well," said Lowry. "These locations are important because our mission is to make golf accessible to kids that usually don't have access."

Hammond expects to break ground on the \$150,000 project Oct. 1 and aims to be done by August 2000 when the PGA Championship comes to the Valhalla Country Club in Louisville.

**JMP goes east**

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — JMP Golf Design Group has opened an East Coast office here, to be managed by Robert W. Moore Jr., a JMP principal.

The office is being created "to better serve our East Coast clients and to facilitate our expanding presence in the market," J. Michael Poellot said. "With ongoing projects in Bradenton, Fla. (The Estuary), Urbana, Md. (Whiskey Creek), Tuxedo, N.Y. (Sterling Forge) and Wake Forest, N.C. (Heritage Club), the Chapel Hill office is a response to the increasing workload in the Eastern United States."

Moore will see his West Coast projects through to completion and will continue to work closely with a limited number of Asian clients.

"This is an extremely exciting move for JMP and very gratifying on a personal level as it affords us an opportunity to focus our unique approach to golf course design in a region where I began my career," Moore said.

**AULT, CLARK HIRE TWO**

KENSINGTON, Md. — The golf course architecture firm Ault, Clark & Associates has added Michael S. Peny and Anthony R. Cusat to its design team. In the five years since graduating from Kansas State University with a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture, Peny has worked as a lead planner on projects ranging from large multi-use resorts to smaller commercial and residential developments. He has gained experience in the engineering, environmental planning and governmental approvals for golf course developments. Cusat was first introduced to golf course design when he interned with the firm during the summer of 1998. A graduate of landscape contracting from Pennsylvania State University, he is completing a simultaneous degree in landscape architecture and turfgrass science from Penn State.

**Frontier building Palombo's The Links at Spring Church**

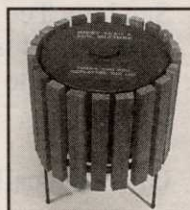
SPRING CHURCH, Pa. — Frontier Construction Co. has made great progress here on The Links at Spring Church, an upscale daily-fee course located 20 minutes northeast of Pittsburgh. The 18-hole project — developed by the Spring Church Golf Group, Inc. of McMurray, Pa. — will be ready for seeding this fall; a grand opening has been scheduled for the summer of 2000, according to Frontier President Nick Scigliano.

The course — which will eventually feature 27 holes — was designed by architect Dominic Palombo, whose portfolio includes Treasure Island GC in Dubois, Pa., and King's Creek Golf Club in Rehoboth Beach, Del. "We've worked closely with Dominic to extract and create all the features this site has to offer," said Scigliano. "We're only moving about 275,000 cubic yards of dirt. The site is naturally rolling and quite interesting, so we really didn't need to move a whole lot of earth. The first six holes are wooded, then it opens up into the heathland portion of the site."

The Links at Spring Church will feature bentgrass wall to wall. The roughs will feature a combination of bluegrasses, ryegrasses and fescues, while the mounding will be accented with sheep's fescue.

The Links at Spring Church has been nearly 10 years in the making. It was originally conceived as a private men's club but a spate of private club development in Western Pennsylvania (Nevillewood, Diamond Run, Treesdale) redirected the project. "This region is crying out for upscale, daily-fee golf," said Dr. Edwin Assid, managing partner of the Spring Church Golf Group.

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