

Tennis champ Ivan Lendl plans premier course for New England

GOSHEN, Conn. — Tennis great Ivan Lendl and International Golf Group chairman David A. Rosow plan to build an 18-hole private golf club in this northwestern Connecticut town that — they say — will rival the best courses in New England. The layout will be designed by Steve Smyers of Lakeland, Fla., who is well-known for sensitivity to the environment, an important factor for the developers.

Rosow, who lives an hour away in Southport, and Lendl, who lives in Goshen and now golfs on the Celebrity Players Tour and Buy.com Tour, decided nearly three years ago that the region needed a high-quality 18-hole course.

"Torrington Country Club has a waiting list and all the others are nine-hole courses," said Rosow. "We are both avid golfers and want a premium golf facility. And with the dearth of courses in northwestern Connecticut we concluded this was a great opportunity."

A two-year search for the best land for a links-style course singled out 650-acre Ivy Mountain Farm, owned by the children of Mike Budney who, at 89, is such an avid golfer that he has a practice facility at his home. Lendl and Rosow have a multi-year option on the property from the Budneys while they go through permitting with various governmental agencies.

"We would love to be under construction sometime next summer, with a planned opening in 2002," Rosow said.

The developers hope to include a state-of-the-art practice facility and a nine-hole par-3 course on the property, if one can be fit adequately on the land.

'LOW-KEY AND COUNTRYISH'

Rosow, whose company operates four golf properties, envisions a modest clubhouse, tennis courts, a swimming pool and perhaps a limited number of houses. "Our plan," he said, "is to design the best golf course to fit on the property. After that is routed and permitted and underway, we will think about housing. But there will be no more than 20 homes, they will be very, very high-end, and they will overlook the course but not be adjacent to it."

Cottages on the site would allow four foursomes to spend the night.

"It will be low-key and countryish," said Rosow, adding that he expects to cap the memberships at 260 families.

Rosow and Lendl settled on Steve Smyers as the architect based on his environmental record.

"Ivan and I have played a number of Steve's courses and are incredibly impressed with the way he fits a golf course into the land and the strategy he designs," Rosow said.

The site has tremendous vistas of the hills to the west and south that surround a 200-acre pasture, and more than half the golf course will be in view from the clubhouse.

"It also has a wonderful lake, gently rolling terrain, and what we look for in hard, powerful edges — edges being

tree lines and the foothills," said Smyers. "The site is open but contained by forest areas to the south and east. And off to the north and west is a mountain range and state park that will never be developed."

LENDL'S ROLE

What of the involvement of Lendl, the winner of eight Grand Slam championships who has abandoned tennis for golf?

"Ivan will be very much involved," said Smyers. "That is his nature and golf is his passion. Both he and David have a real fire for this project. Ivan is a student of golf architecture. He has played all the great golf courses in the world and loves to talk about strategy, design and the game of golf. He is as intense with golf as he was with the game of tennis."

Revised plan saves 'hallowed' first hole at Stanford GC

PALO ALTO, Calif. — Palo Alto Mayor Liz Kniss and Stanford University president John Hennessy have worked out a way to relocate faculty housing and save the famed first hole of Stanford's golf course. The university had proposed relocating the first hole because it sits on land that, under a 1997 plan, could be developed for much-needed housing. That plan envisioned 570 faculty townhouses sitting on the first fairway.

The new scheme — an amendment to a contractual agreement between the city and Stanford — would allow the university to build faculty housing on an adjacent site, thus preserving the first hole.

Former Stanford golfers Tom Watson and Tiger Woods were among many alums who objected to the idea of relocating the unique first hole, one of the most dramatic opening holes in Northern California. A 507-yard par-5, the hole requires a drive over Junipero Serra Boulevard from a manicured ridge that overlooks the campus, to the fairway 75 feet below.

Instead of moving the hole, the proposal would leave it intact, and, in exchange, designate a 13-acre parcel on Searsville Road and an adjacent 25-acre lot on Campus Drive for faculty housing.

"We feel this is a good solution to a challenging problem of housing needs," Kniss said. "This will allow us to protect the hallowed first hole and the surrounding habitat while providing needed housing."

Hennessy said he is pleased that Kniss

We feel this is a good solution to a challenging problem of housing needs.

—Mayor Liz Kniss

continued on page 4

The King & The Bear to debut at World Golf Foundation 2000

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. — Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus, after teaming up as designers for the first time, will unveil their joint creation Nov. 15 at World Golf Village (WGV) here. The King & The Bear, measuring 7,247 yards from the championship tees and 5,195 from the forward pegs, becomes the second layout at the WGV.

During the same week, St. Augustine will host a bevy of major industry events. Under the heading of World Golf Foundation 2000, the week includes The First Tee program's national association meeting, featuring the announcement of its phase two goals and an address by the honorary chairman and former President, George Bush.


From Nov. 15 to 17, an event called Golf 2000: Vision for the Future, will bring together industry experts to address participation, growth and access issues. Also taking place: the CertainTeed Hall of Fame Golf Chal-

lenge, Nov. 20 to 22, featuring 20 Hall of Famers from the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) and the Senior PGA Tour.


The debut of The King & The Bear is the marquee event. Both members of the World Golf Hall of Fame, Palmer and Nicklaus pooled their design talents last year in honor of the Hall of Fame, also based here, which will induct eight new members Nov. 20. Their combined architectural skills have fashioned a remarkable course that's both beautiful and challenging. They will christen their new layout with an 18-hole exhibition that is free and open to the public.

Traditional in design, the course features generous fairways with water coming into play on almost every hole. Lakes lined with large coquina rocks make for an impressive

continued on page 5



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NGCAO, USGA starting "Kids on Course" development campaign

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Two major industry groups — the National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA) and the U.S. Golf Association's (USGA) Foundation — have established a national joint effort called "Kids on Course."

The program provides for \$1 green fees at participating NGCOA member courses for youths taking part in USGA-supported junior programs across the country. The NGCOA signed aboard as part of its player development program, "Get Linked. Play Golf."

"By collaborating with the USGA, we have the ability to grow the game in a big way," said Mike Hughes, executive director of the NGCOA. "We'll be able to provide affordable, real course experiences to economically disadvantaged juniors."

Kids on Course will match the USGA's junior programs with more than 4,500 NGCOA member courses, providing playing time during off-peak hours. The course will pick the times and specify when youngsters can play. Players will be supervised by their local USGA program until the owner and the program director agree that they can access the course on their own, with proper identification.

"If the USGA is going to help make the game more accessible and affordable, we must find a way to make playing the course less of a financial burden to those who have traditionally faced economic or physical challenges," said Trey Holland, USGA president.

American Golf Corp. (AGC), a member of the NGCOA, piloted Kids on Course over the last two years. This year almost 2,000 kids in 35 junior programs have enjoyed reduced green fees at 40 different AGC courses.

NGCOA's "Get Linked. Play Golf" program includes a marketing kit with advertising campaigns aimed at select markets. It also includes "Take Your Daughter to the Course" week, to introduce girls to the game,

and "City Golf Blitzes," to introduce beginners.

More information is available at NGCOA's web-site: www.ngcoa.org.

Troon Golf assumes management of Old Works GC

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — The "Troon golf experience" is now in play in Big Sky country as Troon Golf assumes the management of the Old Works GC in Anaconda, Mont. The Jack Nicklaus signature course is the golfer's gateway to this mountainous recreation community, the state's Pintler Primitive Area.

On land once owned by the

ARCO Co., the course was built over the slag remains of an old copper smelter and eventually turned over to the city of Anaconda as part of a settlement to reclaim the site. Old Works is the result of a partnership between state and federal agencies and was the first-ever golf facility built on a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Superfund site.

Historic mining relics along the course were carefully preserved during construction, and ebony ground slag was used in the bunkers instead of sand. The 150-foot tall flue rises dramatically behind the fourth green, and many of the holes are named for prominent features of the mine and its landscape that make Old Works an original golf experience.



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The King & Bear

continued from page 3

vista and are the signature marks of the course. Coquina is also incorporated into several bunkers near the clubhouse.

The King & The Bear is surrounded by the Neighborhoods of World Golf Village, a gated community that will eventually have more than 850 houses. Some 110 home sites line the fairways. ■