

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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### Uplink to align with Club Car

By A. OVERBECK

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Club Car has inked an exclusive alliance with Uplink Corp. as part of an ongoing effort to add complementary products and services to its growing "solutions network."

Uplink, a manufacturer of GPS-based golf course management systems, is the third company to align with Club Car. CitiCapital is providing financing and SoloRider Industries is making an adaptive golf car for Club Car.

"The industry that we are competing in today is one that has gone through tough times," said president and

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The 13th hole at the Torrance Course at St. Andrews Bay, with St. Andrews in the distance.

### Old Course gets a new neighbor

By JAY FINEGAN

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland — The first of two new 18-hole layouts will open here in September, right across St. Andrews Bay from the Old Course of the Royal & Ancient.

Golf architect Denis Griffiths, of Braselton, Ga., has been working on the complex for three years. The dual-course project marks his first design sojourn in Scotland, golf's Holy Land, and he calls it a "once in a lifetime opportunity."

The late Gene Sarazen provided design services on the so-called Torrance Course, named for Sam Torrance, a PGA touring pro who consulted on the design. This par-72 layout, now playable, stretches to 7,026 yards and provides stunning views from cliff-edge tees and greens.

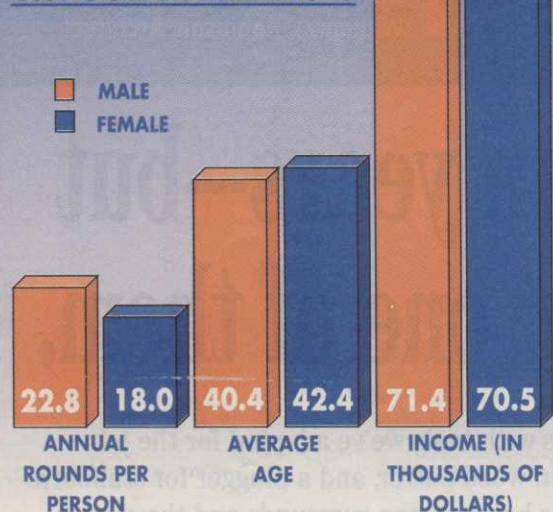
The second course — the Devlin Course — opens next summer. Sarazen worked on this course, too, as did former PGA Tour great Bruce Devlin. Equal in challenge to the Torrance track, this par-71 course plays at 7,020 yards from the tips, over Kittocks's Den.

Griffiths served as coordinating architect on all 36 holes, being built by Southern Golf, out of England. Both courses will be open to the public.

The developer, Donald Panoz, has the credentials for such a high-profile project. He has already built several major golf resorts in the United States, including the upscale, 63-hole Chateau Elan Golf Club in Georgia, and Diablo Grande, with 36 holes of golf on a 36,000-acre development in Northern California.

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### U.S. GOLFER AVERAGES



Source: National Golf Foundation, Golf Participation in the U.S./2001 Edition.

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### Bank of America suing Golf Trust for \$170 million

By JAY FINEGAN

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Bank of America, acting for itself and a group of lenders, has brought suit against the beleaguered Golf Trust of America. The bank is seeking full and immediate repayment of approximately \$170 million, plus late charges and attorneys' fees.

The 1,500-page lawsuit was filed here May 22 at the North Carolina Superior Court of Mecklenburg County. On that same day,

GTA's shareholders approved the company's plan to liquidate its holdings. Under the plan, the company would sell off all of its courses for as much as \$425 million and pay off creditors and stockholders over the next two years.

Golf Trust, based in Charleston, S.C., has said that immediate payment of the full amount could push it into bankruptcy.

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### Kip Tyler brings Salem CC back from the brink

By ANDREW OVERBECK

PEABODY, Mass. — As the snows and ice of winter and the torrential rains of spring began to depart from Salem Country Club back in April, revealing extensive winterkill damage, superintendent Kip Tyler shook his head wondering, "Why this year?" Then he got down to business.

With less than three months left until the 2001 Senior U.S. Open, Tyler had his work cut out for him: The practice green had been wiped out; four greens were shot; five were in bad shape and nine were "OK." In addition, Tyler estimated that he lost eight out of a total of 25 acres of fairway turf.

"Some of the fairways were 40- to 50-percent



Kip Tyler

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### Defibrillator, head pro save golfer's life

By JAY FINEGAN

MANCHESTER CENTER, Vt. — Utilizing a Survivalink FirstSave defibrillator, PGA head professional Bob Stearns helped save the life of a golfer at Manchester Country Club.

Stearns used the automated external defibrillator (or AED) to resuscitate Ted

Rugg, a guest playing June 8 on the Manchester course. Immediately after learning that Rugg had collapsed near the 18th green, Stearns grabbed the AED from the wall outside the golf shop and rushed to the victim's side.

Assistant pro Fred Auletta performed

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PERIODICAL



## Saving Salem

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gone," he said. "I had more dead grass on the ninth fairway than I've lost in my entire 20 years at this golf course."

However, by June 25, Tyler and his crew had brought the Donald Ross-designed course back from the brink of disaster. "I am ecstatic," said USGA agronomist Tim Moraghan while touring the

layout during a practice round. "The course looks great."

### 'A CONSTANT PROCESS OF OVERSEEDING'

How did Tyler do it? Among other things, he and his crew logged 80-hour weeks, put down "thousands of pounds" of seed, and closed the course until May 25.

"Once we got over the shock, we got out there with aerifiers and triple aerified fairways and greens," Tyler recounted. "Then

we ran the overseeders and saw what came up.

"Once the slices and holes healed, we went out with walk-behind greens aerifiers and seeders and did one spot at a time. We would see what came up and then go out there and do it again. It was a constant process of overseeding," he said.

Tyler's team put down rye and bentgrass in the fairways and a combination of A-4 and G-2

bentgrass on the greens. The putting green was sodded with L-93.

### COPACETIC AT THE USGA

Moraghan visited the course several times before the Open and was never worried



The 18th green at Salem Country Club



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about getting it into tournament shape.

"The Open was going to happen [at Salem] no matter what," he said. "When the club decided to take the necessary steps and give Kip a firm commitment on the needed equipment and materials, I knew that we'd be OK."

Closing the course to play was the key to being able to attack the damaged areas with such invasive and constant measures.

"The club got behind us, you have to give them credit for that," Tyler said. "Closing the course allowed us to do what we wanted, when we wanted, whenever we wanted. We were able to constantly water seedlings. I could sit in the office and run cycles without worrying about getting players wet."

### 50 VOLUNTEERS

When the course reopened to members, Tyler restricted golf cars to paths and kept three greens closed until June 22. "We have them at the point now that I don't think anyone will be able to tell that there were any problems," he said just prior to the event.

Tyler's crew and 50 volunteers worked tirelessly throughout the Open, double and triple cutting greens and putting in plenty of hours. They got a 4:30 a.m. start Sunday to recover from a wicked batch of thunderstorms that rolled through the area Saturday afternoon, flooding low areas and damaging the irrigation system. However, with even-par winning the Open, it's clear Tyler had Salem playing at its toughest.

### POST-OPEN PAINS

With the Open behind him, Tyler's task for the rest of the summer is going to be getting the course back in shape for its golf-starved members and the number of tournaments and events that had to be cancelled this spring. Immediately following the Open, his crew went to work on fixing the trampled rough, fairway crossings, and ruts left by heavy equipment, stands and tents.

Tyler will also have to deal with members who have seen the course at its peak.

"I'm getting comments from members," said Tyler. "We can do it every year if we keep the course closed until May 25, keep cars on paths, and have crew working 80-hour weeks." ■