

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

A UNITED PUBLICATION  
VOLUME 13, NUMBER 1  
JANUARY 2001 • \$7.00

www.golfcoursenews.com

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#### PAIUTES' CLUBHOUSE

Unique clubhouse anchors the Las Vegas Paiute Golf Resort, about 20 miles north of Las Vegas, Nev. The complex features two courses by Pete Dye, with a third Dye design already underway. Tribal leaders hope to turn their \$500-million project into a premier destination golf resort. See story on page 15.

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PERIODICAL

PACIFIC DUNES JOINS BANDON DUNES ON THE OREGON COAST. SEE STORY ON PAGE 15.



## Golf Trust of America, faltering, to sell 47 courses

By JAY FINEGAN

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Golf Trust of America (GTA), the country's third-largest golf course holding company, is on the verge of liquidation and plans to sell off its assets.

The liquidation plan, recommended by W. Bradley Blair II, chairman and CEO, requires approval by the Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC), and then by shareholders. Kathy Boles, director of communication, said the shareholders' decision probably would come in January.

SEC approval, while not automatic, appears likely. "The company looked at seven or eight alternative strategies. They settled on liquidation and asset sale as the best way to maximize shareholder

value," said Paul Penney, a San Francisco-based investment analyst with RS Investment Management, formerly Robertson Stephens. "With that intention, I have no doubt the SEC will approve the liquidation."

GTA currently owns 47 courses in 17 states, primarily in Florida, South Carolina, Illinois and Michigan, with smaller numbers in Virginia, Georgia, Ohio, California and elsewhere.

Already, the company has reached an agreement to sell three of its Florida properties. Affiliates of Emerald Dunes Golf Group have offered \$35 million for the trio — Polo Trace Golf Course, Cypress Creek Course and Emerald Dunes Golf Course. The Emerald Dunes group, which owned the courses



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## Finchem named Old Tom Morris Award winner

By JOEL JOYNER

DALLAS, Texas — Tim Finchem, commissioner of the PGA Tour since 1994, will receive the 2001 Old Tom Morris Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). The presentation will take place here on Feb. 15, during the 72nd International Golf Course Conference and Show.

The Old Tom Morris Award is presented each year to someone who, "through a continuing lifetime commitment to the game of golf, has helped to mold the welfare of the game in a manner and style exemplified by Old Tom Morris."

"There is no question that Tim Finchem

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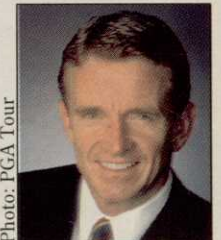


Photo: PGA Tour  
Tim Finchem

## New Rees Jones course emerges in Sonoran Desert

By JAY FINEGAN

PEORIA, Ariz. — Set amid the spectacular mountain scenery of Arizona's high Sonoran Desert, the Founders Course at Quintero Golf & Country Club opened in November.

The 7,174-yard layout — the first private Rees Jones course in Arizona — occupies some of the most dramatic terrain in the Southwest. And no sooner did the Founders Course begin play than development focus turned to its sister course at Quintero, this one designed by Greg Norman.

It promises to be a dynamic pair. "Quintero has all the elements of America's finest country clubs — privacy, exclusivity and superbly crafted amenities, plus a natural splendor that is really quite extraordinary," said owner and developer Gary McClung, the world's largest Ford truck dealer.

The gated private golf club complex lies approximately 45 minutes northwest of Phoenix's Sky Harbor International

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Photo: Tony Roberts  
The 14th hole at the Founders Club at Quintero Golf & Country Club, northwest of Phoenix

## Dursban rate reduction takes effect

By JOEL JOYNER

INDIANAPOLIS — Golf course superintendents using Dursban Pro insecticide to control chinch bugs, fire ants and even adult billbugs can continue to do so now that the product label has changed.

While Dow AgroSciences, the makers of chlorpyrifos (Dursban), and the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) agreed last summer to limit most outdoor residential and non-residential uses, Dursban Pro is still available for golf course use. But since Dec. 1, product with labels reflecting a reduced application rate has been entering the market.

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## Quintero

Continued from page 1  
Airport.

Quintero sits at an elevation ranging from 1,986 to 2,480 feet above sea level, a year-round location that takes full advantage of a sweeping desert landscape lush with native saguaro, palo verde, ironwood, mesquite, ocotillo and acacia trees. Paying heed to the area's ecological sen-

sitivity, builders preserved virtually every plant or later relocated them into the landscape.

### 'PURE GOLFING EXPERIENCE'

It was Rees Jones who helped McClung select this rolling parcel of real estate, which is surrounded by thousands of acres of federally owned land and mining claims. The area around Quintero officially is designated as Bureau of Land Management "open

space" — it cannot be built upon — thereby preserving the surrounding hills and high Sonoran Desert for generations to come.

"This is wonderful topography," Jones said. "They let us get the land for golf first, then they decided on the home sites. Because the houses are not on the fairways, you will have a pure golfing experience."

"But we're only allowed 90

acres of turf," he said. "That's why you build little pads for the tees and use native vegetation. But once you get to the fairway on this course you can hit it on the ground if you want to, with the exception of the par-3s that cross the wash."

The Greg Norman Charter Course, stretching to 7,300 yards from the championship markers, will feature elevation changes of

about 200 feet. The site is rocky. "We'll be doing a lot of blasting," said lead architect Jason McCoy. "When it gets done, it will be spectacular. There will be a lot of carries over rock quarries, but not into the greens. The approaches will be bump-and-run."

### SHARED CLUBHOUSE

The Jones and Norman courses will share a clubhouse, an exquisite, country-club style number with dining, billiards, library, theater, card room and locker rooms. Additionally, the project features a 10-acre, double-sided practice facility with bunkered greensite targets.

In concocting the plans for Quintero, developer McClung knew pretty much exactly what he wanted.

"Golf is a passion I've had," he said. "I love to play, and as my business got more successful, suddenly I had all this money with no clue what to do with it. I decided to pursue my passion and build the perfect golf course."

McClung's Ford truck dealership, Midway Ford/Sterling Truck Center, is in Kansas City, Mo., but he and his wife, Lea, already had a second home in the Phoenix area. In scouting for land for his course, McClung didn't have to look very far. After checking out three areas in California, his search led him right to his own backyard. The Quintero site met his four criteria: the best climate, proximity to a major airport, a friendly government, and a terrific piece of land.

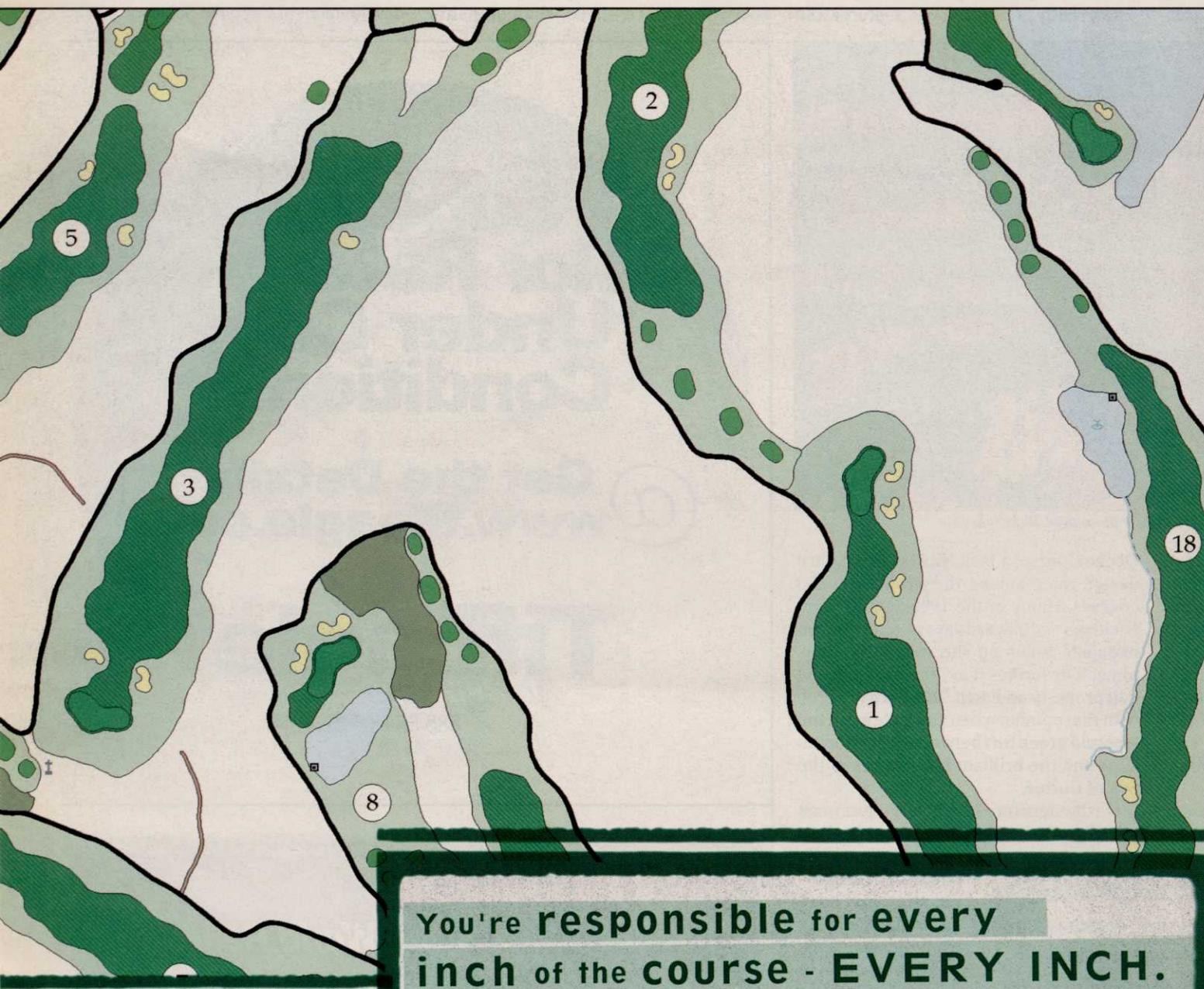
### TROON GOLF TO MANAGE CLUB

Golf and club facilities are being managed by Troon Golf, the Scottsdale, Ariz.-based management company whose international list of luxury properties includes the Turnberry Hotel, Golf Courses & Spa in Scotland, Cabo del Sol on Mexico's Baja Peninsula, Troon North Golf Club in Scottsdale, and the Ridge at Castle Pines North in Colorado.

"We're really excited about working with Quintero and Gary McClung," said Dana Garmany, CEO of Troon Golf. "This is a hand-in-glove fit for our Prive team, a division of Troon Golf created expressly for the management of private clubs of distinction like Quintero."

Quintero Golf & Country Club is a low-density, private membership club comprising 283 homesites, including 85 estate lots sized up to 14 acres. Club membership is by invitation only. Real estate purchase is not required for membership; however, only Quintero members may buy real estate.

Homesites and golf villas are expected to be available for sale in 2001, and upon completion of the Norman course, memberships will be increased from the current 350 to 700. ■



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