First Tee enters phase two, to open 250 more facilities

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. — The First Tee has announced that its phase two goal is to positively affect the lives of 500,000 youths by 2005. The new objective was presented at the Golf 20/20 Vision for the Future, a three-day conference here on a strategic vision for the game's growth and participation over the next 20 years.

"The transition from phase one — 100 facilities in development — to phase two — impacting the lives of 500,000 youths — is a natural progression for The First Tee," said Joe Louis Barrow, the program's national director. "Now that we have facilities up and running and are able to implement our programs and curriculum," Barrow said, "providing affordable golf access to children across the country and exposing them to the inherent values of the game is a distinct reality."

In addition to the goal, Barrow also presented a strategy for its achievement. Over the next five years, The First Tee plans to open 250 more First Tee facilities while developing 500 affiliate relationships. The affiliate relationships will be with existing golf courses that allow certified First Tee participants access to play golf during available times at reduced costs.

ClubCorp buys Paris Int'l GC

DALLAS, Texas — ClubCorp has acquired Paris International Golf Club, one of France's most famous courses. Financial terms were not disclosed.

Opened in 1991, the private membership club features an 18-hole, 7,050-yard Jack Nicklaus signature golf course and extensive practice facilities. The course is ranked one of the top 50 in France, and served as the venue for the French Ladies' Open in 1997 and 1999.

The classically designed, 45,000-square-foot "Le Clubhouse" offers fine dining in a room overlooking the 18th green. Other club amenities include a bar and lounge, an indoor pool, golf shop, locker rooms and six tennis courts. Six bedrooms provide lodging within the Clubhouse towers.

"We look forward to expanding our presence in Europe with this well-established club," said Robert Dedman Jr., ClubCorp's president and CEO. "The acquisition is a good fit with our continued overall international growth strategy to add renowned golf properties in popular destinations. And since Paris is among the top five most desirable vacation destinations, we know the city is a favorite of our members."

The course is located in Baillet en France, about 20 miles northwest of Paris and 12 miles from Charles de Gaulle International Airport.

In addition to this new acquisition, ClubCorp's international division also owns and operates clubs in Australia, China, England, Germany, Mexico and Switzerland.

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