

KemperSports bows out of Harding Park redevelopment

By JAY FINEGAN

NORTHBROOK, Ill. — KemperSports Management has terminated discussions with the City of San Francisco regarding the redevelopment of Harding Park Golf Course. In short, KemperSports told the city "thanks, but no thanks."

"We were flattered that San

Francisco considered KemperSports for this project," said Steven H. Lesnik, KemperSports' CEO. "We informed the city that, in our judgment, the required high-cost private capital and low resident green fee rates would result in the project not being feasible under current market conditions. We believe that

lower-cost financial alternatives may make this project viable.

"The inspired idea first brought forth by Sandy Tatum and Ken Venturi of restoring Harding Park to its former glory and bringing the PGA Tour Championship to San Francisco, all while still providing access and affordable rates to the residents, may still be at-

tainable," Lesnik continued. "It would be great to see the project pursued in the future with different requirements and expectations," he added. "If it is, we hope to be considered again as a potential partner."

FOLLOWING PALMER GOLF'S LEAD

KemperSports was second to Arnold Palmer Golf Management

in their bid to refurbish the dilapidated track.

After investing close to \$1 million and spending more than a

year struggling to get renovations under way, Palmer recently pulled out of its contract with the city's parks and recreation department. It also terminated its management of the city's Lincoln Park and Golden Gate golf courses.

Citing economic risks, stringent environmental standards and the inability to manage unionized city gardeners, Palmer Golf president and CEO Tim Tierney decided it was in the company's best interest to leave the Harding Park project behind.

To recover the upfront cost of the renovation — an estimated \$15 million — and the yearly lease charge of \$2 million, Palmer Golf planned to charge non-residents higher green fees. Under a plan mandated by the city, residents would be charged \$25 and non-residents upwards of \$100.

Further complicating matters, 65 percent of Harding Park's 86,000 annual tee times had to be reserved for resident golfers.

FIGHT OVER ROUNDUP

Environmental pressures from local activists and city regulations also spurred Palmer Golf's departure. The company fought a long battle to get the use of Roundup approved to kill off the old turf, but ultimately faced more debilitating fights over San Francisco's intense environmental code.

Harding Park is scheduled to host the 2003 PGA Tour Championship, and the city had hoped to begin renovation work next fall. With the withdrawal of Palmer Golf and now KemperSports, it's unclear how the city plans to proceed.



Steven H. Lesnik

Seed these.



Getting superior turf is refreshingly simple.

Palmer III Perennial Ryegrass is the premier ryegrass which lives up to the standards of legendary golfer, Arnold Palmer, making it a favorite with golf course superintendents. It has an especially low thatch tendency and is extremely wear tolerant.

Prelude III Perennial Ryegrass has dark green color and desirable leaf density that makes it a popular choice for golf course superintendents. It exhibits slower and lower growth for a cleaner cut and good winter hardiness.

The rich, dark green color of both varieties make them perfect for use on tees, roughs or fairways, especially in cool season climates and winter overseeding in southern states. Best of all, they both come with the **Signature Pure Seed Tag™** assurance of quality.

Palmer III and Prelude III are available alone, blended together or under the well-known MarvelGreen Supreme blend name.

Any way you look at it, a superior playing surface is a simple decision.

For more information, contact your local UHS representative

www.uhsonline.com



United
Horticultural Supply

Girls week at NGCOA courses

CHARLESTON, S.C. — The National Golf Course Owners Association, in conjunction with *Golf Digest Woman*, is sponsoring the second annual "Take Your Daughter to the Course Week" June 18 to 24. More than 200 courses and 2,000 girls took part in last year's event.

The initiative is part of the NGCOA's effort to grow the game of golf through the "Get Linked, Play Golf" player development campaign. Participating courses can structure their program to fit their particular market.

Promotional ideas include free clinics and play for girls, discounts for the adults who bring them, fashion shows and other creative options. NCGOA will provide

Continued on next page

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Golf accessibility forum crystallizes industry goals

By ANDREW OVERBECK

CLEMSON, S.C. — Preliminary steps towards making golf more accessible to individuals with disabilities were established during the sixth National Forum on Accessible Golf, held here in April.

"The meeting was the best one we've had," said organizer Larry Allen, who oversees the National Project for Accessible Golf. "It was the most action-oriented of all of them and people are now excited and interested in moving forward."

Fifty of the nation's golf experts, members of the medical and rehabilitation professions and accessibility leaders attended the four-day forum. They identified seven areas that need further educational programs, strategies and services.

SEVEN POINTS OF LIGHT

Forum participants aim to:

- develop a management "tool kit" for golf course owners and operators to better serve disabled golfers;
- expand the informational services of

the United States Golf Association's Golf Resource Center for golfers with disabilities;

- develop an educational model for teaching golf to individuals with disabilities;
- develop educational materials to clarify the rehabilitative value of golf;
- develop educational materials to promote golf as a means of inclusion and lifestyle development for those with disabilities;
- develop a comprehensive research program to support educational efforts; and

- promote the financial advantages associated with a greater inclusion of disabled golfers.

To implement these plans, organizers are now working with forum participants to develop an oversight committee. "We are developing a consortium that will spearhead these activities," said Allen. "We don't want to perpetuate bureaucratic nonsense, but we want to create an entity that represents all points of view within the golf industry."

Allen expects to form the group over the summer and implement the action plan over the next two years.

Rustic Tobacco Road clubhouse ranks tops in country

SANFORD, N.C. — Named "best new clubhouse in America" by *GOLFInc* magazine, the Tobacco Road facility located here also was number one in the daily-fee, under-10,000-square-foot category of the publication's annual clubhouse rankings.

The rustic-looking stone porches, cedar siding and red tin roof emphasize the simplicity of this farmhouse-style design. Pine-plank floors, extracted from the old tobacco barn that once occupied the site, now provide space for golf clubs and accessories displayed amongst old farming equipment.

The structure was built following an electrical fire that quickly torched the original facility six months after it was constructed. "It isn't often you get a second chance, so when you do you had better take advantage of it," said Joe Gay, director of golf. Not including interior design, the new 4,128-square-foot clubhouse cost roughly \$400,000.

PEANUTS ON THE PORCH

The clubhouse design was a first for architectural company Amy Stevens Designs, of Broadway, N.C. "It's the kind of place where people love to sit on the porch, drink beer and eat peanuts after a round," Gay said.

Interior work was handled by local designer Cindy Gay and Associates. "From the outset we wanted the clubhouse to be natural and not forced or contrived," said Tony Woodell, course president and part owner, "and to be as unique and enjoyable as the golf course itself."

The clubhouse is decorated with local nostalgia and provides space for a pro shop, snack bar and dining area as well as conference rooms and offices located upstairs. "This is a victory for developers working on a limited budget," said a contest judge. "This really shows that the little guy can come in and do something creative."

NGCOA's girls week

Continued from previous page

assistance in promoting the week to its members and the golf industry.

Last year's special week for girls was held in connection with the national Take Your Daughter to Work Day, which occurred in April. Cool weather held down turnout at some northern courses. A switch to summer is expected to boost participation.

Junior girls represent an underserved segment of the market. Only 13 percent of junior golfers are girls. ■

Available in Limited Quantities in the Summer of 2001
Only From These Authorized Certified
SeaIsle1 Seashore Paspalum Growers

SeaIsle1

Certified Seashore Paspalum



US Sales

Bladerunner Farms

Poteet TX
830 276-4455
830 276-8618(Fax)

Diamond Turf LLC

Cordele GA
478 741-6000
478 742-0750(Fax)

Modern Turf

Rembert SC
803 713-8873
803 713-8882(Fax)

Phillip Jennings

Turf Farms
Norristown GA
478 668-3729
478 668-3597(Fax)

Pike Creek Turf, Inc.

Adel GA
800 232-7453
229 896-7584(Fax)

Rapid Turf, Inc.

Rincon GA
912 826-2454
912 826-2882(Fax)

SMR Turf and Trees

Bradenton FL
941 746-8873
941 708-3391(Fax)

US Sales

South FL Grassing

Hobe Sound FL
800 483-4279
561 546-3482(Fax)

South FL Sod, Inc.

Punta Gorda FL
941 637-4770
941 637-0196(Fax)

Southern Turf

International
Kahuku HI
808 232-2277
808 293-5748(Fax)

Southern Turf

Nurseries, Inc.
Punta Gorda FL
Brookfield GA
800 841-6413
334 987-5951(Fax)

The Turfgrass Group

Marshallville GA
678 642-0915
770 382-8210(Fax)

Thomas Family

Wharton TX
979 532-2593
979 282-9773(Fax)

US Sales

Tifton Turf

Ashburn GA
800 841-6645
229 386-1207(Fax)

Turfgrass America

Parker AZ
Tampa FL
Camilla GA
Bay City TX
Poteet TX

800 445-2602
979 245-1508(Fax)

West Coast Turf

Palm Desert CA
Stevenson CA
800 447-1840
760 360-5616(Fax)

International Sales

Phillip Jennings

Turf Farms
Norristown GA
912 668-3729
912 668-3597(Fax)

Southern Turf

International
Kahuku HI
808 232-2277
808 293-5748(Fax)

International Sales

Southern Turf

Nurseries, Inc.
Brookfield GA
334 987-5950
334 987-5951(Fax)

Turfgrass America

Bay City TX
979 245-2655
979 245-1508(Fax)

West Coast Turf

Palm Desert CA
760 360-5464
760 360-5616(Fax)

Argentina Sales

Asociacion Argentina

de Golf
Buenos Aires, Argentina
+54(114) 325-1113
+54(114) 325-8660(Fax)

International Licensing

Manderley Turfgrass

International, Inc.
Nepean, Ontario, Canada
877 441-8746
613 225-7725(Fax)

www.seaisle1.com