Elkington’s first design debuts near Houston

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz.—Troon Golf has announced the opening of Fish Creek Golf Club, the newest daily-fee facility in the Houston area.

As part owner of the golf club, veteran PGA Tour professional Steve Elkington designed the 27-hole layout in his first venture into golf course architecture. Elkington was involved in every detail, right down to the rocking chairs on the clubhouse veranda and the color of the carpet.

Eighteen holes are complete, measuring 6,834 yards, with the third nine under construction and slated to open this summer. The course stretches through a heavily wooded area, with Fish Creek meandering through the property and coming into play on a number of holes.

Heritage Links handled the construction.

With wide sweeping fairway undulations, Elkington’s layout plays to the natural architecture of the land. Construction required the bare minimum of earthmoving, allowing the course to flow to large, well-balanced green complexes.

“I wanted to see if I could envision the entire project,” said Elkington. “It has been a labor of love for the past two years. My plan was to keep everything simple and well-rooted in traditional, classic touches. We chose Troon Golf because they share our appreciation for the traditions of the game by providing the finest golf experiences available, from the conditioning of the golf course to the service in the clubhouse.”

CHALLENGING, NOT RIDICULOUS

Elkington, a native of Australia, drew from years of experience by playing the world’s finest golf courses, recalling the most comfortable aspects of each one he has visited in a style he loosely describes as “country golf.”

“I wanted the golf course to be challenging but not ridiculous, and nothing in the look and feel of Fish Creek to be overpowering,” he said. “Except for the wafting aroma of barbecue smoking in the cooker between the ninth green and 10th tee, golf at Fish Creek is about relaxing and enjoying yourself.”

The superintendent, John Williams, came here from Troon North, in Scottsdale. His first assistant, Gary Livingston, transferred in from another Troon property in Palm Desert, Calif.

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