

BRIEFS

RAINMAKER TO DEVELOP STONY POINT

COLUMBIA, Md. — Rainmaker Golf Development, based here, has reached agreement to develop the Stony Point Golf Club for the town of Stony Point, N.Y. The 18-hole layout will be designed by Jacobson Golf Course Design. Rainmaker's selection came after the municipality's national search for a project manager to shepherd the development. The town has established a budget of about \$15 million and hopes to break ground on the course this month, with an opening date in June 2003. No builder has yet been named. Stony Point is located along the shores of the Hudson River in southern New York. The course will incorporate many granite ridges and bluffs, offering some 150-foot elevation changes from tee to fairway.

Retooled Bay area layout reopens as Monarch Bay

By JAY FINEGAN

SAN LEANDRO, Calif. — An \$8.1-million renovation has transformed the San Leandro Golf Complex into a sparkling 27-hole layout now called Monarch Bay Golf Club.

Set on San Francisco Bay, the remodeled facility gives Bay area residents a retooled championship layout and a spiffed up nine-hole executive track called Marina Golf Course.

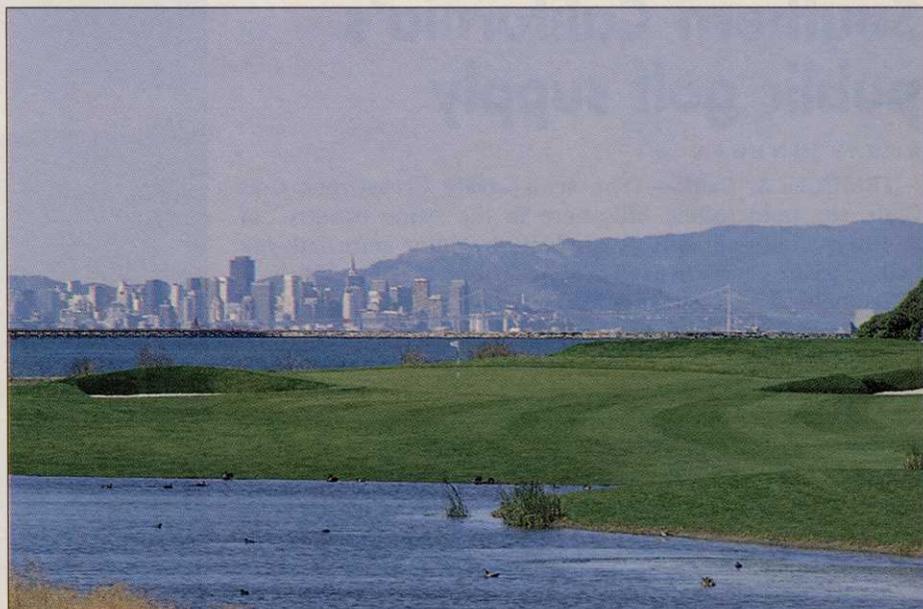
Architect John Harbottle completely redesigned both courses in this project undertaken jointly by the City of San Leandro and American Golf Corp. It's believed to be one of the largest privately funded renovations ever on a municipal golf facility. "American Golf brought the money to do the development and the city guaranteed the lease," Harbottle said.

Measuring over 7,000 yards, the 18-hole daily-fee track — the Tony Lema Course — holds the distinction of being the second longest and most difficult par-71 layout in the state. However, multiple tees give players a range of options.

Named after local hero and British Open champion Tony Lema, the links-style layout meanders over gentle terrain. Sixteen of 18 holes enjoy views of San Francisco Bay, with some parts of the course bordered by natural wetlands.

FIRM, FAST FAIRWAYS

The executive nine-holer was closed for a year for its renovation, followed by



The Monarch Bay Golf Club looks out on San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge.

Photo by D2 Productions, Murphy/Scully

the year-long shutdown of the Lema layout, which reopened in March.

"We renovated both of them top to bottom," Harbottle said. "There wasn't a blade of grass left unturned. The Tony Lema Course is totally different now. A lot of the layout remains the same, because the holes fit the terrain very well. But green locations have shifted, and the bunkering is completely changed."

Steep, sod-faced bunkers placed throughout the course create a complex

design, where careful strategy is rewarded with shortcuts and open approaches to the greens. The firm, fast fairways and prevailing winds make for a true links feel. The challenging layout is already scheduled to host the USGA Mid-Amateur Championship qualifying round in August.

LANDFILL LOCATION

The \$8.1-million budget wasn't as large as it sounds, according to Harbottle.

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Photo courtesy of the ehls collection

(Left to right) Mickie Gallagher, Dave Ogilvie, Bobby Jones, and Alfred S. Bourne at Augusta Country Club, where Jones kicked off his 1930 Grand Slam.

Silva restoring Ross' Augusta CC

By PHILIP HALL

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Architect Brian Silva will break ground this July on a thorough restoration of Augusta Country Club, a Donald Ross design with a rich golf history that actually predates Ross and stretches back to the 19th century.

Augusta Country Club will close for the summer and fall and reopen for play next January, according to general manager Henry Marburger. When the restoration is complete, Augusta CC will feature a layout as true to its Ross plans as any course in the Southeast.

Silva first visited the club two years

ago. "At that time, the discussions centered mostly around restoring the bunkers," recalled the architect, whose extensive Ross restoration portfolio includes Seminole Golf Club in North Palm Beach, Fla., Biltmore Forest Country Club in Asheville, N.C., Old Elm Golf Club in Chicago, and Charlotte (N.C.) Country Club, host to last year's USGA Senior Amateur.

"After that initial visit, the club got hold of Ross' original, working drawings from the Tufts Archive in Pinehurst," Silva continued. "And I mean drawings straight from the source: Ross' hand-written notes are

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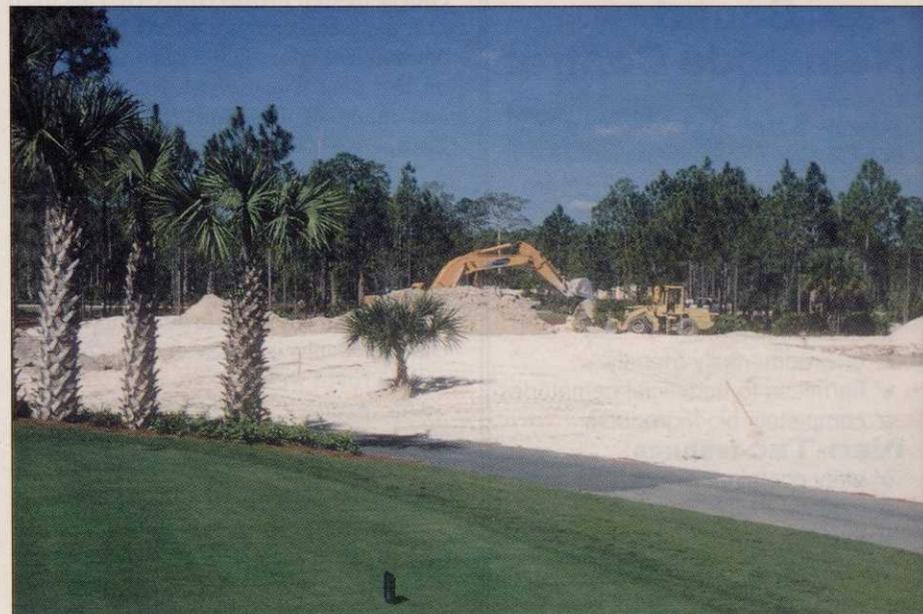
Barbaron, Southeastern co-building the North Course at Bonita Bay's Mediterra

NAPLES, Fla. — Last December, on the same day the Bonita Bay Group opened the South Course at Mediterra, the company broke ground for its second layout, the North Course, two years ahead of schedule.

Now, in an innovative move to ensure the opening of the North Course this December, the company has hired two

"This is the first time we have worked side by side with another contractor on the same course," said Danny Moman of Barbaron, "and it's working out extremely well."

According to Mickey McSwain, this is also the first time that Southeastern Golf has worked on a course in conjunction with another contractor.



Construction is under way at the North Course at Mediterra.

separate golf course contractors to build the Tom Fazio-designed layout.

Barbaron Inc., out of Inverness, Fla., and Southeastern Golf, based in Tifton, Ga., have been brought in to pioneer this tandem approach.

MOVING AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

"The two-contractor approach is definitely outside of the norm, but it's something that our team felt would make the construction process much more efficient,"

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Two builders

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said Vince Barraco, senior project manager at Mediterra. "Two full golf construction crews are working simultaneously, and as a result, we have doubled our progress on the North Course.

"An added benefit of the dual team approach," continued Barraco, "is that we are able to be more efficient while developing the course. For example, we can sod the bunkers and mounded areas because they take minimal irrigation. And because we will finish the course six months prior to our grand opening, we can delay planting fairways and ornamentals until the water conditions improve." Florida is in the midst of a crisis-level drought.

A TREND IN THE MAKING?

Tom Marzolf, senior design associate for Fazio Golf Course Designers, feels this method of golf course construction will be the trend of the future, due to increased demand to build more expensive courses faster.

"Developers today want to build \$8-million courses and have them completed within a year," he said. "Using two contractors simultaneously is a way to meet these deadlines while ensuring the highest quality. There is no other course that I know of, nationwide, that has employed two separate contractors on the same project."

GIVING MEMBERS A CHOICE

Since construction began on the North

Course, 11 lakes have been constructed, 16 holes have been cleared, six holes are roughly shaped and irrigation is scheduled to begin this spring.

The North Course, designed as a companion layout to the South Course, will also be distinctly different. Greens will be tiered instead of layered, and there will be more green and grade changes. The North Course will also feature naturalized edges to blend with the adjoining wetland areas.

"We want our membership to have the flexibility to choose between two different styles of golf," said Susan Hebel Watts,

vice president of the Bonita Bay Group and general manager at Mediterra. "We feel that they'll appreciate having two courses and two different golfing experiences available to them in the same community."

Like the South Course, the North Course is designed to meet Audubon Signature Cooperative Sanctuary requirements. Both courses are Fazio designs.

MUCHO MOOLA REQUIRED

The Bonita Bay Group is developing Mediterra in the classical style of Europe's Mediterranean region. The master plan for the 1,697-acre community includes

some 950 residences and more than 1,000 acres of open space. Membership in each golf club is limited to 275.

Mediterra Realty is now offering home sites from \$450,000, coach homes from \$450,000, villas from \$600,000 and single-family homes from \$1.85 million to more than \$5 million.

The Club at Mediterra's 25,000-square-foot clubhouse, which opened in February, is the focal point of the Piazza, which will also include tennis courts, swimming pools and a fitness center. A private beach club with pool on the Gulf of Mexico will be available for resident members. ■

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This new fine-bladed seashore paspalum cultivar, developed by Dr. R.R. Duncan at the University of Georgia's Griffin Experiment Station, is ideal for golf course fairways, tees, and roughs. It makes a fine choice for sports turf, home lawns and commercial landscaping, too. It's a grass that thrives on salt water. With the right management practices, you can irrigate SeaIsle1 using a sea-water blend, or even straight ocean water. It also grows quite well when watered from recycled or effluent sources. As drinking water becomes more and more scarce, ocean water and other alternate low-quality sources are going to be the only option for most lawns. The hard fact is, turfgrass management is going to center on water quality and water conservation, and grasses of the future are going to have to be bred to withstand multiple environmental stresses. If you've got salt or water quality problems, SeaIsle1 may be right for you.

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Graves & Pascuzzo

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in 1959, the La Quinta course is a PGA Tour stop for the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic.

NEW MARKETS IN EAST AND ABROAD

While most of their courses reside in the western states, the start of a new century has taken Graves & Pascuzzo into new markets. This year their designs have reached the East Coast, along with Italy and Japan.

Graves & Pascuzzo recently unveiled two new courses in Massachusetts – Indian Pond in Kingston, and The Ranch Golf Club in Southwick. Indian Pond, a private club, is part of a master-planned residential community owned by Massachusetts developer Fred Tonsberg. This course features holes that wind through heavily wooded foothills.

The Ranch Golf Club, a daily-fee layout, occupied a one-time dairy farm that dated back to the Colonial era. The course's charm and feel reflects the history of the area. The layout, which plays through heavily wooded areas as well as open fields, provides variety and visual appeal.

Also under construction is a new course in Torino, Italy, scheduled to debut this year. The firm is working as well in Japan on the renovation of an exclusive private club in Sapporo called Otaru Golf Club, which will host the Japan Open in 2006.

Graves & Pascuzzo was founded in 1959 by Robert Muir Graves, who was joined by Pascuzzo in 1980. Based here in Northern California, with additional design offices in Oregon and Utah, the firm has designed more than 80 new courses throughout the world and collaborated on the remodeling of some 720 more. ■