

Garl goes with paspalum at Crown Colony

By DEREK RICE

FT. MYERS, Fla. — While Crown Colony Golf & Country Club is a “fine golf course and a great community,” according to architect Ron Garl, its grass is a major attraction as well.

The Garl-designed course, which opened in late February, uses the certified hybrid paspalum developed by the University of Georgia. The grass is attractive,

Garl said, because it can survive on salt water and brackish water.

“This is the first major breakthrough in warm-season grass in 30 or 40 years,” Garl said. “There are a lot of places in the world that have brackish water and this grass is going to help.”

Even after the course opened, crews continued to pump brackish water onto the grass.

“We’re pumping mostly efflu-

ent water on it, wastewater, but it runs 2,400 parts per million of salt, and it’s doing very well,” Garl said. “It won’t take constant salt water, but it will take brackish water and it will take salt water if you flush it once the salts build up in the root zone and the soil.”

Garl said his firm is looking at two or three more places, in Florida and the Caribbean,

where paspalum would be beneficial.

“If you think about all the places in the world that are close to the ocean that would like to have a golf course but don’t have a constant source of fresh water, this is going to be a major break-



Ron Garl

through,” Garl said. “Our golf course is one big laboratory right now. As time goes on, we’ll know more. We’re very pleased at this stage with how this is handling the water.”

The environmental impact of using the hybrid paspalum was another factor that contributed to the decision to use it at Crown Colony, Garl said.

“We think it’s very important to be good stewards of the land. We

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Former Air Force course to reopen

ARLINGTON, Texas — The former Carswell Golf Club in Westworth Village, west of Fort Worth, has undergone extensive renovation of its golf course and



practice facilities since the Westworth Redevelopment Authority acquired the property

from the U.S. Air Force.

Now known as Hawks Creek Golf Club, the course will be ready for play this summer. Architect John C. Colligan said the new design “will offer resort course features at fees the public player can afford.”

Colligan said he approached the project with the idea that golf course architects have a responsibility to the golfing public and course owners to be prudent in the design process in an effort to keep green fees reasonable without sacrificing the look and feel of the course.

Colligan said anyone who played the old Carswell course will be surprised by Hawks Creek. His design retained many of the unique features of the original course while incorporating many new concepts, including a double green formed by the second and fourth holes, a large beach bunker on the 14th, and an alternate route fairway on the 16th.

The overall course has been lengthened to 6,800 yards from championship tees and will play to 5,200 yards from the forward set of tees.

Other course improvements include larger tees, 419 Bermudagrass fairways, 6,500-square-foot average bentgrass greens, a new 1,250-head irrigation system and strategically placed sand and grass bunkers.

Moving forward, the course has plans to complete a tournament pavilion, remodel the clubhouse and complete a golf car storage facility prior to its reopening. ■

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