BRIEFS

GCBAA GRANTS QUALITY GRASSING CHARTER MEMBER STATUS

LINCOLN, Neb. — The Golf Course Builders Association of America has granted Charter Member status to Quality Grassing & Services, Inc., a Florida-based general contractor specializing in golf course and athletic field construction, irrigation and renovation. Quality Grassing was founded in 1982 and became known for quality installation and production of hybrid Bermudagrass strains. The company, which is headed by president P. Howard Barnes, quickly expanded the scope of its business to include complete construction services and was named Small Golf Course Builder of the Year by Golf Course News in 1997. The company’s current projects include Harmony Golf Course in St. Cloud, Fla.; Highland Walk Golf Course in Rosyon, Ga.; Lamington Farm Golf Club in Bedminster, N.J.; and Coosa Bend Golf Course in Gadsen, Ala.

JACOBS HARDY HIRES VANHOUSE

BEAVERTON, Ore. — Jacobsen Hardy Golf Course Designs has hired Rex VanHoose as its director of business development. VanHoose will be responsible for design, marketing and business development. Prior to joining Jacobsen Hardy, VanHoose worked for Keith Foster Golf Design and Lohmann Golf Designs. Throughout his career, he has been involved in all aspects of golf course design including conceptual planning and development of construction specifications, budgets and schedules.

TUSCANY GC SET TO OPEN IN SPRING

HENDERSON, Nev. — Development is continuing on schedule here at the Ted Robinson-designed Tuscany Golf Course. When completed, the 1,900 home golf course community will offer views of the Las Vegas Strip. The 530-acre project will include an 18-hole golf course, a 31,000-square-foot clubhouse and a trail system linking individual neighborhoods with parks and recreational facilities. The golf course will be open to the public in early spring and home sales will commence this summer.

RTJ II restructures to create legacy company

By ANDREW OVERBEEK

PALO ALTO, Calif. — Golf course design firm Robert Trent Jones II, L.L.C., has undergone an internal restructuring over the last year and a half in a move to create a legacy company. New CEO John Strawn and president and chief designer Bruce Charlton have both bought into the company to protect the long-term brand identity of RTJ II design.

“We are looking long-term,” said Strawn. “The history of design firms is that when the founder is gone, the company is essentially gone. We wanted to create a legacy company.”

“Mr. Jones is the inspiration and the master architect and his thinking is a part of the overall design approach,” he continued. “The young architects are learning that history and that approach and as they mature they will be able to apply it.”

Charlton likens the new company to Frank Lloyd Wright’s Taliesin Design which carries on in the tradition of its founder.

“Mr. Jones wanted to develop an organization that would live beyond

Continued on page 21

Adding length to combat technology is a costly proposition

By LAURENCE HIRSH

The impact of golf ball and club technology has been a hot topic of debate in the golf industry lately – and for good reason. In many ways, it has changed the way golf is played.

The ability of professional players to hit longer drives has made some of the game’s greatest venues inadequate for major professional and amateur events. Tom Fazio added nearly 400 yards to Augusta National this year to ensure a “proper” challenge for the game’s greatest players.

Many players, including designer/players Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer, have called for modifications to the golf ball, while others have suggested a variety of equipment changes. The American Society of Golf Course Architects suggested that “a line be drawn in the sand” to avoid technology because of limited land resources, cost considerations, and political or environmental issues. The need for larger golf courses will lead to significantly increased construction and maintenance costs and will likely make the game more expensive to play. All of this would be detrimental to the growth of golf.

On average, the site for a 7,000-plus-yard, 18-hole

Continued on page 20

BCG set to break ground at Oxford Greens in May

OXFORD, Conn. — Billy Casper Golf (BCG) has signed a multi-year management agreement to provide turnkey planning, construction and management services for The Golf Club at Oxford Greens. To be developed by Timberlake Development Partners (TDP), the new, semi-private golf club is currently in the planning stages with groundbreaking scheduled for May 2002.

The par-72 layout will feature five sets of tees that range in length from 4,982 yards to 7,147 yards, and will serve as the centerpieces of the 650-acre Oxford Greens development. BCG will manage all aspects of the operation, from accounting and food to beverage to marketing and golf course maintenance. The grand opening is scheduled for July 2003.

“Billy Casper Golf’s CEO, Peter Hill, is a New Haven [Conn.] native, which provides Oxford Greens with a unique combination of local knowledge and national marketing perspective,” said Andrew Tedford, managing partner of TDP.

Designed by golf course architect Mark Mungame, based in Uxbridge, Mass., the Oxford Greens course will feature largely wooded holes - none that are parallel - and

Continued on page 36

GOLF COURSE NEWS

FEBRUARY 2002 17