JACOBS HARDY HIRES VANHOUSE
BEAVERTON, Ore. — Jacobsen Hardy Golf Course Designs has hired Ron 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 community will offer views of the Las Vegas Strip. The 530-acre project will include a 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

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The ninth hole at Von Hagge’s Torreon Golf and Country Club

Von Hagge sheds light on Torreon Golf and Country Club

By DAVID HUBBARD
SHOW LOW, Ariz. — It is by careful design that the natural sunlight is especially vibrant at Torreon Golf and Country Club, Desert Foothills Properties’ 1,000-acre master planned community here. Architect Robert von Hagge has allowed his artistic sensibilities to dictate his vision of the three closely connected nine-hole courses.

Stretching through natural canyons and pine forests, Torreon is von Hagge’s first full-fledged design in the Southwest. In collaboration with his design partners, Mike Smeele and Rick Baril, their layout plays as a “natural light palette” where the strategic options are further enhanced by sheer visual impact.

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his father, his brother and himself," Charlton said. "Like the Frank Lloyd Wright disciples, the concept is to have the RTJ II name, philosophy and design quality known throughout the world and have a group of young people to carry it forward."

Strawn refers to the changes as a "re-launch" and "re-assertion" of the company. The firm has a new logo and will be offering new marketing services. Mark Voss is the firm's newest designer.

PROJECTS ROLLING WORLDWIDE

According to Strawn and Charlton, 2001 was a successful year and 2002 is shaping up to be even better. The company, which designs mostly high end golf courses, is involved in numerous projects worldwide, from Europe to Asia to the United States.

"We are probably a little better off than other firms because we do so much international work," said Charlton. "We have a strong stable in Asia, and Spain and Scandinavia have been strong. With interest rates low in the United States, we have been getting a lot of calls from people in the last 30 days."

In Asia, the firm is working on Dongbu Golf Club and Oak Valley Golf Club in Korea and has another course underway in China at Thompson Shanghai.

European projects are also progressing with three ongoing projects in Norway: Miklagaard Golf Club north of Oslo; Holtsmark Golf Club in Drammen; and Kristiansand Golf Club in Kristiansand.

The firm's Aucanada Golf Club in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, is set to open in October and sits right on the city's harbor. The all-paspalum layout will use brackish irrigation water.

For overseas work, RTJ II requires owners to use the firm's shapers to oversee the work and build the tees, greens and bunkers. "We require they hire our implementation services," said Strawn. "They don't have the kind of high-quality builders internationally, like we do here in the United States."

DOMESTIC WORK PROGRESSING

Back on the home front, the firm's Charter Oak Country Club in Hudson, Mass., opened late last year and work is underway at several other projects including Westrock in McCall, Idaho.

The golf and ski resort on Lake Cascade is in the permitting stages and construction is set to begin this spring. According to Strawn, the four-season resort has unbelievable views and the course will run in and out of existing meadowlands and stands of Ponderosa pines.

In addition to working on the Westrock project, architect Dwayne Steinke is carving a links-style golf course out of a former oil refinery in Casper, Wyoming.

"It is a total remediation project," said Steinke. "All of the underground pipes had to be removed and some of the concrete pads were 12 feet deep. So far they have dug up ten times more dirt than they anticipated."

In the southern half of the country, the firm is busy on the 36-hole Miramont Golf Club in Bryan, Texas, and is at work on an additional 18 holes at Rock Barn Golf Club in Hickory, N.C. Both will open this year.

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