

BRIEFS

WORK COMPLETE AT HANOVER CC

HANOVER, N.H. — Hanover Country Club has just completed the construction of four new holes and the renovation of the other existing holes. Architect Ron Prichard restored the circa 1899 layout to its traditional design and Dahn Tibbett Golf Services of Marshfield, Mass., accomplished the reconstruction. During the yearlong project all greens, tees, and bunkers were rebuilt along with the addition of the new holes. The club is expected to open for play again in mid-2002.

RULEWICH UPDATING PALMETTO DUNES

HILTON HEAD, S.C. — Roger Rulewich has started work on a complete face-lift of the Robert Trent Jones Course at Palmetto Dunes Resort, here. Rulewich was involved in the original design and construction of the course more than three decades ago while working with Jones. The architect will redesign and rebuild all greens, tees and bunkers and the entire course will be regrassed with improved Bermudagrass varieties. In addition, all fairways will be regraded and contoured and a new drainage system will be installed. Rulewich will also add junior tees to encourage juniors and beginners to play golf. Construction and grassing is scheduled to be completed by June and the course will re-open for play in October.

HARVARD DESIGN SCHOOL ANNOUNCES WINTER/SPRING SEMINARS

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — For one week in January and one week in March, the Harvard Design School Office of Executive Education will offer continuing education seminars related to the planning and design of golf courses and resorts. A wide range of disciplines such as architecture, urban planning and design, marketing and business management, and construction and project management will be addressed.

With fees ranging from \$475 to \$1,285, the one- to three-day courses will take place here in the school's George Gund Hall. Instructors include golf course designers Brian Silva and Robert Muir Graves; architects Kenneth DeMay and Richard Diedrich; designers and environmentalists William Burbank and Michael Hurdzan; and golf development consultant Barbara Hanley.

Pinehills GC opens Rees Jones course, Nicklaus design to follow

By JOEL JOYNER

PLYMOUTH, Mass. — New England's latest golf course facility, Pinehills Golf Club here in historic Plymouth, opened its 18-hole Rees Jones layout last Memorial Day weekend and has exceeded its projected golf rounds for the year. The upscale, daily-fee club is hoping to follow up on that success this year with a new Nicklaus Design course, drawn up by Jack Nicklaus II, scheduled to open this May.

In its first five weeks of operation, the Jones course averaged 200 players a day. "The course has been well received," said head pro, John Tuffen. "We're looking forward to opening the Nicklaus course next year. Construction is complete, and they finished seeding Aug. 1. It was playable last fall, but we're waiting until this year to open it up to the public."

THE JONES COURSE

The entire development, with the surrounding community developed by The Green Companies, consist of approximately 3,000 acres with 350 acres set aside for golf.

Jones had a large piece of property that provided several options. "The soil is really sandy, high-and-dry, and we were able to utilize a lot of the ridges," Jones said. "The biggest challenge for me was to maximize the terrain."



All the tees on the Jones course are rectilinear. The eighth hole is pictured above.

The bunkers resemble the old-style A.W. Tillinghast or Alister MacKenzie bunkering. "They're real sculptured, fairly dramatic, and they're one of the major characteristics of the golf course. Several of the fairway bunkers are located as

protective bunkers," said the architect.

There are bunkers located on every hole, and many of the fairways are routed along the ridges. "Most of the bunkers are below the fairways or below the targets and actually help keep the ball in play on missed shots," Jones explained. "They're not just sticking out of the ground. They're more recessed and cut into the lower terrain."

Four sets of tees allow play from 5,388 yards to 7,175 yards. "Basically, we design all our courses over 7,000 yards and add multiple tees," said Jones. "A course of 7,000 yards is no longer a long course anymore with the shafts now available, the metal head drivers, the Pro V1 and Nike golf balls. The course is long, but there's opportunity for all caliber players to find a comfortable challenge."

Grass hollows and pockets, cuts that hold a shot in, sculptured bunkers and ramps into greens give the design character. "It's not a spartan golf course," said Jones. "It's also a course you really need to think yourself around and determine what kind of shot you want to hit or are capable of hitting. It makes the game more enjoyable when a player needs to develop and apply strategy."

Continued on page 16



The seventh hole at The Club at Patriot's Glen

Matthai unveils second in Md. at Patriot's Glen

By JOHN TORSIELLO

ELKTON, Md. — Jeff Matthai and Morris and Ritchie Associates, Inc. have addressed the need here for a mid-level public golf course with the opening of The Club at Patriot's Glen.

"What we wanted to do with Patriot's Glen was fill a niche," said Matthai, who is a project manager for Morris and Ritchie Associates, Inc. of Abingdon, Md. The company's golf division has served as project engineers for several acclaimed courses, including Bulle Rock Golf Course in Havre de Grace, Md., and Beach Tree Golf Course in Aberdeen, Md.

"There have been a lot of upscale, daily-fee courses built in the area [between Baltimore and Philadelphia] with green fees in the \$95 to \$140 range. There are a number of existing municipal courses in the \$20 to \$30 range. Patriot's Glen is in the \$45 to \$55 range. We feel that the course is a bargain for a truly fine public layout," said Matthai.

This is Matthai's second solo design. His first course, Mountain Ranch Golf Course in Joppa, opened last year.

Trent Wright, general manager/director of golf at Patriot's Glen, said the reception for the new course has

Continued on page 16



Renovation work is underway at Silver Creek

Silver Creek membership puts renovation on fast track

By DOUG SAUNDERS

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Architect Mike Strantz has started work on the renovation of Silver Creek Country Club despite the sagging economy that has crippled the nearby Silicon Valley region. The commencement of work on the nine-year-old layout is the culmination of a fast-paced approval process where a committed membership took control to make things happen.

Silver Creek Country Club is a Ted Robinson-designed course built on a hilly site in South San Jose as an anchor to a housing development created by Shea Homes. Club membership was limited to property owners in the gated community and the course proved popular, drawing more than 300 members. As is the case with many real estate driven properties, the best real estate went for the housing first and Robinson had to work with some awkward topography for the course.

Over the years the membership lodged many opinions of how the course could be better. With the final phase of development completed, Shea Homes offered the club membership the opportunity to take over club operations last

Continued on page 17

Patriot's Glen

Continued from page 14

been beyond expectations.

"We had around 3,500 plays in the first month," he said. "Of course, the weather has been cooperative this fall, but we have had almost three times the rounds we thought we would from the start."

Matthai said Patriot's Glen, so named because of the area's rich Revolutionary War history, was carved out of mature woodlands, giving it the feel of an established course.

The par-72 layout was built by Chicago-based Wadsworth Golf Construction Co., and plays around 6,700 yards from the tips.

"The course rolls through stands of hardwood trees, which makes for a traditional feel. There will ultimately be 400 single family housing units on the site, but the property line setbacks are such that the course stands by itself," said Matthai.

While the term "playable" has become cliché, it does apply to Patriot's Glen. Matthai said he likes giving players of various skill levels multiple choices off the tee box.

"For me, the thing that makes a good hole is having 10 people play it 10 different ways," he said.

For example, the third hole at Patriot's Glen is loaded with choices. The dogleg left par 4 plays only 315 yards and big hitters can consider reaching the green by chewing off the left side, which is lined with bunkers. A conservative play calls for an iron off the tee that will leave the player a wedge into an angled green guarded by a bunker on the right side.

The par 5s are on the modest side and reachable in two for long hitters. The 18th is a classic, shortish hole (515 yards) that has water running up almost the entire right side. A good tee shot will allow the player to go for the green in two, but it's almost a full carry across water.

Matthai said the actual course construction posed few challenges with very little excavation and shaping needed. It was built in two years.

"The biggest challenge was the soil. It's a clay base and we had to put in some soil amendments," he said.

The course has a single row irrigation system running down the middle of its fairways, which are a new three-way blend of Kentucky bluegrass. The greens are bentgrass.

"The new bluegrass doesn't seem to have the problems associated with ryegrass. You don't need to water it as much and you get a good lie off it," said Matthai. ■

Pinehills

Continued from page 14

TWO DIFFERENT GOLF COURSES

The goal at Pinehills was to have two different golf course layouts. "On the Jones course, the fairways are perched having a push-up type of look," said Larry Boudreau, project manager for the Greenwich, Conn.-based developer and owner Centennial Golf Properties.

The landing areas are about 40 yards wide with a little bit of rough before it slopes downward into a bluegrass/fescue rough area that has drainage. "On the Nicklaus layout, the drainage was in the fairway as opposed to the rough like on the Jones course. It didn't have that perched look in the fairways," Boudreau said.

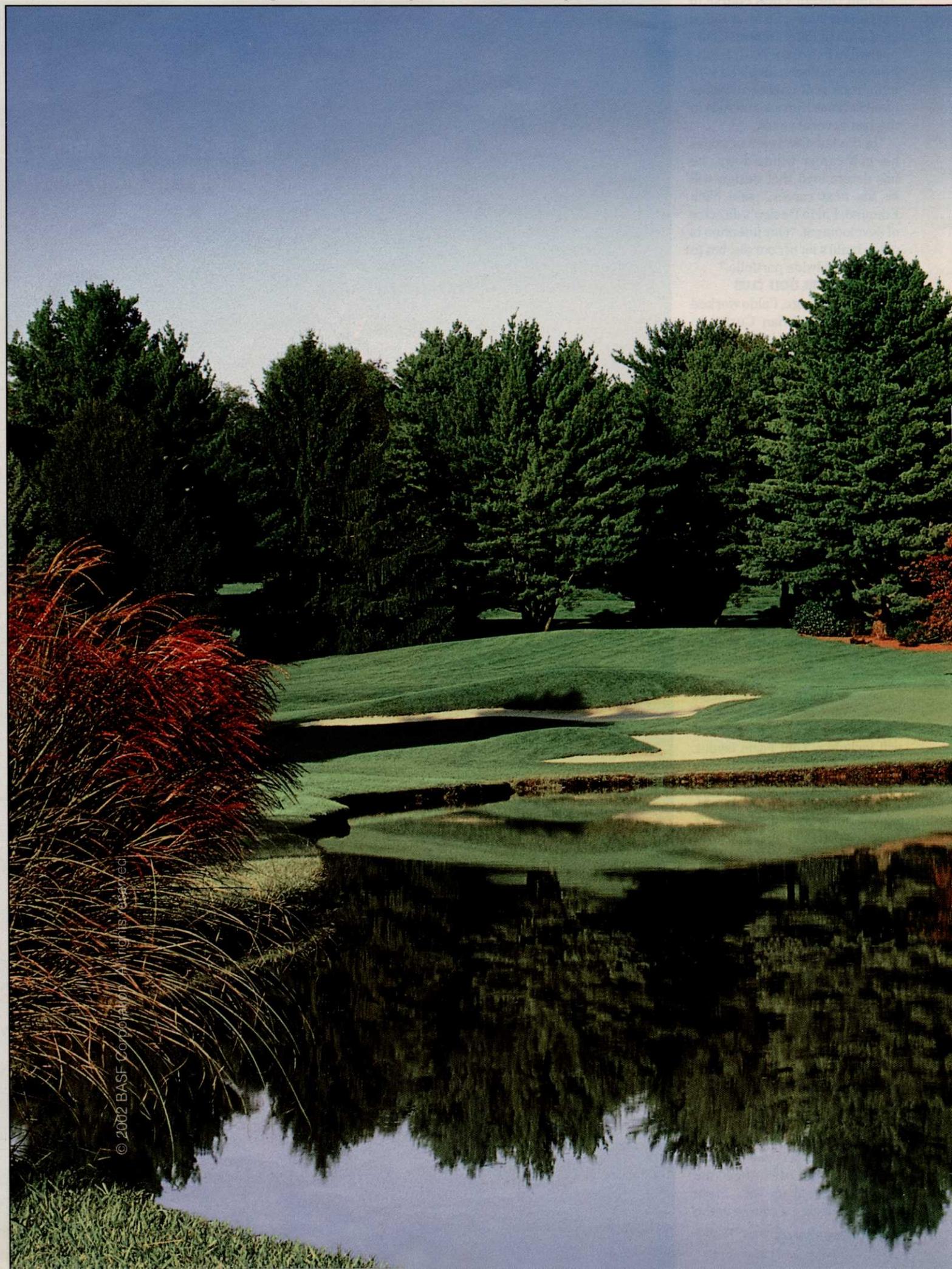
"The greens on the Jones course averaged around 6,500 square

feet," he continued. "They have slope, but it's generally mild ranging from one to maybe two-and-a-half percent. They don't have a lot of heavy undulation to them, but there are subtle features. The Nicklaus greens are smaller but have a lot of contour."

The different approaches to bunkering also was noticeable. "We used 135,000 square feet of bunkers on the Jones course and about 95,000 square feet on the

Nicklaus course," said Boudreau. "There are more bunkers on the Nicklaus layout, but they're smaller."

Another distinction between the two courses involves the tees. "The tees on the Jones course are more traditional rectilinear. On the Nicklaus layout they are free form," Boudreau said. "So as soon as you get to the tee box you already know that you're on a different golf course." ■



© 2002 BASF Corporation. All rights reserved.