

NEWS

Dye Club Management buys course

Dye Club Management of Denver, Colo., has bought its first golf course — the Golf Club of Illinois in Algonquin, Ill.

The facility was bought from financially troubled Skokie Federal Savings for an undisclosed amount, ending a years-long search for a suitable course to purchase, according to Winston Howe, president of Dye Club Management.

Dye Club Management, owned by Perry Dye, plans to turn the "modestly" profitable facility into a better money-maker by increasing its playability for women and junior golfers, Howe said.

That will be accomplished by adding a forward tee system and grooming the course for women's play, two changes that Dye's mother, Alice, has been championing in the industry.

Cornish, Graves teach at Harvard

Architects Geoffrey Cornish of Amherst, Mass., and Robert Muir Graves of Walnut Creek, Calif., will teach a special two-day course in golf course design, June 18-19, at Harvard University Graduate School of Design in Cambridge, Mass.

Cornish and Graves, two former presidents of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, have offered similar seminars around the country. This one is part of a series of courses and workshops in architecture, landscape architecture, computers and real-estate development the university is offering from mid-June through mid-August.

Interested people should contact the Office of Special Programs, 48 Quincy St., Cambridge, Mass., 02138; 617-495-9340.

Pa. planners OK project

A 1,030-acre development built around a 6,900-yard golf course has won approval from the Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission in Pennsylvania.

Hemingway Development Inc., planners of the Gilchrist Development, plan to construct 1,500 residential units and several office complexes, including some "upscale" office space adjacent to the golf course.

The course, designed by Michael Hurdzan of Columbus, Ohio, will include many water hazards, some of which will work as the development's storm water runoff control ponds.

Commissioners supported the project as a positive step for the community.

Florida on top of 1989's course boom

Florida continued to lead the way in new golf course construction in 1989, opening 50 of the 290 that began operation across the United States, according to a National Golf Foundation report.

Florida's total was more than the next three states combined, as the industry saw a 37-percent increase over the 211 that opened in 1988. The NGF reported 463 courses were under construction and 603 were being planned last year, two records for the decade of the 1980s.

"These figures are a very positive sign that the golf industry is well on the way to its goal of at least

400 new courses per year," said NGF President Joseph F. Beditz.

NGF statistics show that of the 290 courses, 66 percent were public facilities. Since 61 percent of the country's courses are now public and 80 percent of all golfers play primarily on public courses, the NGF sees that figure as encouraging.

In the race of states Florida led for the fifth straight year. Michigan nearly quadrupled its construction, with 19 courses, and jumped from 10th place to second.

Texas and California were the two big disappointments. Texas, which ranked second with 20

courses in 1988, fell to sixth place with 12 courses last year. California dropped from fifth to ninth, slipping from 12 courses to 10.

Those slowdowns were countered, however, by increased construction in several northern and Sunbelt states. North and South Carolina had 14 courses open in each, followed by Illinois with 13, Indiana and Georgia with 11 each, and Arizona, Ohio and Virginia each matching California's 10.

The top ten states in course openings during 1989 were:

- 1) Florida, 50.
- 2) Michigan, 19.
- 3) Tie, South Carolina, 14.

- North Carolina, 14.
- 5) Illinois, 13.
- 6) Texas, 12.
- 7) Tie, Indiana, 11.
- Georgia, 11.
- 9) Tie, Arizona, 10.
- Virginia, 10.
- Ohio, 10.
- California, 10.

The top ten states in courses under construction are:

- 1) Florida, 46.
- 2) California, 31.
- 3) South Carolina, 25.
- 4) Michigan, 23.
- 5) Illinois, 21.
- 6) North Carolina, 20.
- 7) Georgia, 18.
- 8) Ohio, 17.
- 9) Texas, 16.
- 10) Pennsylvania, 15.

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