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GOLF COURSE NEWS

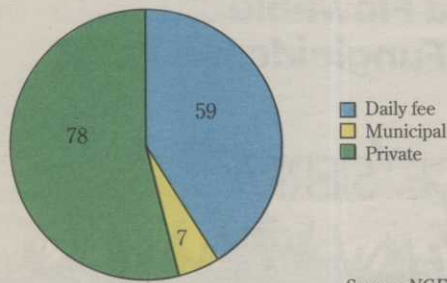
THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

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Big names, big time in big way

IGM has megaplan for 'ultra-courses'

BY MARK LESLIE

Earth is expected to be moved by 1991 on the first of a dozen "ultra-prestige" golf courses that will usher into the United States the concept of marketable memberships.

"I'm enthusiastic right now. We're moving well," said John T. Killip, the man

hired to steer International Golf Management, Inc. through the challenges of building the multiple-course network of "premier" facilities called The Partners Clubs. The exclusive, non-discriminatory private clubs are intended to answer the need of business executives, providing "luxurious and exclusive settings for social, recreational and business."

Killip, IGM's senior vice president, has been busy recruiting big names, going

big time in a big way. And now he sees the fruits ripening on the vine as he prepares to "get the common stock, private placement memorandum on the street at the end of May or first of June."

The first round of 1,200 shares of preferred stock should be issued between January and June 1991, Killip said. IGM will eventually sell 4,800 memberships for the first 12 courses, equivalent to 400

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Bardmoor changes planned

BY PETER BLAIS

The Tampa businessman who purchased Bardmoor Country Club in Largo, Fla., March 30 plans to open one of the courses to the public and finish the last nine holes of a private, Tom Fazio-designed layout.

Rand Gentry, 45, converted the Bardmoor North Golf Course, for many years the

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The picturesque 4th hole at The Bayou Club will become the 16th hole in the new layout. See page 11 for more details and news on other courses. Photo courtesy of Fazio Golf Course Design

Hawaii lease brings \$111M

BY PETER BLAIS

A Japanese company has bid \$111 million to lease Honolulu's recently completed, city-owned West Loch Golf Course in Ewa.

However, the city council, which was scheduled to decide in late April whether to accept Jurigi Co. Ltd.'s bid, could nix the deal, even though the \$91 million profit (the course and clubhouse cost the city \$20 million) would be used to build two new municipal courses and affordable housing.

Several councilors believe the lease arrangement may be illegal since the land was originally condemned to be used as a municipal golf course, not leased

to a private course operator, said city Finance Director Ted Jung.

"There is some public sentiment against the lease. Some people want a municipal course right away. You know, a bird in the hand..." said Deputy Director of Housing Ron Mun. He also noted that the lease arrangement requires 150 rounds a day to be reserved for residents for two years, at a cost of \$27 a round, while the two new municipal courses are built.

Just prior to the March 15 deadline for submitting bids, opposition councilors issued a news release questioning the legality of the lease arrangement, according to Rom Duran, assistant to the city's

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Sharpener breaks time barrier

BY PETER BLAIS

Fledgling Bell Turf Equipment Manufacturing has developed a reel sharpener company officials say will do the job in one-sixth the time at less than half the price.

The San Jose, Calif. firm is being wooed with joint manufacturing proposals from several large companies for Reel Mate, a test unit the company's founder believes will be eagerly sought after by superintendents once it goes into production.

"There's been a lot of interest," said company President Pete Bell, 30, a former golf course mechanic.

The major appeal of Bell's gang mower

sharpener is time savings. Competitive grinders, Bell said, require two to three days for the mechanic to disassemble his mower, mount the reels onto the grinder, then re-assemble the mowing unit once the job is done.

The Reel Mate, which weighs 27 pounds compared to the 800 pounds of most grinders, attaches permanently to the tractor and sharpens the reels in about four hours.

It also requires far less monitoring. A mechanic must adjust a manual grinder every three or four minutes, said Bell. The Reel Mate's micro-processor allows the mechanic to program the job and then

Continued on page 13

2nd woman, 1st Oriental join ASGCA

BY MARK LESLIE

"I am ecstatic," said Jan Beljan, reacting to being just the second woman ever elected to the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

Nai Chung "Lee" Chang, the society's first Oriental member, and former Jack Nicklaus senior designer Bob Cupp joined Beljan among the eight architects elected as associate members March 28 at the group's annual meeting in California.

Others joining the exclusive association, which now numbers 108, are Keith Foster, from Arthur Hills' Arizona office; Tom Marzolf, a colleague of Beljan in Tom Fazio's North Carolina office; W. Bruce Matthews III from Gerald Matthews' firm in Lansing, Mich.; Mark A. Mungeam of Cornish & Silva in Andover, Mass.; and Tom Pearson of Golden Bear International in North Palm Beach, Fla.

"I'm thrilled to get in," said Chang, 43, a China native who has been living in the United States for 20 years. "This is important in my personal development. I've been looking to

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ASGCA

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ward it for quite some time."

Fazio, one of the world's premier architects, was happy for his apprentices and said he has two more senior designers — Tom Weiss and Andy Banfield — whose election would be "absolutely automatic" if they ever get the time to apply.

Beljan, Marzolf and the others "are talented and competent... The reason I have a lot of people is because I want a lot of ideas and thoughts and different interests, and also to train and help people," Fazio said.

"Tom (Marzolf) is very astute, very bright and has an A-1 personality," Fazio said.

Beljan's strength, he said, is "her ability to do the overall, to do multiple things, to be flexible, think about more than one thing at the same time — and her dedication."

Beljan, who joins Alice Dye as the only



Jan Beljan

I don't run into many women in the field, but it will encourage more women golfers, just as male golfers are being encouraged to be designers.

"There are more women landscape architects, and more women doctors and attorneys and CEOs. There will be more women who will

female members of the ASGCA, said her election "is a dream of many years realized."

Asked if it might encourage other women to enter the world of golf course design, Beljan said: "It probably will. I haven't spoken with any specifically. I



Lee Chang

of the course where I grew up. There are powerful images from that time. Great earth-moving machines creating something that never existed there before."

A West Virginia University graduate with a degree in landscape architecture, she credited "a lot of people who were there to inspire me and help me" get into the society — "most of all Tom Fazio. Without Tom's having confidence in me and thinking that I could do for him and with him all that I've done over the years, then I simply couldn't have done the work necessary to join."

Working with Fazio has been "critical in my life," Beljan said. "Golf course design is my life. I have a lot of time and energy to mentally and physically devote to building a golf course. My association in golf has been professional as well as personal.

"The opportunity to work with Tom has meant the opportunity to work with good sites and to work with other associates who have shared their insights into design and approach.

aspire to this."

Beljan, who has worked on many courses with Fazio over the last 12 years, said the seeds to her dream of designing golf courses were planted when she was a child and "I saw my father design and supervise construction of

And that's invaluable. We all learn from one another. It has offered me the opportunity to work with a variety of contractors on a variety of sites and projects, and over varied lengths of time."

"I like the challenge of trying to solve an issue — whether in permitting or drainage," she said.

Key to qualifying for acceptance to the organization is that an applicant must have done work on at least five golf courses, and her list includes Florida courses Pelican's Nest in Bonita Springs, Windstar on Naples Bay, Bluewater Bay in Niceville, Gateway in Ft. Meyers, and The Bayou Club at Bardmoor in Largo.

Recognition by her peers is what makes the election so important, she said. "You can't take a test for golf course design like you can for a medical association or law," she said.

Her next goal?

"To continue designing golf courses with Tom Fazio, in collaboration with him, and trying to make every course better than the last one," she answered.

Chang, who earned a degree in architecture in China before coming to the United States to earn a master's degree in city planning from Georgia Tech, has worked with Willard Byrd in Atlanta, Ga., since 1973.

Byrd, he said, was "one of the few pioneers designing golf course communities" — a fitting place for an urban planner fresh out of college.

"I like the outdoor work and spatial arrangement. I've always been interested in urban

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Tomomi Soh

Soh at helm of Kubota Tractor Corp.

S. Egusa has been promoted to chairman of Kubota Tractor Corp., while Tomomi Soh will replace him as president of the company, according to Kubota Corp. President S. Mino.

Egusa has served as California-based Kubota Tractor Corp.'s president for the past nine years. He began his career with Kubota Corp. in 1949, and was based in Osaka, Japan, before being assigned to the Compton, Calif.-based company.

Egusa pioneered Kubota Corp.'s engine and farm machinery export business and was instrumental in establishing many of its overseas companies. He has led Kubota Tractor Corp.'s expansion into diversified product areas.

For the past five years Soh served as the president of Kubota Europe, and chairman of Kubota Deutschland GmbH.

ASGCA

Continued from page 22 design," Chang said.

Chang began designing courses in the mid-1970s, developing real-estate plans and working golf courses into the designs as a green belt or open space.

Designing a community with a course makes for "a very natural marriage," he said.

Chang said part of the reason for his excitement at being elected an associate member is the organization's work in proving "the benefits of golf courses to the environment, the social well-being and to the urban area as a whole. I feel thrilled to be a course designer."

Chang has been heavily involved with Patriots Point Golf Course in Charleston, S.C., Skidaway Island in Savannah, Ga., The Oaks in Sarasota, Fla., Lockwood Links in Ocean Isle, N.C., and Port Royal in Hilton Head, S.C.

Bob Cupp worked with Jack Nicklaus for two decades before moving out on his own several years ago, and has been designing courses from the United States to the United Kingdom.

Meanwhile, five architects were elevated from associate to regular members of the ASGCA. They are Douglas Carrick of Willowdale, Ontario; Erik Larsen of Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.; Gerald Pirkle of San Juan Capistrano, Calif.; Lee Schmidt of La Quinta, Calif.; and Rodney Wright of Honolulu, Ha.

Eighty of the 100 ASGCA members attended the conference.

Brinkman vp sales at Jacobsen

Jacobsen Division of Textron has named Ned Brinkman vice president of sales and marketing.

He is responsible for all company marketing and sales activities in the United States and Canada as well as the operation of company-owned distributorships in North America.

Stonecreek appoints Lindquist

Stonecreek, The Golf Club, in Paradise Valley, Ariz., has named Gregg Lindquist as director of golf.

Lindquist has served as the golf professional at Tucson Country Club; Cherry Hills Country Club in Englewood, Colo.; Camelback Inn & Golf Club in Scottsdale, Ariz.; and Lincolnshire (Ill.) Resort.

"This unification of responsibilities for sales and marketing will let us better coordinate our efforts to meet our customers needs," said Jacobsen President Robert Reid.

Brinkman joined Jacobsen in 1966. He has held several sales posts, the most recent being vice president of sales.

Prior to joining Stonecreek, Lindquist was a commercial real-estate specialist for Grubb and Ellis Co. in Tucson.

Lindquist replaces Mike Petty, who assumed staff responsibilities at Resort Management of America, Stonecreek's management company.

ON THE MOVE

Elsewhere...

American Golf Corp. has appointed Steve Harker to the newly created post of national sales director. Harker joined American Golf Corp. in 1971 and recently was regional director responsible for operations in the San Diego region.

Jaroslav Jiri "Jerry" Olmr is director of engineering for Kohler's Engine Division. Olmr came to Kohler Co. from the Homelite Division of Textron, Inc., in Charlotte, N.C., where he served as

vice president of engineering for the past five years.

Paul Brandon of Exton, Pa., is a district sales manager for the Mid-Atlantic region by Cushman. Brandon was sales manager for turf maintenance equipment and supplies at Mid-Atlantic Equipment Corp. in Collegeville, Pa.

Scott Moffitt is the new product manager for insecticides with Ciba-Geigy. He comes from the firm's animal health group, where he was product manager for Larvadex and other new products.

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