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GOLF COURSE NEWS

SPECIAL LISTINGS
Architects and Builders
Pages 16, 17 and 20

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

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Course openings in 1990 through June 30

	Daily Fee	Municipal	Private	Total
Opened as new facilities	54	16	23	93
Added to existing facilities	19	4	13	36
Total courses	73	20	36	129

Source: NGF

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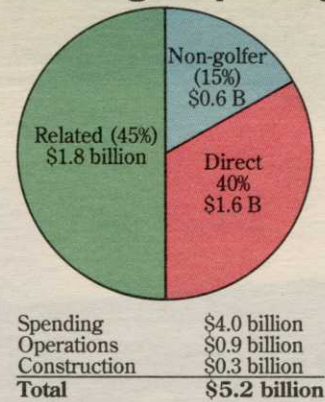
BY KIT BRADSHAW

Golf in Florida is a cornucopia, pouring \$5.2 billion annually not only into the golf industry, but into resorts, restaurants, agriculture, real estate, tourism, retail sales and services.

But the economic impact of golf as a business and the environmental benefit of golf courses must be recognized and understood by the public, legislators and governmental regulators.

Continued on page 10

Florida golf spending



Will other states follow the lead?

BY MARK LESLIE

In the wake of Florida's successful golf summit and with Golf Summit 90 set for Nov. 12-13, states where golf is big business may follow suit by adding lobbying arms and bringing together the industry and government agencies.

Summits like Florida's are "very important because golf is not well coordinated in most states," said Gerald Faubel of Saginaw (Mich.) Country Club.

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Pebble Beach course facelift going full tilt

BY FRANK POLLARD

Plagued by drought and turf problems, Pebble Beach Co. on California's Monterey Peninsula faces an aggressive renovation program at the hands of its new owners.

Prior to the billion-dollar sale of Pebble Beach Co. to Ben Hogan Properties, Inc., officials at the facility had started an extensive program to restore Pebble Beach Golf Links to its original design. At the

same time, though plagued by drought, Pebble Beach was undertaking a program of additional course changes to meet the stringent requirements of the U.S. Golf Association for the U.S. Open, scheduled there in June 1992.

The primary challenge was eradicating Kikuyugrass and all noxious weeds from the tees, aprons, collars, fairways and rough.

Continued on page 15

Calif. supers in suspense

BY PETER BLAIS

Californians will vote this month on two ballot questions dealing with pesticides that could greatly affect how golf course superintendents do their job.

Proposition 128, commonly called the Big Green initiative, would ban 70 to 80 percent of common pesticides used in agriculture, many of which

Continued on page 12

Flood hits Augusta National and others

BY MARK LESLIE

Augusta National Golf Club lost its entire 11th green complex, Augusta Country Club faced washed-out riprap and one-quarter inch of silt on its 8th green, and other courses in Georgia and South Carolina dealt with their own problems after receiving as much as 15

inches of rain Oct. 10-12.

Tropical storms Klaus, Lily and Marco converged in a deluge creating the equivalent of 50-year floods in some areas.

Many courses simply watched the heavens open for two days and waited as the water soaked into the ground.

Others weren't so lucky.

Augusta National superintendent Marsh Benson had to contend with a complete washout of the 11th green and retaining walls, a washed-out 13th members' tee, a flooded 12th green and damaged 13th green as Rae's Creek

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The 13th hole at Iowa Shoreline Golf Course shows how well "derelict land" can be turned into green space. Architect Patrick Wyss of Rapid City, S.D., designed the course in Carter Lake, Iowa. For more on new courses, see page 11.

Pebble Beach

Continued from page 1
throughout the course.

The restoration also included bringing the course back to its original 1919 design of Jack Neville and Douglas Grant by restoring original greens and bunker sizes, shapes and precise locations.

Greens had gotten smaller and, along with the bunkers, had changed over 70 years of play and associated normal maintenance practices.

Hogan Properties, a subsidiary of Tokyo-based Cosmo World Corp., decided not only to meet the previous commitments but to accelerate their execution.

Jack Nicklaus was hired as a long-term consultant to make changes that will bring the course back to its original links look and quality, plus put it in ideal condition for the '92 Open.

Nicklaus has made a preliminary course inspection and was to return in early November for further analysis and recommendations. Nicklaus will first see that all bunkers conform to a more natural seaside links condition and appearance rather than the current well-manicured and tightly trimmed quality and look.

A program to kill all Kikuyugrass on the course was immediately undertaken. Ed Miller, newly appointed Pebble Beach Co. superintendent of courses, set the program in motion.

"In order to eliminate the Kikuyugrass, we treated all fairways—with the exception of holes 3, 6 and 16, and the approaches on 8, 9 and 13—by spraying them with Round-up, a non-selective herbicide that effectively destroys all unwanted vegetable matter," said Miller. "The Kikuyugrass infestation on those remaining badly infested fairways necessitated total soil fumigation and sterilization with methyl bromide and that work was completed on Sept. 29."

Methyl bromide was applied by agricultural equipment developed to denude commercial strawberry fields of insects prior to planting. This equipment, specially modified and mounted on a caterpillar tractor, used soil chisels to penetrate the fairways so methyl bromide could be injected deep into the soil. Simultaneously, plastic tarp was laid down for protective and safety purposes during the fumigation process.

Extra precaution was taken to keep people and animals clear of the fumigated areas, which were roped off with crews continuously monitoring the areas. Warning signs were also posted.

Following tarp removal, no dangerous after effects were encountered since methyl bromide becomes inert immediately on contact with the



A maintenance crew spreads out a plastic tarp over part of one of Pebble Beach Golf Links' fairways as part of the Kikuyugrass eradication program. Photo by Ed Miller

atmosphere.

The methyl bromiding process involved treating one-half a fairway at a time (lengthwise) so daily play could continue. The tarps were kept on for 48 hours.

The surfaces of the fumigated areas were badly disturbed by the soil-chiseling process and needed a lot of follow-up preparation before seeding. Fairways were aerated and then smoothed by flail-mowing, harrowing or simply rolling. The surfaces were then scratched by vertical mowing and seeded.

Areas around tees as well as the collars and aprons on each of the 18 holes were also stripped and resodded.

"We used perennial ryegrass, rather than bentgrass, to reseed all of the fairways," said Miller. "It establishes itself better and faster in this environment and has shown the ability to resist the invasion of Kikuyugrass better than many other grasses. We selected Seed Research of Oregon's perennial ryegrass blend consisting of 25 percent SR4000, 25 percent SR4100 and 50 percent SR4200 for the fairways. This mix results in a great tillering fairway turf that can handle the stress of traffic and play very well."

He also noted that this type perennial ryegrass promises to significantly decrease water usage, allow golf balls more roll, and provide a fine playing surface. Fairway seed was broadcast at 500 pounds per acre and a blend of rye/fescue, selected for the roughs, was broadcast at 350 to 400 pounds per acre.

Once entrenched, Kikuyugrass is very difficult to eliminate entirely. A constant and vigilant maintenance program is necessary to keep it

under control even after soil sterilization.

Miller said, "Our follow-up program will be one of instantly spot spraying with Round-up and reseeding or sodding any areas in which we discover or even suspect its re-emergence."

It is expected the course will be in good condition for play at the PGA Tour's AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am in late January.

The greens and bunkers on holes 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 have been completely restored to their original state. Work is being accelerated to renovate the remaining greens and bunkers. This work will be continuing throughout 1991.

Erosion over the years may make it hard to restore some greens and bunkers to precisely their original shapes. But most will be renovated without difficulty. No changes are being made to the contours, grades and slopes of the greens, just their overall shape.

"In addition to a great many old and quite excellent photographs from our archives, one of the processes we are using to discover earlier green shapes is to use soil probes to plumb and extract cores from the perimeters of the greens," Miller said. "We can detect the exact location, shape and size of earlier greens by analyzing soil mixes and by observing poa annua and creeping bentgrass that would typically be in the greens rather than in the current collars and/or immediate rough."

Paul Spengler, vice president of golf, outlined other areas of renovation. "We are also enlarging the tees and, in several cases, realigning them with the fairways. With the amount of play the course sees yearly—some 50,000 rounds—we need as much teeing area surface space as possible to handle this volume of traffic."

"We are also adding new ladies' tees which are more accessible to the cart paths and will improve play through better alignment with the current fairways."

"It's a very exciting program to restore such a prestigious old course to its original state," said Spengler, "and there are quite a few new plans in the offing."

"Among them are re-establishing the practice areas at Spyglass Hill Golf Course and Pebble Beach Golf Links with better turf and practice facilities, such as practice bunkers and chipping greens."

"When the work at Pebble Beach is completed, each of the remaining Pebble Beach Co. courses — Del Monte, Spyglass Hill and the Links at Spanish Bay — will be upgraded to provide the finest possible product for those players who come from around the world."

Frank Pollard is a freelance writer based in Hollister, Calif.

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