England's Howard Swan follows Jones' footsteps

Russia getting first golf course/academy facility

YALTA, USSR — Robert Trent Jones Jr. has designed Russia's first golf course. Now British golf architect Howard Swan will help developers give this seaside resort area in the Soviet Crimea the first location in the USSR to have a golf course and academy.

The nine-hole course is expected to attract both Russians and foreigners. It will have its own golf hotel, developed by a consortium of the local municipality and the Soviet airline Aeroflot. "I was delighted to have been able to accept an invitation to Yalta," said Swan, of Essex, England, who has designed a number of courses throughout the United Kingdom and Europe.

"Providing this resort with its first taste of golf is going to be a great challenge, and in such beautiful surroundings, I'm sure we can make a wonderfully attractive course."



Directors of the Yalta development company with Howard Swan, center, discuss plans for the country's first resort golf course in the Crimea.

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Pennsylvania board grants course approval

NORTH COVENTRY, Pa. — John H. Albright Jr.'s request to build an 18-hole championship golf course on the Gruber estate along Route 724 here has received zoning hearing board approval.

Ground is expected to be broken next year. Preliminary plans for the private course call for using either tunnels or bridges over Route 724 and the Route 422 bypass, which transverse the property.

Albright also is considering placing one green on an existing island in the Schuylkill River.

Albright negotiated a deal with Edward Gruber in November 1989, giving him title to the Gruber Edgewood estate and more than 200 surrounding acres.

In August, Gruber filed a security loan against Albright after he failed to make his most recent payment on a \$7-million loan. Albright is obligated to make quarterly payments to Gruber, who holds the mortgage, until October 1994.

Ft. Myers moves ahead with plan for course/houses

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Plans for the city of Fort Myers' proposed Westwood Golf Course and residential development are progressing nicely. The city holds options to purchase 367 of the 400 acres targeted for the project. Land cost is estimated at \$4 million.

The city hopes to build and operate a third public course off Ortiz Avenue.

Fort Myers would sell the property to a developer, who would donate a portion of the land back to the city in return for the city's assistance in building homes.

Dale Siska, vice president of a local engineering firm, said building a housing development near a course has an added benefit. "A major concern for a golf course is having water hazards," he said, "while a developer must be concerned with storm water drainage.

"The nearby golf course allows the developer to drain off water and create water hazards for golfers."

TPC project gains ground

SAN DIEGO — A Tournament Players Club golf course here, to be called Black Mountain Ranch, is in prospect.

After nine months of hearings, the city council approved in principle a zoning ordinance that would allow development of a TPC golf community.

The course would be designed by Johnny Miller, and a private course would be designed by Rees Jones, with Mark O'Meara consulting. Building is expected to begin early in 1992, with the courses ready for play by 1995.