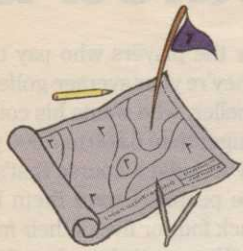


Briefs

**SHAKER HILLS OPENS IN BAY STATE**

HARVARD, Mass. — Golfers in eastern Massachusetts have a new public course Shaker Hills Golf Club in Harvard that will provide championship playing conditions, reserved tee times and other amenities usually found only at private clubs, but without the high membership fees.

Shaker Hills golf Club which opened July 4, was designed by Brian Silva and Mark Mungeam. It boasts many unique features, including 85 tees that provide a variety of driving situations and angles of attack. The course measures 6,850 yards from the championship tees, and just over 5,000 yards from the front tees.

Silva and Mungeam took advantage of the 170-acre tract to provide a layout that will test the best players, but can be enjoyed by players of all levels.

Shaker Hills offers 24-hours access to a computerized reservation system via telephone hotline. Players will also enjoy the convenience of a bag drop, plus access to a 300-yard range with grass tees and a large practice green. They can also subscribe to the GHIN system (Golf Handicap & Information Network) provided by the Massachusetts Golf Association.

WALDEN LAKE ADDS 9

PLANT CITY, Fla. — Nine new holes of golf opened in June in the residential community of Walden Lake, bringing the total number of golf holes to 36.

The new nine, to be called The Oaks, along with the existing Pines nine, will be available to the public. Managing the 18-hole course will be Walden Lake, Inc., which oversees golf operations in Sun City Center.

The existing 27-hole Jack Nicklaus Golfcourse, Inc. and Ron Garl championship course stretches to 7,000 yards, while the new nine adds 3,200 yards.

FLOOD DOESN'T STOP NEW COURSE

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Despite extensive damage caused by two heavy downpours — commonly called gully washers in East Tennessee — the new public golf course in Knox County is scheduled to open in August.

Located in the northeast part of the county, the course lies in full view of nearby House Mountain, the highest county point.

Tom Clark of Ault, Clark, Inc., Kensington, Md., designed the scenic and challenging layout. Multiple teeing areas make it a well-balanced public facility that can be expanded to 6,800 yards for tournament play.

The course will be managed for the Knox County Parks and Recreation Department by Club Corp. of America.

Bill McGraw, busy repairing damage and preparing the course for opening, is the superintendent.

OCEAN COURSE OPENS EARLY

KIAWAH ISLAND, S.C. — The Ocean Course at Kiawah Island, site of this year's 29th renewal of the biennial Ryder Cup Matches on Sept. 27-29, opened for limited play on May 24.

Under a limited-play schedule, up to 100 players per day will be accommodated on The Ocean Course. Green fees are \$100.

Pros cashing in on name, knowledge

Touring men feel they can translate their skills into design...

By Bob Seligman

Money and the desire to stay involved with the game have attracted many aging professional golfers to golf course architecture.

Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer were the trailblazers. Following their lead are such players as Tom Weiskopf, Fuzzy Zoeller, Ben Crenshaw, Larry Nelson, Mark McCumber, Tom Watson, Hale Irwin, Curtis Strange, Gary Player, Lee Trevino, Johnny Miller, Greg Norman, David Graham, Gary Koch, Craig Stadler, Jerry Pate, Calvin Peete, Corey Pavin, Hubert Green and Dan Pohl.

"It's like the domino effect, beginning with Palmer and Nicklaus and fanning out from there," Nelson said. "Other players have seen how much enjoyment they get from it."

Not to mention money. Nicklaus gets \$1.25 million per course, Palmer \$1 million, Player \$500,000, McCumber and Nelson \$350,000.

McCumber, who has built or designed 50 courses, said many professionals are involved with golf course design because of the large fees.

"Golf is in a boom and they're jumping on the bandwagon," said McCumber, who won The Players Championship in 1988. "Each one of them has varying degrees of involve-

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...while some women also answer the call

By Peter Blais

Check the biography of almost any winner of a Professional Golf Association Tour event and chances are he's designed a course somewhere.

Then turn to the Ladies Professional Golf Association player guide and thumb through the bios. Barely a handful of the top female players are credited with trying their hands at golf course architecture.

Why?

"It always comes back to who controls the money," said Jan Beljan, a college-trained architect with Tom Fazio Design Co. and one of only two females (Alice Dye is the other) belonging to the 108-member American Society of Golf Course Architects.

"Women have made advances. But it's still basically a man's world. Until the men who develop courses can look past gender, it won't change."

Added Craig Jones, executive vice president of Gary Player Design Co.: "A woman player/designer isn't a strong selling point right now. There's a perception a course designed by a woman player would just be a short course."

Thanks to television and the success of the PGA and Senior tours, there are many well-known male players. Developers hire them hoping name recognition will help sell memberships and house lots.

"There are fewer big-name women players because of the lack of television coverage of the LPGA Tour compared to the men's tours," said architect Brian Silva. "Most clients would rather hang their banners on the PGA or Senior tours than the LPGA Tour."

A few better-known LPGA players have helped lay out courses.

Jan Stephenson was the first player to design a facility, according to the association's player guide.

Hollis Stacy has designed her first course, Black Hawk, in Austin, Texas.

Amy Alcott, who is just one victory shy of qualifying for the LPGA Hall of Fame, has consulted with Robert Trent Jones Jr. and the team of Geoffrey Cornish & Silva in Hawaii, California, Virginia and Kentucky.

Hall of Fame member Carol Mann assisted architect Roger Packard at Sweetwater Country Club in Sugarland, Texas.

But that's about as deep as LPGA players' experience goes. Compare that with the demand for such male players as Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Gary Player, Lee Trevino, Tom Weiskopf, Curtis Strange, Hale Irwin, David Graham, Sam Snead and on and on. Nicklaus alone had designed and opened 76 courses worldwide through last September.

"Historically, the golf culture has sought males and not females to design courses," said Mann, winner of 38 professional tournaments, twice as many as Irwin. "That's changing, but slowly."

"It's traditionally been a male thing," agreed Alcott. "I've talked to many professional female architects on the staffs of larger design companies. They work behind the scenes and often don't get the credit for the work they do."

Money isn't the only reason few women players are designing courses. Most male players turn to course architecture as their playing days draw to a close. Palmer, Player, Nicklaus and Weiskopf are much more active in design than Strange or Greg Norman.

"I'm not sure that many women players are at the point in their career when they are interested in design," said LPGA Director of Promotions Cindy Sisson. "We held our first Senior event last year and just 15 or 20 players were even eligible. Our organization is just 40 years old."

Then there is the touchy subject of the difference between the sexes.

"I'm not sure that many women players are aggressive enough or have the desire to be designers," Beljan said. "A lot of the women

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Touring pro Mark McCumber is an active golf course designer. One of his creations is Queen's Harbour Yacht & Country Club in Atlantic Beach near Jacksonville, Fla. This is a view of the 3rd hole.

Photo by J. Pettibone

Fream's courses win judges' laurels

SANTA ROSA, Calif. — Golfplan, The Ronald Fream Design Group, Ltd., is immersed in golf course projects in 20 countries, but has several "hits" in its own backyard.

Redhawk Golf Course at Temecula, north of San Diego, and Oakhurst Country Club in Clayton, are listed No. One and Two by California Golf magazine as the best new courses in California.

It's a rare distinction that one firm designed the two best new courses for one year in a state with so many courses.

Oakhurst and Windsor Golf Club, in Santa Rosa — ranked fifth and eighth, respectively, among the state's top 25 in terms of most enjoyable for the average golfer —

with Redhawk are Golfplan's only design efforts to open in California in the last five years.

Oakhurst, rated the best new course in Northern California, plays through the hills at the base of Mt. Diablo. The course opened for play in November and is reported in great shape. Windsor was the site of a Ben Hogan Tour event in October. The course is set on rolling fairways dotted with oak trees and large greens.

Meanwhile, Fream Design is working on a wide-ranging scale of international projects from the Arctic Circle in Finland to the equator in Indonesia.

Its latest venture, the Tullybannocher

course near Gleneagles in Scotland, is regarded as a true Scottish highland natural course.

A 27-hole EuroDisneyland, under construction near Paris, will be a high-visibility project. Golfplan has eight other projects underway in France, including Golf de Gassin, an 18-hole resort course that overlooks the harbor and port of St. Tropez on the French Riviera.

Asiana Country Club, south of Seoul, Korea, is a 36-hole championship course of awesome proportions. At present exchange rates, the project budget is \$170 million.

Sixteen courses in design or construction process span Japan.