

Sterling CC 'strictly golf' project

STERLING, Mass. — Bucking the trend of tying golf course building to abutting house lot sales, backers of Sterling Country Club say the \$6-million project will be "strictly golf, a walk in the woods."

The 6,800-yard par 71 course, within an hour's drive of Boston, is scheduled to open in June.

The course will be semi-private and, according to president and general manager Richard H. Lowe of Sudbury, 170 memberships at \$7,500 each have been sold.

Sterling is located halfway between Worcester and Leominster, off Route 190.

Walter Lankau Jr. of Sudbury, Lowe's public partner in the project, is co-owner of massive Stow Acres, a 36-hole public course

in Stow.

Other principals are Bernard Cammarata, president and chief executive officer of TJX Companies, Inc., a specialty apparel retailer, and Charles Gordon, president and CEO of Burnes of Boston, a producer and distributor of photo frames and albums.

Cammarata, Lankau and Lowe are members of Nashawtuc Country Club in Concord, Gordon a member at Belmont Country Club.

This quartet has a design team that includes Jim Ferree, a Senior PGA Tour player, golf course owner and consultant, who will be the professional consultant.

Dr. Michael Hurdzan, past president of the

American Society of Golf Architects, is the designer.

S. Vic Jones of Dallas, Texas, will design the clubhouse. He has been involved in more than 400 club projects and was vice president and director of architecture for Club Corporation of America.

The course will feature five sets of tees. Greens will average 7,000 square feet and will be of Penncross turf.

The goal is to use the 250-acre site to build an outstanding New England-style course, working with the natural terrain and wetlands. Parallel fairways will be avoided, as will blind shots, steep climbs and trick shots.

Fourth city course planned in Minnesota

ROCHESTER, Minn. — The Rochester City Council will spend \$360,000 for 200 acres that will become the city's fourth golf course on land in northeast Rochester.

The land will be paid for over the next two years with tax funds. The site includes the former Hadley Valley School, which will be used as the clubhouse, a barn to be used for maintenance, and a farm.

Construction costs of the \$2.1 million project, due for completion in 1996 or 1997, will be paid through surpluses in the golf operating budget. The land acquisition is being financed primarily with tax money.

The council approved the request, 6-1.

X-ray

Continued from page 37

Gockel said that of the 1,000 soil profiles with problems he has analyzed in the last five to six years, none have come from greens built according to United States Golf Association specifications.

"But based on what we've seen here in the lab, there is no better way where high rates of play are anticipated, and course longevity is desired. You have to follow the USGA spec to the limit or find some other way. But a "modified" USGA green is an oxymoron. If it's not it's not.

"You find people saying, 'What's all this organics for? We don't need organics down at the bottom of the greens mix. The roots won't go all the way down there, so let's just rototill some in.' So you have 12 inches of greens mix laid on the gravel and rototill it in four or five inches. It usually ends up being too heavy at the very top, it holds too much moisture and impedes the oxygen flow into the system. They'll get three to five years out of it, sit back, scratch their heads, fire the superintendent and wonder what went wrong."

Gockel added: "In most cases with turf, the mistakes are hidden until the grass doesn't grow. The greens committee thinks it's the superintendent's fault. They (superintendents) don't have the respect they deserve.

"The unfortunate part about all this is that it takes time. You can do the worst job in the world initially and the first season you'll still have turf. And after that, it will start to deteriorate.

"It can easily cost \$1 million to rebuild greens. Why not spend the \$100,000 or whatever it costs up front for the choker layer and save the \$1 million later on?"

As part of Agri-System's service it will now also write contract specifications for greens materials to help prevent a problem at the outset.

"Contracts should give a more definitive description for greens construction," he said. "They'll get detailed on irrigation pipe. But when it comes to greens mix they might use the words 'suitable material,' they might not list any gradations, they might use the generic 'organics' (that could be anything from sawdust to Canadian peat)..."

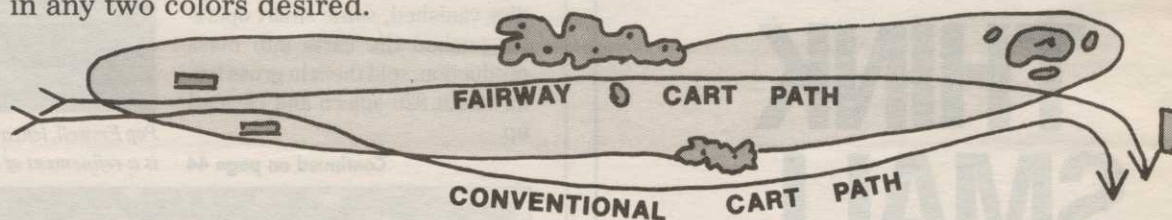
"If you don't say much about it in a contract, it opens the doors to what you're going to get. You also get into a situation of who is in control. So many times no one is in control."

Gockel said his contract work would not detail earth-moving or irrigation or water wells, "but would add definitive paragraphs to that portion that pertains to greens construction. If you have a contract that's too loosely written someone may take advantage of it."

TWO WAYS TO SPEED UP PLAY

Have plenty of easily seen yardage markers and put the cart paths in the fairway where most shots are played.

GOLF 2000 CORPORATION can provide durable, mow-over, yardage markers with five inch numbers in any two colors desired.



Also, we have developed cart path pavers which protect grass from cart traffic and allow golf balls to take a regular bounce. Our tough, green pavers make an attractive pavement even without grass growing through them. Call us for free samples.

GOLF 2000™ CORPORATION

9842 Hibert Street, San Diego, CA 92131

Use touchtone phone. Call Toll Free

1-800-824-9029 / Wait for tone 753

CIRCLE #134

Move water the easy way . . . with an Otterbine® Floating Portable Pump

Just throw it in and start it! These self-priming pumps with built in strainers are made for quick starts and smooth running. Drain water from: ditches, sand bunkers, swimming pools, holding ponds — any flooded area! Irrigates and much more.

DEPENDABLE: Four stroke Briggs & Stratton engine means years of trouble free service.

PORTABLE: Can be operated by just 1 person.

EASY TO USE: No mixing of gas and oil, can be operated in just 3 inches of water.

HIGH VOLUME: Delivers pumping power WHEN and WHERE you need it!

Set it and forget it — the Otterbine Floating Portable Pump

For more information call or write:



R.D. 2, P.O. Box 217
Emmaus, PA 18049
USA
(215) 965-6018



CIRCLE #138