

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

**Eastward Ho!**  
A look at Asian development  
pages 29-44

A UNITED PUBLICATION  
VOLUME 4, NUMBER 4  
APRIL 1992

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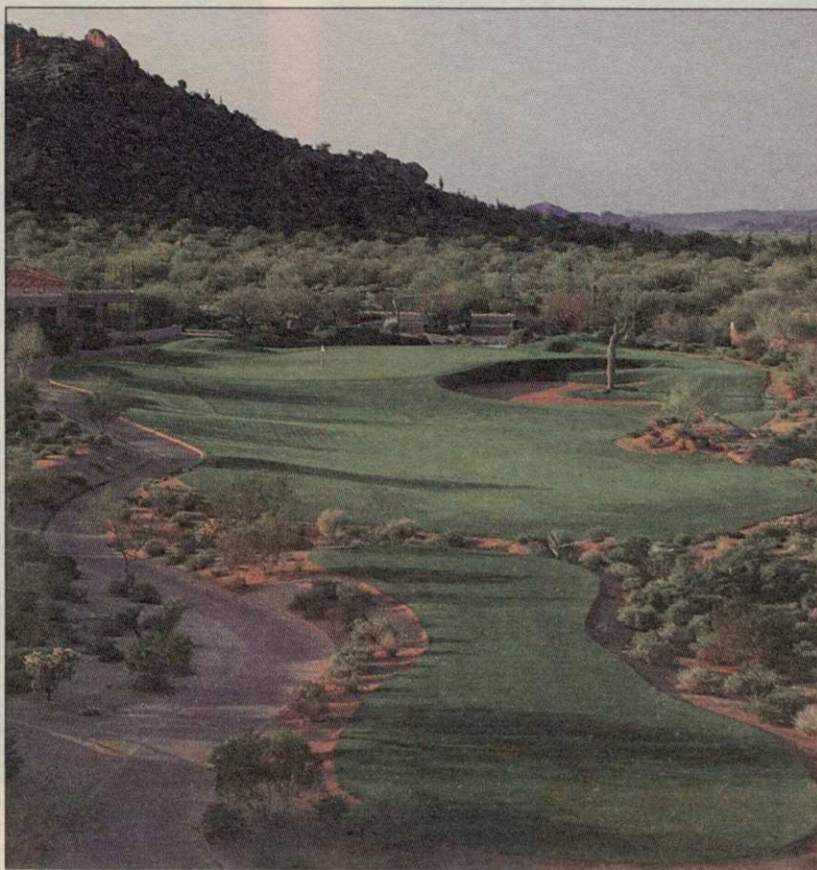
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#### BOULDERS EXPANDS

The 10th hole at the new Boulders South Course in Carefree, Ariz., designed by Jay Morrish, was the old 6th hole of the Boulders Nine. Morrish used the existing nine, refurbishing a couple of its holes, in a rerouting plan to devise the new 18-hole layout. See story on page 20.

Tony Roberts photo

### All systems go at Pebble

By Hal Phillips  
PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — The 12 months preceding this year's U.S. Open at Pebble Beach have been anything but dull. Maintenance crews have worked feverishly to recreate some of Pebble's original 1919 splendor, the foreign owner had — until recently — wrangled with state agencies over the possibility of privatization, and ownership ultimately changed hands. However, with June lurking just around the corner, the course itself is in good shape, despite substantial

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## Golf Course Management & Construction

### ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Hot off the press

### USGA defines research

By Peter Blais  
A comprehensive reference book summarizing the scientific literature on the positive and potentially negative environmental effects of golf courses will be available late next month. "Golf Course Management & Construction: Environmental Issues" will be released May 29 by the United States Golf Association Green Section. The USGA says the book provides a scientific rather

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## Matching money with movers and shakers

By Mark Leslie

Deals are already being struck by investors and entrepreneurs connected by the golf industry's fledgling electronic matchmaker.

Scott Marlowe of Forecast Golf Marketing and Financial Systems, Inc. in Richmond, Va., said the Golf & Recreation Investment Program made 51 matches in February alone, and at least two deals were in negotiation stages in March.

"We've gotten an unbelievable response. We expected it to ... start out slow. But we really got an explosion," said Marlowe, who operates Forecast with partner Jim Murphy.

"Now we have business brokers, lawyers and accountants referring their clients to us," he said. "We planned for a direct-mail marketing as GRIP got older, to target those groups for that purpose. But they

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## 1st Vermont project OK'd

By Peter Blais

A Vermont advisory board has approved an integrated turf management plan and conservative risk assessment for a golf course, the first such approval under the state's strict turf chemical guidelines adopted two years ago.

The Vermont Pesticide Advisory Council's action in favor of Manchester's Equinox Golf Course could make it easier for future golf course projects to get off the drawing board in the state of Vermont, considered among the most difficult in which to gain building approval because of its Act 250 development law, according to an agriculture department official.

"It's significant that someone has come in and come out the other side of the process," said Jim Leland, a turf specialist with the Vermont Department of Agriculture. "The first is always interesting. We have more projects

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# Vermont grants first course approval under new board

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coming through the process this year."

While the decision is a good sign for developers, it may not help other course proposals, since district boards are free to accept or reject VPAC's findings, Leland said.

This month VPAC is scheduled to consider two proposals in Chittenden County, home of the District IV Environmental Board, which has twice rejected the proposed Sherman Hollow project in Huntington.

Sherman Hollow is not scheduled for an April review. But if it were, and if it received a favorable VPAC report, the District IV board would still be under no obligation to accept VPAC's recommendation, Leland said.

"Sherman Hollow points out how important neighbors' feelings still are about a project," Leland said. "If there's no opposition from neighbors, or anyone else, a project will usually get a permit."

Leland said golf industry leaders could use the Equinox decision as impetus to change state law, so that the burden of proof is taken off the developer to prove a project won't adversely affect neighbors' property, and placed on abutting landowners to prove that it will.

Equinox underwent a thorough Rees Jones-designed renovation. "They basically scraped it down to nothing and brought it back to life again," Leland said.

The district environmental board, consisting mainly of volunteers with limited scientific knowledge, approved the project subject to VPAC's acceptance of a pesticide plan, Leland said.

Unlike the district board, Leland said, VPAC's members include experts from such state agencies as Fish and Wildlife, Extension Service, Water Resource Division, Forest and Parks Department, Department of Agriculture, Transportation Department and the University of Vermont Pharmaceutical Department.

"The process is supposed to make (the effects of) additions or new courses easier for the district boards to understand," Leland said. "The district committees don't always understand the science involved in a golf course proposal."

Vermont law requires all course proposals to develop a comprehensive management plan, site-specific information on soils, hydrogeology and drainage data, information on pesticides not included in the prescreened list, and calculations of pesticide concentrations in surface and ground water.

Maryland-based Environmental & Turf Services Inc. developed Equinox's turf management plan.

"This management plan is state-of-the-art," said ETS turf agronomist Michael O'Connor, who worked with Equinox superintendent Joe Charbonneau on the report. "It relies on a variety of chemical and non-chemical controls. It estab-

lished pest infestation thresholds as part of the Integrated Pest Management program to delay pesticide application until necessary."

Conservative, worst-case risk assessments were conducted for the 12 additional pesticides listed in the proposed management plan. ETS explored three potential exposure pathways—leaching of turf chemicals to ground water and movement to drinking water wells; runoff of pesticides to surface water during storms; and percolation of potentially contaminated stream

*'Sherman Hollow points out how important neighbors' feelings still are about a project.'*

—Jim Leland

water into ground water.

"We considered pesticide mobility in soils, persistence, human toxicity and aquatic toxicity," said ETS President Stuart Cohen. "The VPAC's regulations did not provide

specific guidance in this area, so we had to integrate and refine a new kind of assessment.

"We had to have several collegial, substantive discussions with the regulatory officials since we were setting many precedents. In some cases our assumptions were reasonable, and in other cases we were overly conservative.

"But we were trying to comply with the spirit, as well as the letter of the law. And the spirit of the law is that the Vermont government wanted us to be conservative, thor-

ough and competent, but not fancy.

"I believe we gave VPAC what it wanted. This is due, in part, to the fact that we were able to work closely with VPAC during the process."

VPAC approved the final recommendations. They included normal use of glyphosate, fenarimol, metalaxyl, propamocarb, 2, 4-D, dicamba, flurprimidol, and paclobutrazol; restrictions applied to applications of bendiocarb, propiconazole, and MCPP. Isofenphos was not allowed due to aquatic toxicity concerns.



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