

Marriott names French adviser

Toipol will help American company market its management services

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In a move to attract contracts for its golf management services in France, Marriott Golf has appointed Marc Topiol as its representative in the country.

Topiol will serve as an adviser to Marriott Golf. He will also provide international market research assistance and help develop management contract agreements for Marriott Golf, especially for public golf facilities in France.

In addition to his business enterprises, which include operating his own company, Trajectoire, Topiol played the European professional golf circuit for a number of

years and has served as a development consultant to various leisure-based companies.

"France offers an unparalleled opportunity for the golf management services we offer," said company President Roger Maxwell. "With 500 facilities, France by year-end will rank second only to England in terms of the number of facilities available to golfers in Europe."

Marriott Golf manages 16 golf facilities offering more than 500 holes of championship golf in the United States and Bermuda. Thirteen of the facilities are company-operated and managed. The remainder are managed for others.

Houstonian takeover bid fails

HOUSTON — The Houston City Council has ruled out a bid to privatize the Memorial Park recreational facilities which include an 18-hole golf course that, from all accounts, has fallen into disrepair.

Sources at the *Houston Chronicle* indicate the city is currently exploring the idea of funding a course renovation.

The Houstonian Group, a circle of private investors, had bid to manage the park's golf course, jogging trails and tennis courts. The Group's original plan had called for renovation/improvement of the golf

course, and an expanded clubhouse with separate banquet and meeting facilities.

However, Parks and Recreation Director Don Olson recommended against the move after the Houstonian Group ran into financial problems.

The Houstonian Group claims a suit filed in January by attorney Tom Alexander frightened away potential investors and financiers. Alexander, who represents Friends of Memorial Park, contends the "granting" of the park for profit-generating commercialism violates the deed restriction. The land was given to the city by the Hogg family on the condition it be used for public park purposes.

Las Vegas council delays action on management firm

LAS VEGAS — In a concession to Las Vegas area golfers who've complained about fee hikes, the proposed new lease agreement with the firm running the city's only municipal golf course has been tabled by the Las Vegas City Council.

Councilman Frank Hawkins, noting constituent concerns over the fee increases, moved to table the matter until a council panel — including himself and Councilman Arnie Adamsen — can review the contract with Santa Monica, Calif.-based Golf Enterprises.

Councilman Bob Nolen, who previously balked at the lease because of questions over access to the company's financial records, said he has always been dissatisfied with the contract.


The only dissenter in the 4-1 vote to table was Councilman Scott Higginson, who said delaying a proposed course and clubhouse improvement program included in the lease would do a disservice to players and the community.

Prestwick names Thompson pro

SURFSIDE BEACH, S.C. — Prestwick Country Club, a private 450-acre golf course community, has named PGA pro Leonard Thompson its touring professional/director of golf.

Thompson, a member and resident of Prestwick, will serve as an adviser for the community on course and club operations and provide members-only golf clinics. Matt McCauley will continue as the club professional in charge of daily operations.

"We're thrilled to have Leonard working with Prestwick in this capacity," said Chief Executive Officer John Gandy. "We see Leonard as an ambassador-at-large for our club and community. He lives here and he plays here, so he knows Prestwick well."



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