

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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### GREEN MOUNTAIN GOLF

Rees Jones' latest renovation project — The Gleneagles Golf Course, a venerable Walter Travis design in Manchester, Vt. — has opened for play. Q&A with Jones, page 25.

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Michael Hughes of the NGCOA

## New tax laws, economy drive trend toward for-profit clubs

By MARK LESLIE

Changing tax laws and difficult economic conditions are causing a massive move of not-for-profit golf courses into the for-profit realm.

That change of status is "a major trend right now," said Kathi Driggs, vice president of Club Managers Association of America (CMAA) in Alexandria, Va. "A lot of our clubs — clubs that have been traditionally not-for-profit — are realizing now it is more feasible for them to be for-profit."

"There's no question it's going on," said Michael Hughes, executive director of the National Golf Course Owners Association in Charleston, S.C. "With the economic difficulties we've experienced in the last two or three years, the private clubs have lost members. Ones that had long waiting lists, have no waiting lists."

Driggs said a change to status might cost

## New life for Arizona projects

By MARK LESLIE

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — The Arizona golf course construction industry has a pulse again.

One of the country's largest water development systems is on-line and golf course projects — on hold for years because of lack of water — are lining up to buy into the new supply. As many as 14 new courses could be built now that non-potable water has started flowing from the Central Arizona Project (CAP) canal north along Pima Road to the northern reaches of Scottsdale. That is prime golf

course territory featuring the likes of Desert Mountain Properties, The Boulders, Troon North, Desert Highlands and the Tournament Players Club of Scottsdale.

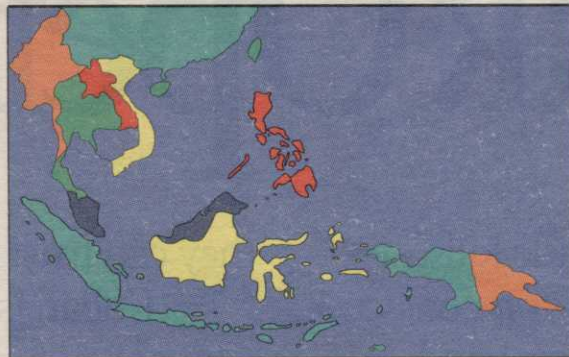
The \$14 million Reclaimed Water Distribution System (RWDS) is the newest phase of the master plan, begun in the 1950s, to irrigate the West. Next up will be the 1995 start-up of an effluent plant that will treat water from the major development area in north Scottsdale. That water will be reinserted into the pipeline,

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### IS IT REAL?

Or is it Intergraph? It's the latter, a computer design system used by Nicklaus Design architect Carl Mistretta to render this VDT image of no. 17 at the TPC Kaupulehu in Hawaii. See page 25.



## One-stop shop comes to Asia

By PHILIPPS

SINGAPORE — After months of posturing on both sides, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and Connex Private Ltd. appear to have joined forces, thereby creating a single mega-show serving the entire Asia-Pacific region. As part of a written statement, GCSAA indicated the event will be "two events under one roof," not a single show. Each show will retain its own staffs, resources and, presumably, autonomy. These simultaneous events will be held March 24-27, at the International Merchandise Mart in Singapore.

However, further details on the two-show, one-roof arrangement — including proprietary issues — remained sketchy as *Golf Course News* went to press in

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## Karsten Lab to address desert issues

By MARK LESLIE

TUCSON, Ariz. — Golf courses in desert regions can expect to reap benefits from major research that will be conducted at the University of Arizona's new Desert Turfgrass Research Facility and Karsten Laboratory for TurfScience here.

"We have four or five different, specific problems we have in the desert that need to be addressed," said Dr. David Kopec, Extension specialist for turf in Arizona. Major targets will be developing irrigation schedules and water-use programs, breeding new turfgrasses, dealing with effluent, and perfecting techniques for weed control and overseeding.

Continued on page 24

Sometimes you can't wait on a grow-in, page 46  
Sod Story

# New water supply opens faucet on Scottsdale area development

Continued from page 1

and as more development occurs, more effluent will come on line and less CAP water will be used, said Virgil Robinson Jr., director of agronomy for Desert Mountain Golf Course.

"We will be able to move into the next century in water use," said Scott Nair, superintendent at The Boulders in Carefree.

"It makes the availability of water much more predictable for all those courses that have been planned for a number of years but

were not built," said Tim Bray, president of Southwest Community Resources of Scottsdale, who helped ramrod the project through the bureaucratic process.

The pipeline is designed to deliver 20 million gallons of water a day. This has developers negotiating for water rights so they can get stalled projects off the ground. According to aptly named Scottsdale Mayor Herb Drinkwater, the city is receiving a call a day from interested developers.

That may be an overstatement, said Bray, who represents prospective golf courses wanting to join into the system. But indeed, he said: "We've sold initial capacity for 11.5 million gallons. We have 8-1/2 million left. Another 2 million will be gone in the next two months. And we will fill out the capacity in the next 24 months. As we get closer, people will buy capacity to be assured they will have the water when they are ready to build."

To buy 1 million gallons of

capacity, a developer will pay about \$850,000, according to Bray, whose role was to organize golf course developers to participate in a partnership with the city and get the project designed and built. Buyers then pay a water resource development fee to buy water to put into the pipeline.

"On this line up Pima Road there will be 20 golf courses eventually," Robinson said.

"Until now, would-be developers have had to prove they had

a 100-year supply of water," said Robinson. "The aquifers were slowly being shut down. This [RWDS] was one way they could be assured a 100-year water supply and still build the golf courses and other developments."

Bray said when the effluent plant goes on line in 1995 the Colorado River water will be used as the city's drinking water.

"By the year 2000 we [courses] should be switched totally onto effluent," he said.

•••

"It's a real boost to the clubs in the area and the city to get this system on line," said Cal Roth, director of golf course maintenance operations for the PGA Tour's Tournament Players Clubs. "Our superintendent there, Tighue Shields, has worked for quite some time with other superintendents and city to help make this happen."

"One of the major concerns of the city was to get golf courses off ground water. We're glad to be able to finally do that."

"I'm excited," said Nair, "because right now every day I wonder where I'm going to get my water. I have rates that vary fivefold and I don't get to pick and choose. It depends on what source is available."

"But things may be carefree again in Carefree."

Existing courses like The Boulders have relied on such varying sources of water as effluent from their own housing developments, ground water purchased through municipalities, Scottsdale potable water, and CAP-treated water through communities.

The Boulders is laying two miles of pipe to tie into the main pipeline. It won't be operational until October, but Nair said: "I can't wait until I'm on line. It's going to make my life and my job a lot easier."

Robinson, too, is happy the pipeline is running, despite some computer problems and clogged water filters from heavy sediment, freshwater clams and snails.

Even the agronomy problems that will come with salts and heavy metals from effluent pale when compared to the longtime problem of finding available water, period.

"I have more problems just getting water on a day-to-day basis than I'll ever have worrying about what quality of water I get," Nair said.

"We're all going to have to face the fact that drinking water is not going to be an acceptable alternative for recreational use," he added. "We are willing to take the compromise and challenge to better use the source that we will have. If we have a high sodium or chlorine level, we'll just have to manage around that problem. People have been doing that for years. There are a lot of courses on effluent in Southern California, Tucson and Texas."



Jack Nicklaus II  
and Jack Nicklaus

## HOW TO PRESERVE THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF A GOLF COURSE SITE



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