

## Okla. layout to close temporarily for update

EDMOND, Okla. — Contrary to some rumors, this town's oldest public golf course, Kickingbird Golf Club, will not be closing down permanently.

"Yes, we may have to shut down temporarily for 10 months to rebuild the greens, but again, nothing is cut and dried at this point," said head pro Mike Heinen.

A tentative closing is scheduled for July of 1995 or 1996.

Heinen, who took over as head pro last year, would eventually like to replace all 18 substandard greens, elevating them to PGA

specifications.

Kickingbird officials are working on an overall master plan with the architectural firm of Slack, Hayes and Associates. The firm is led by former touring pro Mark Hayes.

These renovation plans still have a ways to go. "First we have to raise the money, then run it through the public works authority," said Heinen.

In the meantime, Kickingbird will aerate heavily to temporarily fix the greens on holes 12, 13, 14 and 15.

## Golf could be profitable for Utah city, study says

OREM, Utah — If the city is willing to spend up to \$3.5 million, a proposed 18-hole municipal golf course could be profitably operated here, according to E. Peter Elzi Jr., a senior economist for golf consultant THK Associates, Inc.

The city council voted 4-0 to accept the conclusions of the feasibility report and look into following its recommendations.

According to Elzi, the THK study found the city has a potential customer base of 49,000 golfers.

With the existing nine area golf courses reporting only 240,000 rounds played a year, the

supply of courses has not kept up with the demand, the study indicated.

By the third year of operation, with greens fees set between \$9 and \$15, the course could make \$607,000 dollars a year, said Elzi.

This Utah Lake area would be the most feasible location for a golf course according to Elzi. The site is easily accessible from Interstate 15, irrigation water could be supplied from the city waste water treatment plant and the area has easy access to utilities.

THK would not be involved in the design of the municipal golf course, if the city were to build one.

## Government to seek penalties on Pa. project

LEHMAN TOWNSHIP, Pa. — In order to decide whether to pursue civil penalties against Huntsville Golf Club, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has turned over a wetlands enforcement case to the U.S. attorney's office in Harrisburg.

The private Huntsville club faces fines up to \$25,000 per day for allegedly illegally excavating an irrigation pond on wetlands last August, according to Mark Patterson, a Corps of Engineers biologist.

Even though club officials were fully aware of the permitting process required, said Patterson, they never applied for the state and federal permits needed for the wetlands construction. The club had acquired other permits, but not for the 4.45 acres in question, he said.

The Corps and the state Department of Environmental Resources are negotiating with the club regarding how many acres of wetlands will need to be restored or created to replace those that were lost.

"We're willing to do what has to be done," said George Evans of Killiam Associates, the club's engineer.

## Wash. layout set to open May 1

BELLINGHAM, Wash. — With a blessing from the birthplace of golf, the Shuksan Golf Club is scheduled to open May 1.

The 18-hole, par-72 layout features elevation changes of 100 or more feet on some holes; contoured mounding covered with fine, 6-inch rough; and a view of Mt. Baker from the clubhouse.

Rick Dvorak, the general managing partner of Shuksan, is convinced of the course's success due to the "blessing" he received from a memento request to St. Andrews' Old Course in Scotland.

He received two coins, an Old Course yardage book and a good luck letter signed by the secretary/general manager of St. Andrews to commemorate the opening of Shuksan.

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