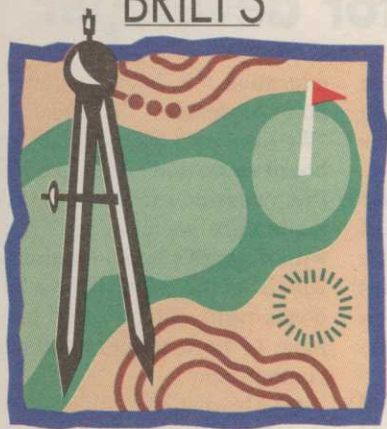


BRIEFS



NATIONS FOCUSES ON GOLF

ATLANTA, Ga. — Large, golf-oriented complexes will receive particular loan attention from the newly-formed Nations Financial Capital Corp. Offered will be flexible first mortgage loans on sports resorts, stand-alone golf courses, bowling centers and marinas. Vice President Donald Rhodes started and managed golf course financing operations at Textron Financial, doing more than \$200 million in golf course loans.

HIDDEN VALLEY HIRES ROBBINS KOCH

GAYLORD, Mich. — Robbins Koch Golf Designs, Inc. of Tampa, Fla. has been selected to provide land planning and course design services for the new golf course community at Hidden Valley Resort & Club here. The golf course and resort community will be located on 1,000 acres that features dramatic views; many mature trees; and a rolling terrain with elevation changes of nearly 500 feet.

BURNS BUSY ON STATE PARK COURSE

WAYCROSS, Ga. — Construction has begun on Laura S. Walker State Park Golf Course. Designed by Steve Burns Golf Design of Fernandina Beach, Fla., the course is being built by Niebur Golf, Medford, Ore. Yardage will range from 4,717 to 6,820 yards. There will be three lakes, several grass bunkers and 30 sand bunkers. About 320,000 yards of dirt will be moved to create elevation changes of up to 20 feet.

FOREST RIDGES OPENS NINE

CABLE, Wis. — Play has commenced on the North Nine of Forest Ridges Golf Course, while the South Nine will open for play this month according to Phil and Kathy Rasmussen, co-owners of Lakewoods Resort, Lodge & Conference Center on nearby Lake Namakagon. Because of its adherence to environmental and wildlife preservation standards, Lakewoods' Forest Ridges has been approved for membership in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System.

WOODS FORT CC OPENS

TROY, Mo. — Troy Development Co., Inc. and Mid-America Golf Management, Inc. have opened Woods Fort Country Club here. Open to the public, it features a 6,600-yard, par-72 layout. The course has multiple zoysiagrass tee boxes, bentgrass greens, 24 sand bunkers, four lakes and uses a double row automatic irrigation system. There are also 20 residential lots on the property. They average 1/2 acre plus and are currently being sold.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Ault, Clark take to new heights

By MARK LESLIE

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — "The best three golf courses I have ever designed." That is how Tom Clark describes three new tracks from the palette of Ault, Clark & Associates — LedgeStone Golf Course at Stonebridge Village in Branson, Mo., Diamante Golf Course in Hot Springs, Ark., and The Woods Course at Kingsmill on the James here.

"We're getting better and better sites, plus well-budgeted projects, good property and good contractors," said Clark, adding that with increased sodding, new courses are better from Day One.

The home of entertainer Kenny Rogers, LedgeStone was expected to open nine holes on Oct. 1 and the other nine the first of November.

Playing off Rogers' movies and songs, Clark has nicknamed holes Gambler's Revenge, Sidewinder, Straight Shooter, Deception, Ruby, Ambush — you get the picture.

In the heart of the Ozarks, Clark called it a "true mountain golf course



A view of LedgeStone Golf Course's 16th green viewed from the 17th tee. The par-4, 392-yard 16th, nicknamed The Big Chill, features a sharp dogleg right — and Kenny Rogers' new home on the hill.

with tremendous elevation changes," plays from 5,000 to 6,724 yards, and includes the most-expensive hole Clark has ever built.

That hole, the 15th, is a 177-yard downhill par-3 that falls about 100 feet and required blasting the side of the

mountain to create the green and a lake. The green is built on a rock shelf. Rogers' mountaintop home sits just to the right of the hole.

LedgeStone was totally sodded with bentgrass greens, zoysia fairways, tees

Continued on page 28



The 6th hole at the Tom Doak-designed StoneWall Country Club outside Philadelphia, which measures 446 yards from the back and 347 yards from the forward tees. The no-carts-allowed, par-70 course measures 6,300 to 6,700 yards.



Q & A Doak: A designer of the ages

It almost sounds as if Tom Doak's interest in golf course design were pre-natal. Exposed, at an early age, to golf on business trips with his father, he went on to study landscape architecture at Cornell University, travel the United Kingdom under a fellowship to study course design, and write on design for Golf Magazine and his own book, "The Anatomy of a Golf Course." He worked under Pete Dye — then briefly for Perry Dye — before going out on his own and designing a half-dozen golf courses, among them High Pointe in Traverse City, Mich.

Golf Course News: Tell us about your organization.

Tom Doak: Bruce Hepner is my number two designer, and Jim Urbina, my shaper out of Denver and worked for the Dyes for awhile. Both are invaluable as we start getting bigger and get more commitments in advance. Not knowing exactly when they will happen, I can't promise I'll be on every course every day. These guys understand and we're a real good team because we're not afraid to get down in the dirt a little bit and we have a lot of construction expertise among the three of us.

GCN: You've studied a lot of courses in the UK. But you must have special memories of caddying for a couple of months at the

Continued on page 30

ASIAN ROUNDUP

Designers prolific overseas

OSAKA PREFECTURE, Japan — Despite the decline in new golf course development here, **Jacobson Golf Course Designs** of Libertyville, Ill., has been asked to design two new courses — World Country Club here in Osaka Prefecture and Cherry Hills Country Club in Gumma Prefecture.

Both projects, backed by Japanese investors, are expected to be open for play in 1996. Principal Rick Jacobson cut his architectural teeth with Nicklaus design before forming his own firm in 1992.

...

QINGDAO, Peoples Republic of China — The Qingdao Golf Club in the southeast part of the Peoples Republic of China is still awaiting final approval, according to the builder.

"It could be another month, it could be three," said **William Kubly**, president of Landscapes Unlimited of Lincoln, Neb.

Japanese architect **Shiro Tashiro** is working with American designers **Greg Nash** and **Billy Casper** on the 18-hole resort layout. Casper Golf Management opened its Asian office here Sept. 1.

Qingdao GC was originally scheduled to open in late 1995. It will include a hotel and villas, Kubly said.

...

YONGIN-KUN, Korea — **Palmer Golf Design Co.** has completed one golf course here, which is awaiting grand-opening ceremonies along with two in the Philippines and one in West Java, Indonesia.

Arnold Palmer's architectural team, which has designed dozens of courses in Asia-Pacific, has put its final design touches on Eunhwassam Country Club here.

The Philippine facilities now ready for golfers are Orchard Golf and Country Club's Legacy Course in Manila and Evercrest Country Club in Nasugbu, Batangas, which is near Manila.

Emerald One, in the Cimanggis District of West Java, is also complete, while Palmer Design continues construction of eight other projects in the region.

...

MANILA — Make it two Johnny Walkers in a row for **Gary Player Design**. Arguably Asia-Pacific's most prestigious professional tournament, the 1995 Johnny Walker Classic will be held at The Orchard Resort, which features a Player-

Continued on page 40

Asian roundup

Continued from page 25

designed course and an Arnold Palmer track.

Player's Blue Canyon course in Phuket, Thailand, played host to the 1994 Johnny Walker Classic.

At Player projects elsewhere in the region, ground has been broken on the 18-hole Beihai Golf Course, located in the southern Chinese city of the same name, in Guangxi Province. China's "official" freeze on golf course building permits was issued directly after Beihai received its go-ahead.

In Indonesia, construction continues on Royal Jakarta, an 18-hole course integrated with the Royal Sentul Highlands development. A summer 1996 opening is planned.

...

JAKARTA — Construction crews are halfway finished on Imperial Golf Club course outside Jakarta, a private 18-hole track designed by **Desmond Muirhead**.

"We've got nine holes rough-shaped out," said Ed Easley, Muirhead's director of construction. "They've grassed No. 10 and are ready to grass the practice range. 'We're trying to get construction done by the end of the year,'"

Owned by Lippo Bank, the \$8 million course will have six sets of tees and cover more than 7,000 yards from back tees, Easley said. He added that because of heavy clay soil, crews are performing the rare task of spreading 3-1/2 to 4 inches of sand over most of the course. "It's really going to help because the clay is so bad," Easley added.

...

KOBE CITY, Japan — Six years after developer Shigeru Matsui dreamed up Malibu International Golf Club, ground



GRI PUTS FINISHING TOUCHES ON IWAKI DESIGN

Turf matures on the 8th hole on the West Nine at Byron Nelson Country Club in Iwaki, Japan, just north of Tokyo. The 27-hole Iwaki club — which opens for play this month — was designed by Dallas-based Golf Resources, Inc. (GRI) which has now completed two projects in Japan. GRI's Le Petaw opened in Hokkaido last fall.

is scheduled to be broken here in October.

The 18-hole **Robert von Hagge** design received government approval in 1993, but delays have dogged the project until now, according to von Hagge design associate Mike Smelek. Kajima Construction Co. is handling the course building process.

Just north of Kobe, von Hagge Design Associates has finished a 9-hole addition to Arima Royal Golf Club. The new nine should be open for play come spring 1995.

Renovation of Arima's fourth nine — another von Hagge project — begins in November.

Elsewhere in Japan, in Yamanashi Prefecture, construction at von Hagge's Minobu Golf Club should be completed by October, said Smelek. The first five holes are ready to plant and the course has scheduled a summer 1995 opening.

...

SINGAPORE — Golden Bear International, which includes **Nicklaus Design**, has moved its headquarters here. Mark Hesemann, general manager of Nicklaus Design, can now be reached at 133 New Bridge Road, #21-01 to #21-10 Chinatown Point, Singapore 0105. Telephone: 65-538-8912; fax: 65-538-2468. GBI will continue to maintain an office in Hong Kong.

Pumping stations: Stopping the hammer

Continued from page 22

Patty Knaggs, superintendent at Hazeltine National in Chaska, Minn., is a Watertronics fan.

"I inherited one and it's been great," said Knaggs. "It does all the things VFD does, and their service has been fantastic."

Of course, the current technology can outstrip a superintendent's needs — and his or her sense of practicality.

Pat Lewis is superintendent at Portland (Maine) Country Club, where

the city water main runs right by the club entrance.

Lewis uses no pumphouse, much less variable frequency drive — and doesn't plan on acquiring either one anytime soon.

"We don't have to tell any pumps to come on," he said with a laugh. "We don't have a pumping system because we simply don't need one. Straight city pressure. I've checked with the city, and our water source will never dictate to us."

"One of the hard parts is my highest pressure is 80 psi. So I can't turn on all the heads at once, but we can do the whole course in two shifts."

Ross, on the other hand, couldn't be happier with his VFD.

"It's been absolutely awesome since we bought it," said Ross. "Three pumps: two big ones and one small jockey pump. They used to be on and spin at the same speed, but VFD changed all that."

"I'll be honest with you: I used to visit my pumphouse every single day. Now I'm feeling a bit guilty because I hardly ever go out there."

British lawsuits

Continued from page 8

Formerly a somewhat routine and lackluster (albeit sited in striking Thomas Hardy country) 18-hole course known as Lakey Hill, the East Dorset course was founded by local farmers in the late '70s and sold in 1985 to a new owner, who added a driving range with artificial grass landing areas and a new pro shop. In 1989 the club was again sold, this time to the Count and Countess Lerche from Denmark.

While recognizing what they had, the Count and Countess clearly were not content to stick with their "vin ordinaire" and immediately set into motion major developments which included the complete reconstruction of the clubhouse, further improvements to the shop complex, the addition of a further nine holes and the reconstruction of all 18 tees and greens on the existing course. It was a major task, one that would offer a real challenge

for Martin Hawtree to satisfy the Count and Countess Lerche, who wanted three loops of nine holes structured to an international championship standard while allowing for equal competition between men and women, as well as appealing to players of all golfing abilities.

They were also keen to see the design stimulate interest and surprise from beginning to end on a landscape character in keeping with the Dorset heathland situation. The course, they stated, also was to provide the maximum year-round play and as such was to cope with heavy rainfall.

Hired as consultant and architect, Hawtree's work was to expand and remodel 21 holes. As "engineer" he was further to design and see constructed six additional holes.

The plaintiff claims that once the holes — some of which had been turfed, others seeded — had been put into play, the condition of the putting greens steadily deteriorated and continue to do so. This, they claim, is due to the use of an unsuit-

able root-zone mix, with too high a proportion of fine particles resulting in excessive water retention and very poor drainage capabilities.

Hawtree, having engaged the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) to advise on the testing of several root zones and approving the selected root-zone mix, has brought them into the action by serving them a Third Party Notice (analogous to a writ), claiming that they (the STRI) should indemnify Hawtree against the allegations made by East Dorset Golf Club, should the architect be found liable.

In a report dated Jan. 17, 1990, the STRI stated *inter alia* that the existing greens had been designed and built to a poor standard and required complete reconstruction, that the topsoil on the existing greens was unsuitable and should be stripped away, and that new greens should be formed, using an imported and very sandy growing medium mixture.

In June of the same year the STRI reported to Hawtree on the various samples

Radio-controlled irrigation systems

Continued from page 22

Florida, I check with the water program every day before I leave."

"If you were in a drought situation where you were watering every day, then I could see how it might be more awkward."

RainBird last year introduced its own radio-controlled program, the Freedom system, which retrofits to all Maxi systems.

"The name implies that the superintendent has the freedom to run his irrigation system from anywhere on the property," said McWhirter. "What we're doing is actually accessing the main computer. OSMAC can turn on a station or two for water — we're going back to the central controller. One of the buzzwords today is flow management. We're able to do that because we go back through the central."

"We both [Toro and RainBird] might have a super standing there in the field with a radio in his hand. The difference is, Freedom comes with telephone connect, digital key pad and transceiver. So you can reprogram over the phone... The super has access to the irrigation system with any touch-tone telephone."

Buckner's COPPS system has also won its share of converts.

"With COPPS, basically you have a receiver that plugs into a single controller," explained Jim Hodge, superintendent at ValHalla Golf Course in Cumberland, Maine. "Then you can operate any station with that one controller. I can still communicate with my crew via the same radio."

"I like it a lot. I don't use it a lot. I use it when I've put down a fertilizer and don't have to stand right there. I also use it when I'm doing repairs. Saves travel time running back and forth from the controller."

as tested and concluded that the sample identified would be entirely suitable for use on its own as a golf green growing medium and "would provide the ideal growing medium."

At a site meeting in July 1990 the material recommended by STRI was considered and in reliance, thereon the contractor was constructed to commence the importation of the said material.

Hawtree denies allegations of negligence and breach of contract, while the STRI admits no liability to Hawtree's claim "that they were in breach in failing to advise that the root-zone mix recommended was unsuitable and unfit for its purpose."

The Count and Countess Lerche have gone on record as saying, "We wanted the best, we ordered the best, we paid for the best, but the best was not delivered."

The trial date was set for March 6, 1995.

Trevor Ledger
Market Drayton
Shropshire, England
GOLF COURSE NEWS