

Hard work pays off for N.C. brothers

GIBSONVILLE, N.C. — Forty days after the first ball was driven at the 5,783-yard Country Hills Golf Course here, brothers Chris and Phil Bryant feel 31 months of clearing land, sprigging fairways, building greens, sand traps and ponds were worth the countless hours of hard work.

Golfer reaction has been most favorable.

As Chris observed: "The course doesn't beat them to death. It doesn't take 4-1/2 to 5 hours to play, but we still have

enough hazards to make it interesting."

Yardage from the white tees is 5,440, from the red tees 4,715.

The two par fives measure 545 and 521. None of the nine par 4s is reachable off the tee.

The brothers admit some unexpected setbacks made construction a long and costly haul.

Last March, an ice storm knocked down approximately 200 pine trees throughout the course.

Because the fairways had been grassed and heavy machinery could not be used, the Bryants had to remove the downed trees by hand.

Offsetting this, Country Hills last winter suffered just 5 percent winter kill damage. Many golf courses along the East Coast were devastated by last winter's harsh conditions.

Country Hills features Bermuda fairways and bentgrass greens built to USGA specifications.

Neighbors bemoan practice range

MAHWAH, N.J. — Residents in the immediate vicinity of the Darlington Golf Course driving range would like to "shoot lights out," and they don't mean shattering par.

After closing almost a year ago because of complaints about glaring lights and off-line golf balls, the range has re-opened amid renewed protest.

Noise and light problems

remain, it is charged.

The county has sunk \$160,000 into new barrier netting and wetlands improvements, and plans to invest \$50,000 for 15-foot evergreen trees to shield residents from the lights.

And American Golf Corp., the company that leases the property from the county, reportedly will add \$2 million for irrigation and sodding work.

Tenn. layout plans to be ready for play by fall of 1995

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Cherokee Valley Golf Course, now under construction, could open as a daily-fee course in the fall of 1995.

The new course, to cost between \$3 million and \$3-1/2 million, was designed by Don Cottle and built by Ray Bishop, both of Atlanta.

The five sets of tees will allow play from 5,000 to 6,800 yards.

Also planned is a lighted par-3 course, a driving range and teaching center.

Plantation Golf Club pro Jerry Hinton will become general manager of both Plantation and Cherokee Valley. Olive Branch entrepreneur Clay Herrington owns both courses.

Trees, homes will dominate Alabama links

ATHENS, Ala. — "Millions" of trees will highlight the 18-hole semi-private Southern Gayles golf course, said project designer Frank Campbell Sr. of Huntsville.

More than 300 housing lots are being developed within the 7,100-yard golf course, which will consist of bentgrass greens and Bermudagrass fairways.

R&C Properties LLC of Huntsville is the owner and Romine Construction Company of Huntsville the prime contractor.

NEIGHBORS OPPOSE RELOCATION OF CLEVELAND CLUB

WILLOUGHBY, Ohio — Russell Township residents are preparing a petition drive to stop the proposed relocation of Oakwood Country Clubs.

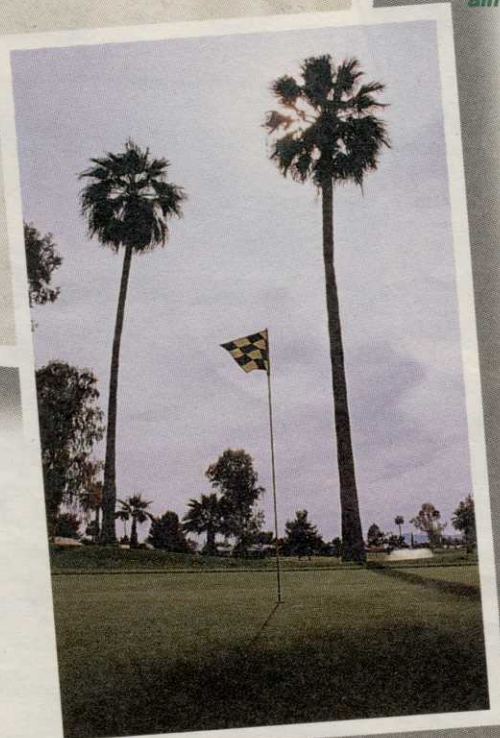
The new course would straddle the Russell and Chester townships' border.

Opponents believe a golf course could affect the township's water supply.

A new fleet of John Deere Equipment at Arizona's Sun City Country Club helps superintendent Mark Lyman improve the condition of the entire course. "Our fairways and greens are in much better shape since we started using the John Deere 3365 Turf and 2243 Greens Mowers," says Lyman. "Members started complimenting us on the fairways almost as soon as we

started using the 3365 and have said since we began mowing with the 2243s that this is the best the greens have been in 20 years. In fact, the course is in such good shape now that the club has added about 50 new members in the last year."

Sun City Country Club provides plenty of challenges with course features that include water hazards, palm trees, and hardwoods as well as grasses that run from bermuda to rye to bent.



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