

NEWS IN BRIEF

PLEASANT HILL, Iowa — The City Council approved a "tax increment financing district" that will permit Hubbell Realty Co. to be repaid for investing in road improvements near the Copper Creek Golf Community its development. The project includes 900 housing units and a golf course in the northern part of town.

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — Warrick County officials are weighing the merit of the county's first public golf course. A group of partners known as BR&S Inc., which hopes to build the facility, has huddled with the Redevelopment Commission, and also is working with the landowners, Lake Group Inc. The course would be surrounded by housing.

WAYCROSS, Ga. — The Laura S. Walker State Park Golf Course should be ready for play by the end of 1995. To be constructed across Georgia Highway 177 from Laura Walker Lake, the \$4 million project should be in place before the 1996 Olympics, officials say. The 350-acre facility will include a clubhouse, maintenance building, 238 parking spaces and a safety buffer around the entire course.

PABLO ROBLES, Calif. — Area impact of a proposed golf course near the Municipal Airport is under study. The project proposed by Coastal Golf Co. includes an 18-hole course, driving range, clubhouse, coffee shop and cart barn.

CLEVELAND — Oakwood Club, an 89-year-old private country club in the eastern suburbs, plans to pull up its golf roots, perhaps meaning the end for its Arthur Boggs/Tom Bendelow design. Club officials are negotiating to build a new club & course in Geauga County. Diversified Realty Corp. has offered to buy the 168-acre site for \$22 million if it can get the land rezoned for shopping centers and multi-family housing.

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GOLF COURSE NEWS



Builders carved the par-4, 375-yard 4th hole through the plentiful woods at International TPC at Mito.

Weed takes TPC formula to Japan

By MARK LESLIE

PONTE VEDRA, Fla. — The PGA Tour's Tournament Players Club (TPC) division has made an exclusive nine-year arrangement with Tokyo Dome Corp. to develop International TPCs in Japan.

Saying the first of the projects, International TPC at Mito in Ibaraki Prefecture, is being completed and is expected to open next May, PGA Tour chief designer Bobby Weed added: "We have a number of other courses in planning stages, and probably will build five to seven before the end of the contract."

Tokyo Dome Corp., based in Tokyo, is a blue-chip corporation that develops resorts and amusement facilities.

While the Mito project will be private, others will be open to the public. "The International TPCs will go a long way in providing an avenue to play golf there," said Weed, adding that the 14 TPCs built in the U.S. are open to the public, though designed as "stadium" courses with PGA tournaments, and their spectators, in mind.

Besides the Mito facility, the develop-

ers are awaiting final approvals for the public-access International TPC at Ichihara in Chiba Prefecture. Several others are planned, including "a potentially wonderful" course in Ohasa, Weed said.

Weed said International TPC is working with Toyo Green, a Japanese agronomic consultant for residential and development contractors.

"We've convinced them to incorporate some of our design ideas to improve the agronomics of the golf courses here," he said. "To get better golfers, they must incorporate more updated technology and better-designed courses. Some of the older courses they're playing on can't compare to the newer ones Americans are designing. It's very difficult to develop a strategic and well-designed golf course when you're playing to two greens on every hole. They just don't have the land to do that today.

"And with better agronomic practices and sensitive design, we can create a better golf course with a single green, and provide them a better challenge. That will improve them as golfers."

Exhaustive water study indicates chemical runoff to be negligible

By MARK LESLIE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Perhaps the most thorough study in the world has found that unhealthy amounts of chemicals are rarely found in runoff water from golf courses.

In a study unveiled at the 8th International Congress of Pesticide Chemistry here, two Japanese scientists reported results of a government-sponsored, three-year study that encompassed 246,000 analyses of water in and around golf courses.

"I've never seen anyone do such an incredible scope of work. It was a massive project," said Stuart Cohen, president of Environmental & Turf Services, Inc. in Wheaton, Md.

Of the 246,000 analyses, scientists found pesticides in 10,536. Just 31 samples exceeded the Health Advisory Level (HAL), according to Dr. Osamu Yamada and Masaaki Minoura, manager and technical specialist in analytical chemistry, respectively, of Tahara Agricultural Center in Aichi Prefecture for Cyanimid (Japan) Ltd.

Funded by the government, the *Environmental Study on Wayup 45SC in Water Inside/Around Golf Courses in Japan* involved several official institutes including Japan's Environment Agency. K. Ohba and S. Yashioka co-authored the study with Yamada and Minoura.

Golf Course News was unable to contact the Japanese scientists for comment.

In 1992, the last year of the study, scientists tested 110,701 water

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Phillips comment

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quote Dr. James Beard, who has long maintained that turf actually enhances the environment. Yet, in his penultimate paragraph, the author urges Americans to adopt the Scottish model, which is less lush but requires few pesticide treatments and water.

Golf Digest has its heart in the right place, but positions taken by the magazine over the past 10 years make some of this pap hard to swallow. Remember the *Golf Digest* "Where To Play" series? When a course was deemed to sport subpar playing conditions, it was derided as "a goat track" or the like. I wonder how many courses would make *Golf Digest's* "Top Whatever" list if they adopted a linksland approach to maintenance (which, of course, is only possible in marine climates like the Scottish coast).

The magazine has asked readers to call (203-373-7033) with their strong opinions on the "complicated issue" of golf courses and the environment. Call and tell them to read *Golf Course News*.

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Massachusetts, my home state, is often derided for its liberal bent and governmental propensity toward taxation. "Taxachusetts," it's often called.

However, I'm here to tell you about a progressive law already on the books in the Bay State — a law that saves golf courses money and widely promotes the notion that golf courses are open spaces to be appreciated, not exclusive playgrounds for

rich, white males.

Under Chapter 61B in the Massachusetts tax code, any non-profit corporation may receive a 75-percent reduction in taxes on all land that is open for "recreational" use. Golf courses and open land qualify, while clubhouses and most other buildings are taxed at full value. A club does not have to be public-access to get the reduced rate, but it must be a non-profit organization. Clubs must apply individually for the tax break.

In return, the club commits itself to keeping the land undeveloped and agrees to reimburse the town for all tax breaks if the parcel is ever developed. The reimbursement provision ups the ante for a developer with every year of reduced taxes, notes Frederick D. Herberich, general counsel for the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

Back in April, *Golf Course News* published a guest column from David MacDonald of Maine Coast Heritage Trust. MacDonald urged course owners to explore conservation options and, perhaps, lower their taxes in the process. In states with regressive tax codes, property is taxed at its "highest and best" potential use — but owners can keep their taxes down and maintain open space by negotiating long-term easements with their communities.

Drafted by the Massachusetts Golf Association (MGA), Chapter 61B was passed into law in 1978 following a public referendum. Some have objected to the tax breaks, especially those given to private country clubs. But even Tim Storrow — director of land protection of the Massachusetts Audubon

Society — calls the law an "important tool for helping keep open land in the state."

Walter Lankau is owner of Stow (Mass.) Acres Country Club, site of next year's U.S. Golf Association Public Links Championship. He's also president of the New England Golf Course Owners Association, and he puts it best. "If I had to pay taxes at the regular rate," said Lankau, "this course would be houses."

This law would provide a win-win situation for many golf course owners in states with regressive tax codes. Questions? Contact MGA Executive Director Richard Haskell at 617-891-4300.

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We have a winner!

National Mower, which has been turning out product since 1919, recently sponsored a contest to determine the oldest National Mower still in operation. Their winner was Steve Devine, superintendent at Tagalong Golf Course in Birchwood, Wis. Devine is still using a 30" model manufactured in 1961.

Now that's reel longevity...

Japanese water study

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samples for 30 pesticides in ponds, drains, rivers, municipal waters and elsewhere in and around three golf courses. Some 4,485 detections of pesticides were recorded, with seven samples containing pesticide levels over HAL.

In 1991, 14 samples exceeded HAL out of 3,709 detections, which came from 89,713 samples. In 1990, 10 exceeded HAL out of 2,342 detections, which were out of 46,016 samples analyzed.

"That's an enormous, incredible amount of analysis," Cohen said. "Clearly, this is something the Japanese government felt important enough to spend millions of dollars on."

"These results can only be reviewed as favorable."

Cohen said that, in his experience, "the number of detections seems about right... The number of hits over HAL seems a little low."

Renzetti: What every player should know...

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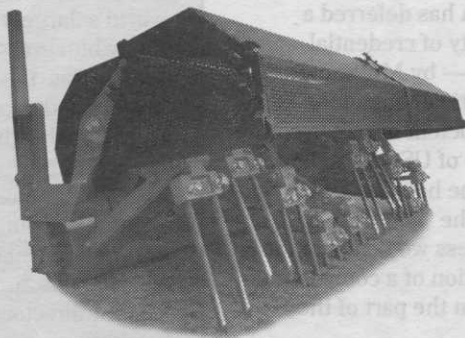
ball marks. Studies have shown that taking 5 seconds to repair your ball mark will result in a healed area in 5 days or less. Left damaged and unrepaired, however, this same area would take over 5 weeks to heal. A little preventative maintenance can go a long way.

Spike marks can also effect how "true" a ball rolls. Though the rules of golf prohibit the repairing of spike marks that might "improve the line of putt" prior to putting, golfers are encouraged to tap down spike marks after the entire group has "holed out." Another alternative, supported by U.S. Golf Association, studies is to switch to the spikeless shoe.

With the advent of new cup liners, the definition of cupping edges are more easily maintained. The golfer still must exercise caution, however, when removing and then replacing the flag. Done carelessly, the sharp edge of the cup is diminished.

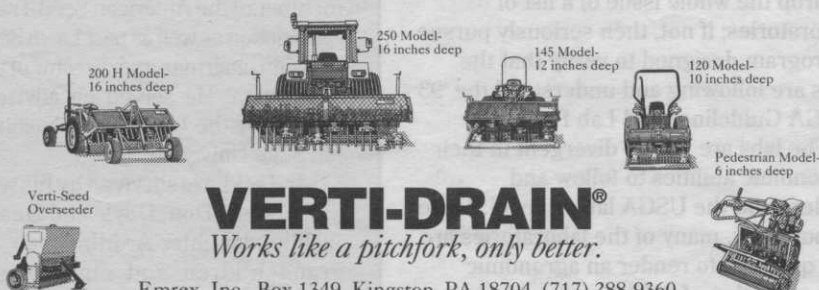
Golf courses today are in better condition, and play more consistently than ever before. This is balanced against increased labor costs and skyrocketing material prices to maintain these standards. More rounds, played by more people, who in turn, have increasingly high expectations of golf course conditions.

The diligent efforts by the golf course superintendent and his staff to provide these conditions can be dramatically improved with the cooperation of the membership. By demonstrating etiquette, obeying course rules, and thinking of those players to follow, the golfer make significant individual contributions. And yet, it is a team effort — with the end result being a winning golf course that the membership can be proud of.



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Forget composting: Clippings make Golf Paper

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papermaking and a little magic," said Gustafson. "I'm convinced a lot of people thought we were crazy during development, but the finished product speaks for itself."

Indeed, the finished product comes after much testing by Four Corners' inhouse chemists, and with cooperation from The Boulders' superintendent emeritus Carl Snyder and Resort Management of America.

Since grasses ferment, compost and dry out too much, scientists had to develop a system to collect the grass and keep it green until it was run on the papermaking machine. The clippings must be dried, blended, and suspended in the pulp solution.

Tests last fall found that ryegrass and Bermudagrass were not as consistent as bentgrass. Their broader leaves made suspension in the pulp difficult.

Arrangements were then made to collect clippings from the area's Resort Management of America golf courses on days when the greens are free from chemical

applications.

The 144 greens at the four courses provide enough grass for a month of papermaking at current demand, Richardson said.

Just how big is that demand?

"It's too early to tell how great the demand will be. We've made tons and sold tons, and we're making more. And we've had a tremendous response from Asia and Europe," Richardson said. "In Asia, so far we've only heard from people in the paper industry who sell in stationery stores. Once the golf industry finds out about it in Asia, it will go bonkers."

Golf Paper is stocked in 80-pound text weight, equivalent to 32-pound bond. A matching heavyweight cover — 90-pound weight — is also available. The stock is 100-percent recycled, with a minimum of 20-percent post-consumer waste, he said.

"To the golf enthusiast it's the ultimate in recycled paper," Gustafson said.

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