

Bay State layout to be environmental model

SCITUATE, Mass. — Local officials hope to make a proposed municipal golf course a national model on how to balance environmental and recreational concerns.

Environmental organizations including the Conservation Law Foundation and Audubon Society of New York will offer designer Michael Hurdzan and local officials advice on making the course environmentally friendly.

The course, which is expected to be opened in 1997, is being built along the North River on former Boston Sand and Gravel property.

The plan for the project came out of a conference in January at Pebble Beach where environmental organizations and the golf industry tried to find common ground. Hurdzan suggested that Scituate's planned course on the Driftway — to be called Widow's Walk — be used as an example of how golf courses can improve wildlife habitat and wetlands.

The proposed \$3.4 million course must still get approval from the conservation commission, planning board and the Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency.

Beard hopes to build a pair of California tracks

THERMAL, Calif. — Former PGA Tour player and current ESPN golf commentator Frank Beard has almost done it all in golf, from playing and teaching to writing books and commentating. Now he wants to become a golf course owner.

Beard is one of four partners in the Eagle Links Land Co. looking to develop two 18-hole public-access courses adjacent to the Thermal Airport near Palm Springs. The Eagle Lake plan includes a clubhouse, 20-acre driving range, and snack bar/restaurant. Beard said the lease terms for the land, located in the Coachella Valley Enterprise Zone, will allow Eagle Links to charge an average of \$50 per round including cart.

The valley has 89 golf courses, but only two in Indio and none in Coachella or Thermal.

Beard, who will serve as consultant on the Eagle Links design, said the courses could open by September 1996. The permitting process has just started and financing hasn't been finalized, but the county reportedly wants the development built.

Pilot plans links in W. St. Louis

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — A TWA pilot wants to turn part of his farmland in west St. Louis County into a semi-private, 18-hole links course.

Rockney Dollarhide, 48, said his proposed Aberdeen Golf Club would be an 18-hole tournament-quality course on 200 acres that would cost about \$3 million. Dollarhide hired Gary Kern to design the course. There are no plans for residences.

The name is derived from the Royal Aberdeen Golf Club, established in 1780, in Aberdeen, Scotland. The course would also feature a combined 9th and 18th green and a 4.5-acre lake to be called Loch Myst.

Dollarhide said 10 individuals have signed on for \$25,000 memberships. He's looking for 50.

Florida course in media maelstrom

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Weston Hills Golf Club, home of the PGA's Honda Classic for the past few years, got some bad press recently for its treatment of tournament volunteers.

Historically, more than 1,000 volunteers have received a round of free golf at the course anytime from May to October.

But this year, the free golf is limited to two specific days during the off-season when many of the volunteers, especially snowbirds, will be away.

Some volunteers are so teed

off that they say they will never work the tournament again.

Peter Condon, general manager at Weston Hills, said he changed the conditions of the free golf after receiving complaints from members about the number of non-members playing the course.

He said he told Honda Classic organizers about the change many months ago, but volunteers said they found out through a letter distributed at a volunteer appreciation party put on by the tournament.

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