

New private club to serve Indianapolis' south side

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — Ever since the public Legends of Indiana Golf Course opened in 1992, Director of Golf Ted Bishop has heard talk about how badly the south side of the city needs a private, 18-hole championship course.

Now, he's looking for 200 members for just such a project. The proposed facility is The Brassie Golf Club, which would be located on 200 acres of rolling ground in White River Township about 25 miles from downtown Indianapolis.

The Brassie would not be affiliated with The Legends, where Bishop plans to remain as director of golf. Bishop is the project manager

for The Brassie, an enterprise of the Middleton Properties Inc. of St. Louis, whose owner, George Middleton, is an investor in The Legends. Golf course architect Jim Fazio, who designed The Legends, has done the routing for The Brassie.

Bishop has said membership at the club — there will be no tennis or swimming, just golf — will be limited to 350. Starting Oct. 1, Bishop plans to begin taking \$2,500 membership deposits that will be held in an interest-bearing escrow account until Dec. 31, 1996. If by that time, 200 members have committed, construction will begin. If not, deposits will be refunded, said Bishop.

Jacobsen, Case Corp. step in to save historic Wisconsin muni

RACINE, Wis. — Two local companies with economic and personal interests in golf have volunteered to help rescue the city's long-standing 9-hole Shoop Park Golf Course, which was threatened with a permanent shut-down this summer because of the high cost of long-needed repairs.

The Case Corp. and Jacobsen Division of Textron have pledged their help in renovating the picturesque but potentially dangerous Shoop course near the

shores of Lake Michigan.

"A prayer has been answered," said Arline Bodenbach, who led a petition signed by more than 1,650 people to keep Shoop open.

The course's future looked bleak in early July. A city finance director suggested closing the course because of the high costs of repairs. Course operator Matt Benciscutto estimated it would cost \$400,000 to improve drainage, redesign several holes, and soften some hills in order to make the course safer. Overwhelmingly, the public wanted to keep Shoop Park open as a golf course.

Mayor Jim Smith, whose office was flooded with phone calls on the issue, was contacted by Case and Jacobsen officials who indicated they considered the course part of the city's heritage and they wanted to help.

Case will donate equipment and manpower to regrade much of the course and dig trenches for drain tiles. Drainage at the 1920s-era course has been a perennial problem, with standing water on the fairways for much of each summer. Case's Randy Steger, a government marketing specialist, said he asked Case officials to consider helping with the project because, like a lot of people, he was concerned Racine would lose an historic jewel. "I've golfed there many times with my kids. It's a relaxed, nice place to play nine holes," said Steger.

Jacobsen will help with seeding new portions of the course. Jacobsen's Ralph Nicotera, director of North American sales, said Racine is "a very picturesque" property that "should remain as a golf course."

"Our primary business is golf course equipment," said Nicotera, adding, "Everything we look at says golf is growing. We need more golf courses, not less."

The city of Racine will provide the drain tile, topsoil and all engineering services. It will also spend \$75,000 to cover its cost in the project. One member of the city's Golf Course Liaison Committee called the cooperative solution "a great effort to save a nice little golf course."

MAC PERK: PLAYING THE BOG

MILWAUKEE — Membership at the Milwaukee Athletic Club (MAC) has its perks. Not only do MAC members have first dibs on tee-time reservations at The Bog, a new Arnold Palmer design in nearby Saukville. But six MAC members got a chance to play golf with Palmer at The Bog Sept. 13, as part of opening celebrations. The club held a qualifying event the day before, with the six low net scorers earning the right to play with Palmer. Three winners got a chance to play the front nine with the legend while the other three joined him on the back nine.

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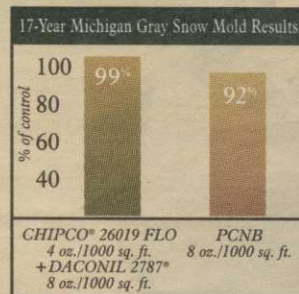
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