



Bay State officials set to raise green fees to fund improvements

BOSTON, Mass. — Massachusetts officials are preparing to increase greens fees 42 percent at the state's most heavily used golf courses. They say they intend to seek legislative approval to use the extra money for improvements.

Greens fees at the state-owned Leo J. Martin course in Weston and two Ponkapoag courses in Canton would rise from \$12 to \$17 on weekdays and from \$14 to \$20 on weekends, according to Metropolitan District Chief David B. Balfour Jr. The new rates would still be lower than

virtually all other public courses in Greater Boston, but they represent a dramatic price increase for one of the best golf bargains in Massachusetts. The low prices have attracted more than 1.25 million golfers a year to the three courses.

The increased funds are scheduled to help what some see as long overdue improvements at all three courses. New irrigation systems have been designed and are ready for installation and there are plans for more ball washers, benches and tee markers — many of which have been

stolen or vandalized over the years. Landscaping around the clubhouses has been improved and parking lots will be repaved.

In a move related to the planned improvements, Richard Tworig, former superintendent of the Ponkapoag course, has been promoted to oversee both courses there.

Balfour of the MDC also said there are plans at the Martin course to recut and resand numerous bunkers that course architect Donald Ross originally included in the layout which have since been filled in.

N.H. developer donates land in lieu of \$50K fine

NASHUA, N.H. — Developers of a golf course in Litchfield pleaded guilty to violating wetlands laws and have donated 19 1/2 acres to the town instead of paying a \$50,000 fine.

Pleasant View Country Club acquired a permit in November 1993 to dredge and fill about 15,000 square feet on its property in hopes of building a golf course, according to Attorney General Jeffrey Howard.

Howard said the club illegally installed underground drainage pipes without the knowledge or permission of the Wetlands Board. The club pleaded guilty to a felony wetlands charge. The club's treasurer, Thomas DeBlois, also pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor for his role and was sentenced to a 25-day suspended jail sentence, a year's probation and 50 hours of community service.

The club donated the land to the Litchfield Conservation Commission.

Rock video shot at Maryland GC

ROCKVILLE, Md. — The new Rattlewood Golf Course in Mount Airy has already had its 15 minutes of fame.

The 18-hole, par-72 public course designed by Ault, Clark & Associates of Kensington, which opened in June, was the location for an MTV video shoot for the band Hootie and the Blowfish with cameos by PGA touring star Fred Couples and CBS television golf broadcaster Gary McCord.

Band members and Couples and McCord all played the course for golfing footage in a video that is getting daily play on MTV. Footage from the Poolesville Golf Course is also in the video.

The video was shot during the Kemper Open week. Two members of the band, guitarist Mark Bryan and bassist Dean Felber, are graduates of a nearby high school. Hootie and Blowfish were recently featured on the cover of Rolling Stone magazine.

BOSTON LAYOUT RESTORED TO ORIGINAL ROSS DESIGN

WINCHESTER, Mass. — The leaders of the Winchester Country Club outside Boston have taken a firm stand with history and tradition. The Donald Ross design recently underwent an \$850,000 improvement project that included restoring 18 of the original bunkers, reshaping tees, eliminating trees that affected the original design, and contouring fairways. Superintendent Dan Higgins and architect Stephen Kay collaborated on the project.

FINE LAWN RESEARCH PRESENTS...

Another Winner!



LOPEZ

CREEPING

BENTGRASS

Nancy Lopez
LPGA Hall of Fame

- A New Level Of Performance
- A Top Rated Cultivar In The National Bentgrass Trials
- For Professional Use On Tees, Greens and Fairways

Produced & Marketed By

Fine Lawn
RESEARCH, INC.

Fine Lawn Research, Inc.

P.O. Box 1051

Lake Oswego, OR 97034

Tel: 503-636-2600; Fax: 503-636-7020