

## BRIEFS

**WALKER REDESIGNING DAYTONA TRACK**

**DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.** — Daytona has selected Robert C. Walker, Inc. of Atlantic Beach to redesign and oversee reconstruction of the North Course at the city's 36-hole facility, Daytona Beach Golf Club. Walker is also conducting a study of the South Course for future renovation. Plans and specifications are being developed and construction should begin this spring.

**MARSH POINT A WHOLE NEW 18**

**KIAWAH ISLAND, S.C.** — The revised Gary Player-designed course at Kiawah Island Resort should be ready for play this fall. The former Marsh Point



Gary Player

course, which will be renamed, closed late last year for a major renovation. Plans soon changed in favor of building an entirely new course. The par-72 layout will stretch to 6,800

yards from the back tees compared to its former 6,334-yard length. Wadsworth Construction is the builder. Virginia Investment Trust owns the resort and is financing the \$3.5 million construction effort.

**GROUND BROKEN ON CC AT DC RANCH**

**SCOTTSDALE, Ariz.** — Scott Miller of Scott Miller Design has been selected by DMB Associates as the golf course architect for The Country Club at DC Ranch. The course is under construction and scheduled to open in January 1997. It will be a private 18-hole, 6,918-yard layout.

**DYE UNDERTAKES KENTUCKY PROJECT**

**LEXINGTON, Ky.** — Don Hensley, a 49-year-old retiree from IBM in Lexington, is developing The Peninsula Golf Resort on Herrington Lake near Dix Dam in northern Garrard County. Construction is about to begin on the 18-hole public-access golf course designed by Pete Dye. Hensley said he would like to see the golf course finished by spring 1997. Danny McQueen will oversee construction.

**9-HOLE OCALA PINES DUE OPEN**

**OCALA, Fla.** — Ocala Palms, a new nine-hole course designed by Steve Newgent, is expected to be open and ready for play by late April with a full-scale opening by September. The layout will measure close to 3,400 yards from the back tees but can also be played at executive-length.

## REUNITED

**Joneses tie design knot, yet remain independent**

By MARK LESLIE

**MURRIETA, Calif.** — A renewed father-son partnership that began almost as a whim with construction of Walt Disney Co.'s Celebration golf course in Orlando, Fla., is now a legal entity incorporated as RTJ Golf Ventures.

The Robert Trent Joneses — Sr. and Jr. — tied the corporate knot after the Southern California Golf Association (SCGA) and a development group both asked them to co-design their projects.

Jones Jr. had been hired to add a new nine holes to the SCGA's Jones Sr.-designed Rancho California Golf

Course here and design an 18-hole track outside Sacramento for partners C.C. Myers and rancher Jerry Johnson. But an opportune Christmas-time visit by Jones Sr. with his son led to meetings with leaders of both groups. RTJ Golf Ventures was created and contracts with Jones Jr.'s RTJ II International were rewritten with the new firm. RTJ II International and the Jones Sr.'s Jones Companies will continue to design their own projects as well.

"Dad came out at Christmas to look over the SCGA project, and I suggested to them [developers] it might be fun to

make the grand master a part of it," Robert Jr. recalled. "It's a collaboration and a wonderful, fun experience."

Asked who's the boss, Robert Jr., who worked for his father from 1960 to 1972, dismissed the idea of being "joined at the hip like Siamese twins," saying: "No, it's arm-in-arm."

Describing a visit by his father to Disney's Celebration course — built for families — Robert Jr. said: "He said everything had good flow of line, a linksland feeling, and he was very happy."

Asked how much input his father had

Continued on next page

## ASIA-PACIFIC UPDATE

**Building boom continues pace**

**TOMIOKA, Japan** — The \$200 million Lakewood Tomioka Country Club will welcome the public when the first round of golf is played here this month. The 27-hole facility will bring to 99 the number of holes Shigemitsu Omori has developed at Japan's Lakewood golf course chain.

A stand-alone course in the foothills of the Japanese Alps, 90 minutes due north of Tokyo, Lakewood Tomioka is "a breathtaking property," said golf course architect Ted Robinson, who has designed all five Lakewood facilities.

Meanwhile, in Bogor, Indonesia, the Jakarta-based Suryamas Group will open the Robinson-designed Rancamaya course this month. Also, on Korea's Cheju Island, the Robinson-designed Pinx Golf Club is now being planned. A stand-alone facility that calls for an 18-hole private course with a 9-hole public-access track, Pinx will be Robinson's first course design in Korea.

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**OSAKA, Japan** — Stressing an "environmentally sound approach," Greg Norman Golf Course Design has completed the 18-hole Himeji Shirasagi course here.



The elegant 9th hole at the Nick Faldo-designed Ocean Dunes in Phan Thiet, Vietnam.

"Despite the significant earthworks (3 million cubic meters), through our 'least-disturbance' approach, we were able to maintain 40 percent of the property's pine forests untouched," said Bart Collins, international vice president of Norman Design. "The course has already received a great deal of attention in Japan as this approach has given Himeji Shirasagi an unparalleled aesthetic beauty."

Mitsui & Co. built the project.

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**MEDAN, Indonesia** — The Gary Player Group is reporting an "overwhelming re-

sponse" to its Grand Village golf project here in Indonesia's third-largest city. The 18-hole Player design is already under construction, close to the city center. Upon completion, Grand Village will be Medan's first "international standard" golf course, according to Player officials.

Player's 18-hole Royal Jakarta project is continuing apace, as grassing is about to commence. Design coordinator Kosie Mentz, who assisted in the maintenance of the Gary Player-designed Fancourt golf course — recently voted South Africa's

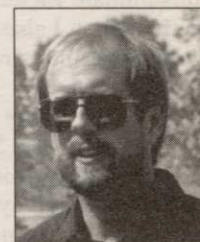
Continued on page 44



Shiun Golf Club in Niigata, Japan, was a collaboration between Denis Griffiths and his then-associate Tom Johnson.

**Q & A ASGCA's 50th president, Griffiths, high on future**

**BRASELTON, Ga.** — Denis Griffiths assumed the presidency in late March of the prestigious American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA). Griffiths earned a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture in 1970 from Iowa State University, then immediately went to work for the Atlanta, Ga., design firm of Davis, Kirby, Player & Associates. In 1980 Griffiths became a full partner with Ron Kirby and one of his designs, Pole Creek GC in Winter Park, Colo. was selected by *Golf Digest* as Best New Public Course in 1984. In 1987 Kirby left to work with Jack Nicklaus in Europe and Griffiths continued his practice as Denis Griffiths & Associates. He has worked throughout the world.



**Golf Course News:** As the new president of the ASGCA, what is your focus?

**Denis Griffiths:** My platform is to listen the best I can to where our members feel we need to be going. I feel very strongly about keeping the costs of golf course construction down. I am polling our members about where they want the society to go. But we have so many levels of individuals — a strong influx of members over the last five, six, seven years, and others who

Continued on page 48



The 13th green and sweeping 14th fairway behind it exhibit the dramatic qualities at Golden Pebble Beach, an 18-hole track in Dalian, China, designed by Peter L.H. Thompson of San Rafael, Calif.

## Asians building to meet demand

Continued from page 37

best maintained golf course — is coordinating the final phase construction. A 1996 opening is planned.

MINDANAO, The Philippines — Construction is set to begin on a pair of Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed projects, one here on the archipelago, the other in the People's Republic of China.

Routing plans have been completed and building should commence by early 1996 here on Cagayan de Oro. The 18-hole resort is located near the airport on the island of Mindanao south of Manila. Regatta Properties of Manila is the developer. Plans are to open the golf facility in late 1997.

Meanwhile, Hainan Island will be the site of Jones' latest Chinese creation, Ya Loong Bay. Jones and developer Henry T. Fok Group of Hong Kong are working their way through the planning process. Full-scale construction on the 27-hole resort course will begin later this fall. A late-1997 opening is planned.

JOHORE BAHRU, Malaysia — Nicklaus Design christened two Asia-Pa-

cific courses in December: Emerald One Golf & Country Club in Bogor, Indonesia, and Borneo Golf Resort in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia.

Another eight Nicklaus designs, including The Legends Golf & Country Resort here in Johore Bahru, Malaysia, should be ready this year.

The Legends is a 1,200-acre resort in southern Malaysia that will eventually include four, 18-hole courses. Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer and Gary Player will each design one. The official opening is slated for mid-1996.

Other Nicklaus projects set to open in 1996 are Juredong Resort in Nagara Brunei Darussalam, Brunei; Borneo in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia (Jack Nicklaus II); Antipolo in Manila; Lakelands in Surfer's Paradise, Australia; Mission Hills in Sitenzen, China; Bintan Lagoon on Bintan Island, Indonesia; MacGregor and Oshige country clubs in Japan.

KUNSHAN, Peoples Republic of China — The first 18 holes of the planned 36-hole Grand Shanghai Golf Club are scheduled to open in June. Designed by

Golfplan, the Ronald Fream architecture group, the Grand Shanghai project is located on a 400-hectare site here in Kunshan.

Fream also has two projects underway in Brunei.

• A major renovation is planned for Pantaimentiri Golf Course at Bandar Seri Begawan. Fream designed the original course in the early 1980s. "But golf technology has advanced tremendously since then and we have the opportunity to make some changes," Fream said. Among the improvements will be recontoured fairways, subsurface drainage and a 30-centimeter sand base that will be applied under all fairways.

• The second Brunei project is an 18-hole daily-fee course planned near the Brunei liquefied natural gas loading plant at Lumut. Construction of the seaside layout is scheduled to begin early this year with a tentative opening slated for late 1997.

Golfplan is also wrapping up the design phase for a 36-hole resort course called Ravenswood Sanctuary in Mandurah near Perth, Western Australia. The 1,200-acre resort and residential community has been going through the environmental permitting process for the past 18 months.

Plans are to begin construction this summer.

The Oberoi Hotel Group has contracted with Fream to design golf courses as part of a pair of five-star resort operations planned in India. The first, Nandi Hills near Bangalore, will include a 27-hole layout scheduled to begin construction early this year and to open by mid-to-late 1997.

XIAMEN, Peoples Republic of China — Southern Wood, a Lee Chang-designed course in Xiamen, opened for play late in December. The 18-hole resort layout includes a driving range and practice facility.

Chang, a former associate of Willard Byrd, has several other projects in various stages of completion in mainland China.

After a lengthy delay, construction of the Royal Fortune Golf Club in Guilin began in October. The 18-hole resort course is being developed by FIDE International of Taiwan and is scheduled to open by mid-1997.

An exclusive private course called Shun Feng Golf Club started construction in December. Shun Feng Construction of Taiwan is the developer. The course should be ready for play by summer 1997.

Construction also began last month on San Shui Spring Golf Club in Guangzhou, China. The first nine holes could be ready for play next summer, but the official opening for all 18 holes will not occur until mid-1997. Kary Enterprises of Hong Kong is the developer.

MANILA, The Philippines — Golf course developers in The Philippines continue their commitment to "signature designs" with two new courses in the General Trias area, south of Manila.

Sta. Lucie Realty, developer of the highly successful Orchard courses that hosted the 1995 Johnny Walker Asia Classic, are set to begin construction of Nick Faldo and Isao Aoki courses side by side — the first in The Philippines by each designer.

Construction will begin in November, with potential openings as early as January 1997.

## Philippines busy

Continued from previous page

ment to design an 18-hole course in the picturesque highland city of Baguio, a city famous for its cool climate and university. The developer, Santa Lucia Realty, also developed the top-rated Orchard Golf and Country Club near Manila, which features an 18-hole Player-designed course and another 18 holes by Arnold Palmer.

Meanwhile, Alta Vista Golf Club in Cebu and Puerto Azul Golf & Country Club in Cavite are under construction.

• Aoki, Faldo and Norman are each designing 18 holes for Eagle Ridge in General Trias, while Langer is the architect with IMD for an 18-hole track at Riviera Golf & Country Club in Silang-Cavite and Weiskopf is designing 18 at The Country Club in Canlubang.

The notoriety of Filipino golf is apparently spreading — both through satisfied tourists and via television.

IMG's Rielly attributed Palmer Course Design's success in The Philippines as largely due to "the excellent reviews" it received at its Orchard Golf & Country Club, site of the 1995 Johnnie Walker Classic. Likewise, audiences watched the Dunhill Masters, held on Palmer's Emerald One in Jakarta last November.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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