

BRIEFS



RYANGOLF HIRES ALLEN

DEERFIELD BEACH, Fla. — Ryangolf, a division of Ryan Inc. Eastern, has added Tracy Allen to its golf course construction team. Allen brings many years of relationships within the golf industry. He sits on the board of directors of The Florida State Golf Association, and is a former director of The Southern Golf Association, as well as a former member of the editorial board of Links Magazine.

ARCHITECTS ENDORSE PRINCIPLES

PINEHURST, N.C. — The American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) has endorsed the Environmental Principles for Golf Courses in the United States "because we believe it is good for golf ... good for the environment ... and good for the communities in which we live and work," said ASGCA President Denis Griffiths.



Denis Griffiths

BARDMOOR FACELIFT BEGINS

LARGO, Fla. — Bardmoor Golf Club began a \$500,000 renovation of its 18-hole championship golf course in June. The course is expected to reopen July 27. Greens are being expanded from 66,000 square feet to 90,000 square feet and will be surfaced with Tifdwarf Bermudagrass. A new process of sodding called Rapid-Turf will accelerate the process. More than five miles of 8-foot-wide cart paths throughout the course will be resurfaced with asphalt. The tee areas will also be enlarged, regraded and re-sodded.

ENGH, ROBINSON MOVE

CASTLE ROCK, Colo. — The golf course design firms of Jim Engh and Cabell B. Robinson have both moved. Jim Engh and his Global Golf Design have moved to new offices at 1700 N. Park St., Suite C, Castle Rock, Colo. 80104; telephone 303-688-1030. Robinson has moved his firm to: Las Lomas de Mijas 39, 29650 Mijas, Málaga, Spain; telephone 34 (5) 259 0250/259 0277. Robinson is a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects and works exclusively in Europe.

COLLINS BUILDS TWO

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — Golf Buildings Development, Inc. (GBD) has been awarded the contract to design two golf maintenance facilities in Massachusetts. Widow's Walk Golf Course in Scituate and Bridgewater Golf Club are under construction and the maintenance facilities will be completed this fall, according to GBD President Lane Collins.

As Maine goes... One-stop permitting is here!

By MARK LESLIE

AUGUSTA, Maine— When Dick and Ron Foster applied for a permit to build a golf course on 112 acres in Litchfield, the process took seven weeks. Some 3,000 miles away, California has opened nine Permit Assistance Centers (PACs), bringing together permitting authorities from state and local government to simplify the process.

States from Maine to California are taking innovative steps toward regulatory reform and improved customer service, slashing huge amounts of time and paperwork off the quagmire of the

permitting process. Their aim: to invigorate their economies while maintaining a quality environment.

The seven weeks to get approval for the Fosters' project is a shocking speed in many states. But it may become more commonplace as time passes.

"There are a lot of innovative programs going on in all the [New England] states right now," said Brooke Barnes, director of policy development and implementation for the Maine DEP, which is the state's



"pinnacle of licensing and permitting," he added.

"The EPA [federal Environmental Protection Agency] is allowing more experimentation in different ways to approach regulating the environment — not just command-and-control stuff," Barnes said.

"In just the issue of processing, the agencies are always trying to reduce the time and still hold the line on their mission. Our mission is to protect the environment. We want to be customer-

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Riviera does a double at 10

By MARK LESLIE

PACIFIC PALISADES, Calif. — Riviera Country Club's 10th hole may be the best short par-4 in the country. So it was with trepidation that the powers that be at the club decided something needed to be done to save the little green from the pounding of 60,000 rounds a year.

In late July, course officials will unveil the results of their decision: Instead of enlarging the 3,000-square-foot 10th green, they added a second, permanent part-time green, also about 3,000 square feet in size, to be used certain days of the week.

"It's a unique concept and an intriguing project," said course architect Ron Forse of Uniontown, Pa. "At

first, I didn't want to take it. I didn't want to be part of ruining what may be the most unique hole in [architect] George Thomas' masterpiece."

But Forse saw that the second green could be added and still maintain the strategy of the hole.

"Thomas had that extra fairway bunker off to the right and with the same backslope as the original green. So we hid the new green behind the existing bunker just like the original green," he said. "Also, the new green has the same slope as the original. And the same type of strategy works for the new green as well."

Sitting at 315 yards out from the back tee and 301 from the members'

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An artist's rendering showing both 10th greens at Riviera; the new one, at right.



Roger Packard and Andy North are among the more successful architect/pro golf course design teams operating today. Packard entered the business with his father Larry in 1970 and emerged from his father's shadow with such widely acclaimed layouts as Cantigny outside his native Chicago and Sweetwater Country Club in Houston. North is a three-time PGA Tour winner, including two U.S. Open victories. Together they have designed Trappers Turn in Wisconsin Dells (Wis.), nine holes at Spring Green near Madison, Wis., Northern Pines in Kalispell, Mont., and The General at Eagle Ridge in Galena, Ill., which is set to open in August.

Golf Course News: How did the two of you team up?

Roger Packard: Andy was talking to a mutual friend of ours and expressed interest in getting into the design field. Dad (Larry) had retired at that point so I was open to having a pro partner. Andy liked my design style and the courses I had done, and I wanted a partner who would be actively involved.

Our personalities clicked and we started on Trapper's Turn.

GCN: What do the two of you contribute individually to a Packard/North design?

RP: Basically we blend our areas of expertise to build the best course possible. I've been around golf all my life and in the design business for 26 years. Andy brings

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QA & A become popular team

Below, Andy North, right, and Roger Packard look over construction work on one of their projects. At left is a shot of Trappers Turn, a course they designed in 1991 in Wisconsin Dells, Wis.



Q&A: North and Packard

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his many years as a pro coupled with his creativity and know-how for design.

GCN: Do you ever disagree on design issues?

RP: We really haven't had any disagreements; we have very similar ideas about what is most enjoyable for the golfer. We're concerned with the player's enjoyment, not feeding our egos.

GCN: What is the key for a player to become a successful course designer?

AN: I think anyone who wants to be a successful designer needs to become a student of design and determine what would be best for all players, not just yourself and your own abilities.

RP: Basically, just educating yourself with everything designers have to do; just like playing golf, to be good at design, you have to develop your skill.

GCN: How many site visits do you generally make during a project?

RP: It depends on the individual site. But as a rule, we average two to three a month with more as the course nears completion.

GCN: What items are essential for a course to be considered well-designed?

RP: A well-designed course should offer great shot value; it should make the player form a strategy for playing each hole, and should be challenging without being overly penal. Most of all, a well-designed course should leave each player with the feeling that he/she can't wait to come back again.

GCN: Why is The General being touted as the best work you've done together?

RP: First of all, the piece of land we had to work with was incredible. The entire team that created The General worked very well together. Also, Andy and I find that the longer we work together, the better we get.

GCN: Who are your favorite classic and contemporary architects?

AN: Donald Ross and Alister Mackenzie. I also like some Weiskopf and some Fazio.

RP: A.W. Tillinghast, Donald Ross, Dick Wilson. Most of all, though, my father influenced my overall style.

GCN: Aside from your own projects, what are your two or three favorite courses and why?

AN: Muirfield Village is very difficult, but always in great condition. I love shorter courses like Cypress Point and Harbour Town. I love short holes. And of course the big, macho courses like Medinah 3, Winged Foot and Oakland Hills with its great mature oaks.

RP: Pinehurst, Pine Valley and the classics that represent the purest of golf course design. Even new courses should look like they've been there for 50 years.

GCN: Considering your past success at the U.S. Open there, do you have any special feelings about returning to Oakland Hills?

AN: I'm really looking forward to it. I wish I was playing in it.

GCN: What Tour players have made or would make good course designers?

AN: Players who have had to learn how to read the course where it wasn't all physical ability that brought their success are the best. Corey Pavin would make an excellent designer.

RP: I admire the work of Tom Weiskopf.

GCN: What design features of

Sweetwater Country Club make it particularly well suited for women?

RP: I adjusted the distances for the LPGA players' tournament; but honestly, as with all of our designs, the course is tailored to all levels of players with front tees around 5,000 yards and back tees around 6,900-7,000 yards.

GCN: What were the main things you learned from your father regarding course design?

RP: Dad is a perfectionist and he passed that on to me. I've learned to never settle. I always try to push myself to create the

best that I can. He stressed the importance of a great routing plan, and always being a gentleman in matters of business.

GCN: What were the main things you learned from your experience with Brent Wadsworth?

RP: I started working construction as a teenager for Brent, so basically I was exposed to the aspects of creating a golf course from a very young age. As one of the best construction companies in the country, Wadsworth taught me how to do things right.

GCN: Have there been any major changes in course architecture since you started?

RP: When Dad started in the business, large greens were very popular; there was very little undulation to the fairways, square tees, etc. Eventually designers started adding more flair and creativity to design, sparking greater interest from golfers who were both challenged and awed by the layout and aesthetics of the course.

GCN: Do you have a favorite course you've designed?

RP: Really, no. I've enjoyed working on them all. And each course brings back a lot of good memories. I just hope they give players as much pleasure as they did for me in creating them.



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