

Northern N.H. layout to receive extensive facelift

JEFFERSON, N.H. — The historic 18-hole Waumbek golf course in the foothills of the White Mountains Presidential Range will soon be undergoing some dramatic renovations under the new ownership of Friel Golf Development of Hudson, N.H.

Owner Phil Friel has extensive plans for the facility, ranging from a new clubhouse with restaurant and pro shop to take advantage of the mountain views, to a new practice area, bunker restorations, and lengthening several holes.

The Waumbek was one of the earliest hotel resort courses in the New Hampshire mountains. In the late 1890s and early 1900s, many celebrities and world-famous golfers played on the course during the summer. Friel owns and manages a dozen courses in northern New England.

Many longtime Waumbek members have boycotted the course since Friel took over and made it a daily-fee facility. But Friel hopes many will come back after his crews restore some of the charm

and beauty to a layout that received little care or improvement in the past 20 to 30 years. He has set a target of 20,000 rounds for the 1997 season.

Friel's crews have begun building a new 300-yard long practice area with target greens. They've also cleared a few years worth of weeds, brush and tree limbs to restore the fairways on the rolling hillside course to their former width. Friel said he would not tinker with the small, tricky greens.

KILLIAN TRACK OPENS IN MARYLAND

ELKRIDGE, Md. — Howard County officials have opened the Timbers at Troy Golf Course, an 18-hole daily-fee layout south of Baltimore. What's more, they finished the \$7.5 million project eight months ahead of schedule. The course, designed by Ken Killian and developed by Rainmaker Golf Development, will be managed by Kemper Sports Management.

Golden Bear's range extends to Vermont

SOUTH BURLINGTON, Vt. — The Golden Bear has come to northern New England. Jack Nicklaus, who has designed more than 130 golf courses across the United States and five continents, is adding Vermont to his resume.

Bulldozers have begun shaping Vermont National golf course outside Burlington, the state's largest city. Developers hope to have the 18-hole layout ready for play by July 1998. The course, which will be semi-public with 350 private memberships, will be the centerpiece of a development featuring 190 single-family homes and 40 condominiums.

The course is expected to appeal to both serious golfers and more casual weekend strollers.

Vermont National is the second high-profile, high-end public-access project in Vermont in recent years. The Green Mountain National course, a highly-anticipated mountainside project in Shelburne near Killington Ski Area, opened earlier this year.

Vermont National will have a few special features, including a tunnel for golf cars under a street that will connect the front and back nines. A hill on the first hole is set for winter use as a sledding center and the golf course will also be set up to accommodate cross-country skiers.

Trump hopes to add second N.Y. course

BRIARCLIFF MANOR, N.Y. — One golf course in northern Westchester County apparently is not enough for developer Donald Trump.

Trump, already involved in controversial plans to develop an exclusive golf club and luxury homes on the 213-acre Seven Springs estate that straddles Bedford, North Castle and New Castle, now wants to take over the Briar Hall Golf and Country Club, an 18-hole course that went bust in Briarcliff Manor. Besides keeping the course, Trump wants to build 72 homes.

The Briarcliff project faces village approvals that are expected to take at least several months. The site has been owned by the Marine Midland bank since 1994, when it tried to auction off the property to recoup \$12.2 million in debt.

Briarcliff, which is being called Trump National Golf Club and Residential Development for now, would not be as exclusive as Seven Springs. The two facilities would be aimed at different markets.



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