

BRIEFS


**THOMPSON READIES SECOND
AT GOLDEN PEBBLE BEACH**

DALIAN, China — Developers of Golden Pebble Beach will add a second course and other resort amenities to its seaside community here. Dalian Hua Feng Enterprises Group, Inc., managed by Liu Shulan and Ren Yun Liang, have again selected HRC Consultants Inc. Architects and Engineers of Arcadia, Calif., and golf course designer Peter Thompson of Thompson Planning Group, San Rafael, Calif., to complete the 600-acre resort development in this northern China city. Thompson said that Golden Pebble Beach's second 18 holes will be an inland course, more suited to the middle and higher handicap golfers.

LOS ANGELES CC COMPLETES WORK

LOS ANGELES — The North Course at The Los Angeles Country Club opened at the end of February following a major restoration by architect John F. Harbottle III. Restoration on the South Course began in mid-March.

CONTRACTORS INSTALL RANDALL

LITTLETON, Colo. — Rick Randall, founder of Randall & Blake, Inc. (RBI), has been installed as a national director of the Associate General Contractors of America (AGC). The AGC addresses issues such as legislation, safety, and training for contractors in the United States. The AGC also works closely with government agencies such as the Department of Transportation to create a partnership between contractors and the infrastructure engineers. Randall's parent company houses four companies: RBI, RBI Golf, RBI Maintenance and Contra Costa Landscaping, Inc. RBI has offices in Texas, Utah, California and Colorado.

TREADWELL APPOINTS PARKS

SOUTHGATE, Mich. — Treadwell Golf Associates, a golf course design, construction, and management company, has appointed Jeffrey R. Parks as vice president of agronomy and Michael E. Hopson as vice president of operations. This new management team, which includes Todd Johnson, PGA golf professional and director of golf, will oversee all operations for Treadwell Golf Associates, located at 19301 Northline Rd., Southgate, Mich. 48195; 313-287-2060.

PGA, Norman team with new TPC in Atlanta

By MARK LESLIE

ATLANTA — TPC at Sugarloaf, Greg Norman's first design for the PGA, will open here May 5, just in time to host the week's activities for the BellSouth Atlantic Classic.

Built by the PGA Tour in conjunction with Crescent Resources, Inc., the facility features a major homesite component as well as golf, tennis and swimming. A huge clubhouse opened in April, and the recreation center is housed in and around the original show barn used during the era when the property was home to Tennessee walking horses owned by Rollins College patriarch Wayne Rollins.

Future plans call for a Norman-designed par-3 nine-hole layout as well.

Winding over very hilly and wooded terrain, and with three creeks meandering through the property, TPC at Sugarloaf will challenge golfers with tight fairways — tree-lined alleys requiring "a lot of great shot-making capabilities," according to one PGA official.

TPC at Sugarloaf provided the opportunity to try Greg Norman Turf's new



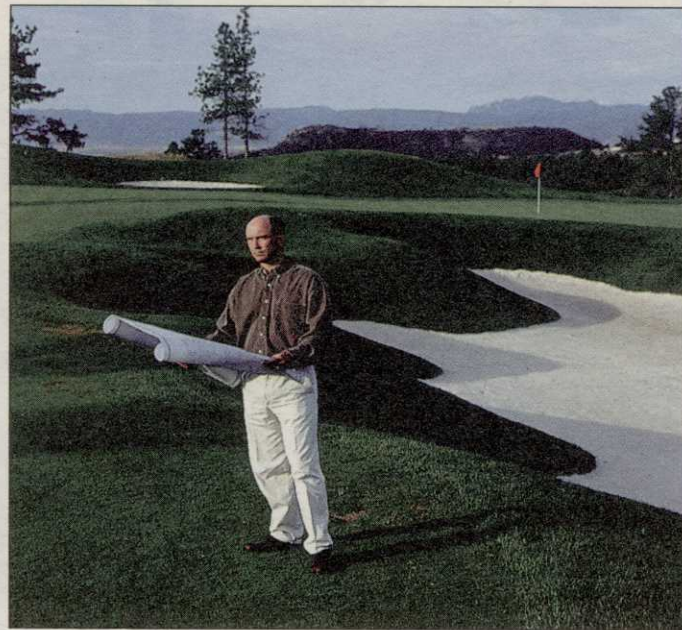
The new Greg Norman-designed TPC at Sugarloaf boasts a mix of terrain and trees.

GN1 Bermudagrass on the fairways, according to Cal Roth, PGA Tour director of golf course maintenance operations. Zoysiagrass roughs will add diversity and color to the track and the greens will be bentgrass.

"There have been a number of new, big golf course communities built in Atlanta over the last few years," said

Roth. "But the growth seems to be there. We're selling lots and homes very quickly. We started selling memberships four months ago and have 175 members already."

The TPC Network now numbers 15 in the United States, and under construction is the Gary Player-designed TPC at Jasna Polana in Princeton, N.J.



Eng gaining exposure

Jim Eng broke into design with Ken Dye and Joe Finger, before joining Dick Nugent's firm. From there he went to England as senior designer for Cotton Pennink & Associates. Because the owner of CP&A, A.H. Buckley, soon became president of International Management Group's (IMG) recreational development unit, Eng became involved, as well — designing European courses in the name of IMG clients like Bernhard Langer. Returning to the states in 1991, he founded Global Golf Design in Castle Rock, Colo. His first solo design on U.S. soil, the Sanctuary, opens May 1. Last month he broke ground on a municipal course for the city of Castle Rock.

Golf Course News: Your experience at IMG was broad but fairly anonymous. How do you view your tenure there, in retrospect?

Jim Eng: Because I spent a good deal of time in Europe, when I came back to the States, a lot of people didn't exactly know who I was. So that wasn't very good... But I tell ya', it was

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Despite obstacles, market in Germany improving

By MARK LESLIE

BERLIN, Germany — Despite the financial drain of German unification and the stiff opposition of a strong environmental lobby, golf course development in this country since the turn of the decade has soared. While the number of golfers has increased 120 percent, from 124,209 in 1989 to 272,830 in 1996, developers have built 214 golf courses, according to the German Golf Federation. That is an increase of 73 percent, or more than 10 percent a year, over the 293 courses the federation reported in 1989.

"Meticulous but steady" describes the growth. Cabell Robinson, a golf course architect headquartered in Marbella, Spain, said the former West Germany has been pumping \$75 billion to \$100 billion a year into the former East Germany, diverting funds that might have been spent on other investments (like tourism and golf courses). Meanwhile, strong environmental groups make it "very difficult to get planning permission to do anything in what was West Germany," and earth-moving is

often highly restricted on what is allowed, said Robinson.

It can take several years to get a proposal through the approval process to the groundbreaking stage.

"Germany and the UK are probably the two most difficult areas to receive environmental approvals," said Jeremy Slessor of European Golf Design, which helped design the Nick Faldo course at Sporting Club Berlin and has other projects underway in Germany. "It can be a long process. Four years is not unusual to obtain permits. Whether a project is completed depends on the determination of the developer. Many just give up because of the time and money it takes. But those who stay with it usually get their permits."

Indeed, the golf industry's growth seems to defy its obstacles.

Although agreeing "It's pretty hard to get things built in Germany," architect Kyle Phillips of Robert Trent Jones II International said the firm has designed one course that will open this summer 20 minutes southwest of Berlin and is planning another in Frankfurt.

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