

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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## INSIDE

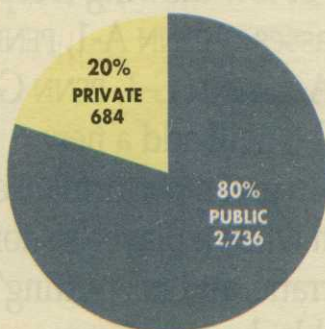
### Public Golf Forum: Biologicals

A half-day session on biological controls, led by Dr. Eric Nelson, will highlight PGF's second day ..... 54

### Barley Straw in Your Pond?

Yes. A sure-fire folk remedy that works wonders on your pond algae ..... 18

#### TOTAL GOLF COURSE OPENINGS BY TYPE: 1986-1996



Source: National Golf Foundation

#### PUBLIC GOLF ROLLS ON

After 1990, new golf course openings began to pick up steam. Public golf, specifically daily-fee golf, contributed most to the upsurge in golf course development. See page 3 for more stats on the growing public golf arena.

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## Toro, G&H ready for day in court

By M. LEVANS

BLOOMINGTON, Minn./LOS ANGELES — The battle between the Toro Company and Grizzle & Hunter Plastic Inc. — which has raged since December 1995 — will be tried by a jury on September 23.

Through the trial, Toro is seeking an injunction against Grizzle & Hunter that would permanently bar the manufacturer from producing its Bear Irrigation replacement sprinkler products.

In December 1995, Toro accused Grizzle & Hunter's top executives of stealing trade secrets related to the sprinkler conversion assembly — the guts of the sprinkler head. Grizzle & Hunter, a company spearheaded by Glendale Grizzle, an ex-Toro employee of 28 years, has been marketing a univer-

sal conversion assembly that can replace worn out Toro and Rain Bird sprinkler assemblies.

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#### COMING HOME

The 9th and 18th greens at Greystone Golf Club in Walworth, N.Y. This Craig Schreiner creation opened in June. See Q&A page 33.

## Widow's Walk places environment first

By MARK LESLIE

SCITUATE, Mass. — When Palmer Course Design Co. finishes rebuilding The Presidio in San Francisco, the country will be bracketed by its first two "environmental demonstration project" golf courses. The first, Widow's Walk Golf Course, located on an old gravel pit and dump site in this coastal Massachusetts community, opened for play on June 28, to the delight of

golfers and environmentalists alike.

"I don't think any golf course has had more publicity than this one. That's because of what it is and

what it represents," said Dr. Michael Hurdzan who, with lead designer Bill Kerman and input from various environmental

Continued on page 23

## Casper to keynote Public Golf Forum

By M. LESLIE

OAK BROOK HILLS, Ill. — Hall of Fame golfer Billy Casper, who has followed his playing career by operating golf course design and management companies, will keynote the 1997 Public Golf Forum here on Oct. 27.

The only national conference and show targeted to the owners, managers, developers and superintendents of public-access golf facilities, the *Golf Course News*-sponsored Public Golf Forum will be held Oct. 27-28 at Oak Brook Hills

Continued on page 50



The legendary Billy Casper

## Whitbread takes lead

By PETER BLAIS

WARWICKSHIRE, England — This fall the European golfing community will turn its eyes to Whitbread Hotel Co.'s Marriott Forest of Arden Hotel & Country Club, site of the final European Tour stop before this September's much-anticipated Ryder Cup.

"We're hoping a number of the European team players will play in the One 2 One British Masters," said Whitbread Marketing Director Janet Matthews.

While the golfing public's attention will be fixed on the Warwickshire facility this September, the golf industry's gaze has turned with increasing

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#### A FINE FINISH

Kyle Phillips liked this course so much he moved there. The 18th at Granite Bay (Calif.) Golf Club is an example of Phillips' work with RTJII. See story on Phillips' new solo career, page 33.



## Casper keynotes

Continued from page 1

Hotel and Resort. Casper's keynote at 9 a.m. will kick off two days of educational sessions on course management and marketing, development and maintenance.

Casper's 51 PGA Tour victories stand him 6th on the all-time win list and earned him induction into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 1978 and PGA Hall of Fame in 1982. He won two U.S. Open titles (1959 and 1966), a Masters Championship (1970), a U.S. Senior Open title (1983)

and was twice named PGA Player of the Year (1966 and 1970). Eight times he played on the U.S. Ryder Cup teams and in 1979 was the non-playing captain.

Since reducing his playing time, the 66-year-old Casper has devoted increasing time to the course design firm Casper Nash & Associates, which he formed in 1986. From their Phoenix headquarters, he and partner Greg Nash have teamed on more than 60 mostly public-access golf courses, including nearly 27 for Del Webb's master-planned communities. The average golfer, he said, is his main target and

he designs his courses "to be very flexible" and to "offer an enjoyable challenge to average players while still testing the limits of a scratch player's abilities."

Meanwhile, Billy Casper Golf Management Inc., formed in 1988, operates 16 facilities from the mid-Atlantic to Hawaii. A dozen of those properties are daily-fee exclusively or semi-private. Headquartered in Vienna, Va., the firm provides consultation services on the planning, development and

construction of new courses, and offers complete turnkey management services to new and existing courses.

"We're thrilled to have Billy Casper headline our conference," said *Golf*

*Course News* publisher Charles von Brecht. "He knows every side of the golf industry and has been admired for his character and integrity his entire career."

For more information about Public Golf Forum, call 207-846-0600.



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## H<sub>2</sub>O REPORT CONTINUED

## Sulfur dioxide

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major cations: sodium, potassium, calcium and magnesium.

Likewise, sulfur dioxide-treated water that contacts soil reduces the soil pH while reducing sulfur and sodium levels.

Frye installed a sulfur dioxide generator at a cost of \$27,000. The results? The Ocean Course's turf and trees were able to utilize 80 to 90 percent of the irrigation water applied to the course, up from 30 to 40 percent previously. The improved efficiency allowed Frye to cut water use between 20 and 30 percent, a number that found favor with state environmentalists.

"[Course architect] Pete Dye couldn't believe the difference in the quality and health of the turf and trees when he came back recently, particularly the trees," Frye reported. "You can always replace turf, but not a 40-year-old live oak."

"I heard Raymon Finch [one of the developers of nearby Wild Dunes] say once that water had more influence on the success of a golf course than any other single thing. I think he's absolutely right."

The Ocean Course is preparing to host the World Cup on Nov. 17-23, the facility's first pro event since the Ryder Cup. Sixty-four of the world's top players from 32 countries are expected to participate. Frye closed the course for 30 days this spring while new fittings were placed on an updated irrigation system.

## Ready to leap

Continued from page 30

forced to use only that water necessary to meet standards.

Which leads to the next question: Is state-of-the-art irrigation necessary to deliver water most efficiently? The answer is "Yes," in the long term. Present-day automatic systems have application efficiencies in the 80-percent range.

Can we cut another ten percent with better control and delivery? The answer is "Yes," with improved sensor/controller feedback.

A great savior for golf is recycled water. Irrigating with treated effluent is a very promising short-term solution. However, the efficiency of irrigation systems, not recycled water, will determine the growth of the sport in the long run. Consequently, state-of-the-art irrigation technology is the long-term key to the growth of golf.

How quickly can current superintendents, irrigation specialists and other golf course personnel be trained to understand and manage advanced, central-computer irrigation systems? With the database of these systems expanding beyond irrigation, the superintendent can no

*The efficiency of irrigation systems, not recycled water, will determine the growth of the sport in the long run.*

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longer delegate operation of his central to one person. Chances are, irrigation specialists, mechanics, pesticide applicators, and equipment operators will need some access to the information gathered and organized by the central computer. At the same time, the information in the database must be secure from mistakes and unauthorized use.

This is a sizable training challenge. Will training from the manufacturers and distributors of these central systems be enough? If not, can irrigation consultants handle the job?

If you have read about the new total management packages from irrigation manufacturers, you know that implementation requires a very tight survey of your course so its layout can be digitized for the database. Any changes you make in the course have to be added to the database. Who will do this for thousands of courses in the coming years?

You can see how important it is to improve your irrigation system on a regular basis. By staying knowledgeable through training and making reasonable upgrades, you not only protect the future of your golf course, you protect the future of the sport.

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