

Ford's Colony, Maples begin 3rd 18

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — Construction of the final 18 holes of golf at Ford's Colony has begun, according to Realtec Inc. CEO Rick Ford.

Although 54 holes of golf have always been a part of Ford's Colony's master golf plan, the decision to finish the final holes was reached late last year based on real demand. With Ford's Colony averaging more than 70,000 rounds a year, and the increasing demand for golf in the Williamsburg area, Ford decided it was time to make a move.

Early last December, Ford set out to find the necessary financing for his new project, then finalized the arrangements that would allow the next phase to become a reality. Imperial Golf Finance Group, a division of FMAC, agreed to provide the financing. Then Dan Maples was signed to design the remaining holes.

Those holes "wind through some of the most beautiful rolling property that I have had to work with here," said Maples.

Foster begins renovations in Ariz., Ill.

TUCSON, Ariz. — Renovation work has begun at Tucson Country Club here and Sunset Hills Country Club in southern Illinois. Both courses retained Keith Foster last year to study and provide assistance in enhancing both courses for their respective memberships.

At Tucson CC, the enhancement program focuses on im-

provements at tees, bunker reconstruction, regrassing green surfaces, and an irrigation upgrade. Work will be completed in September and Tucson CC will reopen in December.

Sunset Hills will undergo an extensive renovation and reworking of its back nine. Many of the previous holes were routed on top of rough ground. The redesign cuts the holes into the ground for a better fit. Construction will be completed in early October and Sunset Hills will reopen the back nine holes in June 1998.

Nelson, Haworth excited about Singapore project

KRANJI, Singapore — "It's such an impressive site. I'm really excited by the possibilities here," said Robin Nelson, president of Nelson & Haworth, after having spent two days at the Kranji site of the new 18-hole Warren Golf and Country Club course.

It was Nelson's first visit to the site, and accompanied by Singapore-based partner Neil Haworth, both were enthusiastic about the project. "We've been working on the design for some time, but it's great for Robin to see the opportunities here," said Haworth. "There's lots of large mature trees which we will be preserving and working around, to give the course an instant 'well-established' look.

"In that respect, it resembles our course at Mimosa. And, unlike many Singapore courses, the location is rolling and undulating, not flat. It's such a natural site that the course will require very little earth-moving. The area for the clubhouse, in particular, has great panoramic views of the golf course and Kranji reservoir."

Nelson is no stranger to Singapore, having been involved with the designs of the original Tanah Merah Garden course and the Sentosa Serapong courses. "Both Warren and ourselves are committed to making this course a top-quality championship venue," he said.

"We want each hole to make every golfer think, to have to consider all the options, before they play their shot," said Haworth. "In addition, we are supplying the shapers and key construction people. That is very important to ensure our design is accurately translated into reality."

It is expected that construction work for the 6,800-yard course will begin late this year, and the course will be ready for play in the middle of 1999.

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