

BRIEFS



DESIGNER MYSLINSKI JOINS JACOBSON

LIBERTYVILLE, Ill. — Jacobson Golf Course Design has named Doug Myslinski a design associate. Myslinski, a landscape architect from West Virginia University, has been in the golf course construction business for five years with Wadsworth Golf Construction's Midwest region. He had worked in the field as a supervisor for two years and in the Plainfield office as the chief estimator for three years. Duties with Jacobson will include project design assistance, document preparation and on-site supervision.

AURORA TABS KAVANAUGH

AURORA, Colo. — The city of Aurora, Colorado/Golf Division has retained Kenneth M. Kavanaugh Golf Design, of Tucson, Ariz. for a new project called The Homestead at Murphy Creek. This 18-hole daily-fee course will be located in the rolling foothills of the Rocky Mountains with a projected construction date of fall. Kavanaugh was also selected as architect for the destination time share resort project, Seven Canyons, for the New Mexico & Arizona Land Co, in the majestic red rocks setting of Sedona, Arizona.

LANDFILLS TO BE TRANSFORMED

QUINCY, Mass. — Quarry Hills Associates has gotten the go-ahead to build a 27-hole public golf facility on two contiguous landfills in the neighboring towns of Quincy and Milton. Part of the construction of the 27-hole facility, to be called Quarry Hills, is being supported by fill from the massive Central Artery roadway and tunnel project taking place in downtown Boston. The proposed 446-acre Quarry Hills would include a 27-hole golf course, a clubhouse, range, softball and soccer fields, basketball courts and other recreational amenities. Construction is expected to take five years.

HILLS OPENS SOUTHEAST OFFICE

Arthur Hills & Associates has opened a regional office in Charlotte, N.C. Ben Dennett, a design associate with the firm, will manage the office and coordinate Hills' marketing and planning activities in the Southeast. The office is located at 9710 Commons East Dr., Suite I, Charlotte, N.C. 28277; telephone 704-544-1445.



Arthur Hills

Hot ... Hot ... Hot!

TPC network takes off with new construction

By PETER BLAIS

The network of PGA Tour Tournament Player Club facilities will reach the quarter-century mark by the year 2000 with seven courses currently under construction or in planning and others being discussed, according to Chris Smith, director of special projects for the PGA Tour.

The latest course to come aboard is the TPC at Wakefield Plantation in Raleigh, N.C. The Hale Irwin design broke ground Sept. 16 and is the first TPC course to be announced as the future home of a Nike Tour event, Smith said.

"It [the number of TPC facilities] is expanding because of the overall success of the TPC network," said Smith, adding that TPC clubs have garnered a number of operational and design awards.

The TPC network runs the gamut from private to public to resort facilities. With the exception of the TPC at Eagle Trace, which yielded the Honda Classic to the recently opened (1996) TPC at Heron Bay, all the PGA Tour Golf Course Properties owned and/or operated by the PGA Tour host Tour events.

The design arm of the PGA Tour — PGA Tour Design Services — works with the architect that the developer hires at each facility to make sure the Tour's needs are addressed. A PGA Tour player is usually also involved as a consultant or designer on the project. "Player involvement is important in the design of all TPC courses," Smith said. "All



TPC at The Canyons in Las Vegas, which opened in October 1996, is one of the latest in the TPC network.

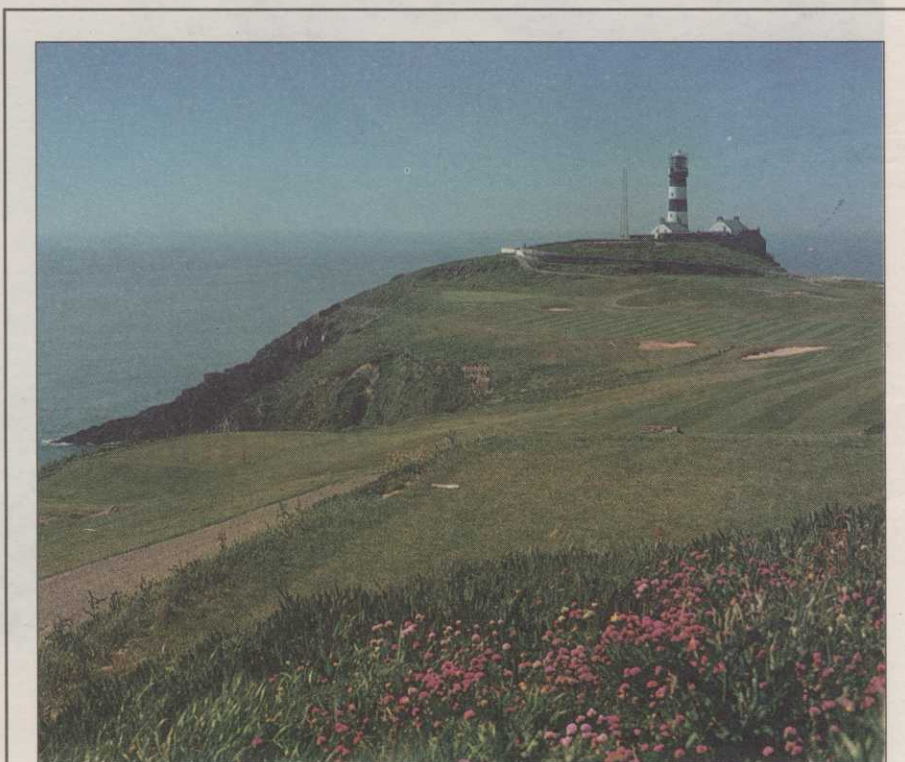
are built with the capability of hosting a major tournament, whether immediately or down the road."

Of the six courses currently under construction or in planning, three already have tournaments planned: The Energizer Senior Tour Championship at the Lanny Wadkins-designed TPC of Myrtle Beach (S.C.) scheduled to open in 1998; the John Deere Classic at the D.A. Weibring-designed TPC at Deere Run in Moline, Ill., opening in 1999; and the Burnet Senior Classic at the TPC of The Twin Cities opening in the year 2000 in Minneapolis.

In addition to the Myrtle Beach facility, three other TPC courses will come on line next year: TPC at Jasna Polana in Princeton, N.J.; TPC at Virginia Beach; and TPC at Snoqualmie in Seattle.

There's a huge benefit to tournament sponsors who use a TPC venue to host their tournament, Smith said. It gives

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The 17th hole at Old Head Golf Links shows off an 18th-century lighthouse, one of its many historical elements.

Old Head: New beauty in the Old Country

By MARK LESLIE

KINSALE, Ireland — The site sits entirely in County Cork on a peninsula whose cliffs plunge down to the Celtic Sea. It contains what its architect calls "the most natural [golf] hole God ever built." And, now complete, it stands as the model for new golf course construction in this country, passing stringent environmental permitting that stretched over five years and resulted in an ecological sanctuary and protection for some fascinating historic landmarks.

The property is Old Head Golf

Links, an 18-hole semi-private course with daily-fee play developed by Irishman John O'Connor, built by local contractor Haulie O'Shea and designed by the American Ron Kirby with consultant Dr. Joe Carr, possibly Ireland's most successful amateur golfer of all time.

"I've never seen anything like this in my life, and others I've talked to agree," said Kirby, who has designed golf courses around the world for more than three decades alongside the likes of Robert Trent Jones Sr., Gary Player

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\$10M in working capital pumped into Golden Bear

NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla. — Golden Bear Golf, Inc. has announced completion of a definitive credit agreement with SunTrust Bank for a \$10 million revolving credit facility to be used to finance the working capital needed to fund the company's continued growth as well as for general corporate purposes.

"We are pleased to have arranged additional working capital financing, especially for our rapidly growing Paragon Construction division, which through June ... has won contract awards in excess of \$90 million for projects expected to be completed over the next nine to 24 months," said Dick Bellinger, president and CEO of Golden Bear Golf, Inc.



Jack Nicklaus

"We are also actively pursuing possible additional financing which could take a variety of forms including public offerings or private placements of debt or equity securities, or bank financing."

Under the terms of the commitment, the revolving credit facility will mature in two years with an option for a one-year extension.

Borrowings thereunder will be secured by company assets, excluding certain golf center properties and other assets pledged to secure other long-term indebtedness.

Ireland welcomes Kirby design on Old Head

Continued from page 23 and Jack Nicklaus.

Kirby, who is semi-retired and lived at Old Head the last two summers to design the course "totally hands-on," said he had faced challenges this stiff (such as handling lava at Mauna Kea Beach Hotel Golf Course in Hawaii) but "not with this beauty." "Bobby [Robert Trent Jones

Jr.] had a property like this one at Clearwater Bay in Hong Kong, but it was not wide enough. This was difficult to route, but there's plenty of room — 210 acres."

There is a minimum of five tees on every hole and the par-72 layout plays from 5,844 to 6,756 yards. But the routing had to work around an archeological site, which is a hazard on the

10th hole; an old tower house which was restored just inside the main gate to allow the public to watch a seabird colony in the cliffs and caves; the Old Head of Kinsale Lighthouse built in 1853 at the southern extremity of the peninsula.

History and modern-day golf meet here.

Old Head is a national monu-

ment and ancient Royal site, fortified by a castle at the narrowest part of the promontory. Its history traces back to between 200 BC and 400 AD, and it is the only definitely known place directly connected by historians and academics with the Eirean Celtic tribe, who gave its name to Ireland as a whole.

The Stone of Accord once stood here. A free-standing piece of limestone with a single hole at

the top, it was used by ancient tribesmen who sealed a deal by placing their fingers in the hole at either side.

Kirby kept this history, as well as the natural beauty of the peninsula, in mind in his design.

"I tried to keep it natural," he said. "We moved very little dirt, less than 200,000 cubic yards."

Many of the contours for a golf course already existed, including the 2nd hole which Kirby called "the most natural hole God ever built.

"You do nothing to that hole," he said. "The dogleg was exactly 265 yards to the corner. No designer should ever miss that hole."

Old Head, said the man who has designed scores of courses from America to Britain, Europe, Africa, Asia and Central America, is "the best I've ever done."

The wind will be a major factor. So will the 90 bunkers, most of them cut deep to prevent that wind from blowing out the sand. And the panorama will be a distraction from every hole on the course, Kirby said.

Working with Carr, a three-time British Amateur champion who has played international golf for Ireland 110 times including 10 Walker Cup matches, was wonderful, he said. "He is a fun, delightful guy. He is a friend of the O'Connor brothers and this was his first design project. We thoroughly enjoyed it."

There is no fairway irrigation, encouraging traditional "bump-and-run" play, and builders planted colonial bentgrass on the greens and an 80-20 mix of fescue and bentgrass on the fairways.

Kirby said a limit of 20,000 rounds a year will be played on Old Head Golf Links. Once that limit is met, it will be shut down to preserve its conditioning.

Carts? They will be available as a concession to group play by overseas corporations who normally demand the option, Kirby said.

Area businessmen expect Old Head to draw visitors, and more hotel rooms are being built in Kinsale.

"This course could host the Irish Open some day," Kirby said.

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Meanwhile, Kirby is the lead architect on Hook Head Golf Links in Hook Head, Wexford County, Ireland.

Grading has begun on the property and it should open in another year or two, he said. It is a tight site for an 18-hole track — allowing 5,600 yards on less than 100 acres — but seven or eight holes along ocean cliffs.

Michael Cullen, a local developer, has built low-budget holiday cottages in Hook Head and intends golf to be an amenity.

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