

# Skill Golf Links network eyes improving play

**S**COTTSDALE, Ariz. — Local entrepreneur Bruce Tully is building a prototype for facilities called Skill Golf Links which he hopes will help solve golf's growth problems.

Over the last two years Tully has enlisted some of the nation's top golf industry experts to help research and develop a concept, which he plans to introduce nationally in 21 markets over the next five years. Tully expects to begin construction of his prototype facility on a 26-acre site on Baseline Road in Mesa. He selected this site because of favorable demographics, nearby freeway access and its proximity to Superstition Springs, a vibrant retail center in metropolitan Phoenix. When it opens in the spring of 1998, it will provide a new way to learn, improve and enhance the enjoyment of golf.

An avid gofer since childhood, Tully was frustrated by four key problems facing the growth of the game: time, money, development costs and practice methods. He has founded the Skill Golf Links project while continuing as founder, president and chief executive of The Bellatrix Cos., his Scottsdale environmental consulting firm.

"I see an intimidating game that is too hard for most people to play, takes too much time and costs too much money," said Tully. "That is not a formula for success, and that's what Skill Golf Links is trying to change."

Tully emphasized Skill Golf Links is intended to supplement, not replace, traditional golf.

Inspired by his own experience using flight simulators in the Air Force, he has developed a golf simulator as a unified method of teaching, practicing and playing golf.

"The best part is that Skill Golf is the perfect port of entry for new players, and at the same time can challenge and excite advanced players," he said. It will offer the following advantages:

- Time. A round of Skill Golf will average 90 minutes versus the four-to-five-hour commitment required to complete a traditional round of golf. As an added convenience, Skill Golf Links will be lighted for evening play.

- Money. A round of Skill Golf will cost \$20 or less, with the practice facilities available at a nominal additional charge.

- Development costs. A Skill Golf Links facility can be built on as little as 25 acres.

- Practice methods. The cornerstone of a Skill Golf Links facility is a 12-hole course, designed by Bill Phillips, with each "hole" representing one of the game's dozen fundamental shots. While more traditional practice areas will also be available on site, the Skill Golf Links course offers another way for

players to develop their games, because in each round they will execute every fundamental skill in golf and use a full range of clubs.

"Some of the top instructors in the country are very excited about Skill Golf," said Tully. "They tell me that the next generation of golf instruction will

focus more on reaching a target and less on swing mechanics, and Skill Golf does this by creating realistic shot situations for golfers to master." The Skill Golf concept was also enthusiastically endorsed by a cross-section of average golfers who participated in focus groups, as part of the thorough research and develop-

ment process.

The 12 situational holes were identified through a consensus of national golf experts, and represent the fundamental shot situations that every golfer needs to perform. They include a chip-and-run, a lob shot, a pitch shot over water, a greenside bunker shot, an undulating lag putt, a

mid-iron trouble shot, a pitch over a bunker and stop, a short-iron approach, a mid-iron approach over water, a fairway bunker shot, a fairway wood or long iron shot and a driver tee shot.

There are three tee locations on each hole — low, moderate and high difficulty. Each player gets to play each skill shot three times on each hole, with his best of three shots counting as his score for that hole.

## PopQUIZ...

**SUBJECT: Milestones in the Development of Laboratory Support for the Construction of USGA Greens**

1. Which commercial laboratory developed the use of water release curves to select USGA rootzones and shallow depth sandbased turf systems for optimum agronomic and environmental performance?

TD&D, Inc.	Brookside	Thomas Turf	Hummel	Tifton
------------	-----------	-------------	--------	--------

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

2. Which commercial laboratory in 1992 pioneered the industry to shift to the use of organic matter by weight versus volume blending, which is the most significant change in the testing for USGA Greens and sand based turf systems in the last 30 years?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

*Adopted by the USGA 1993 Recommendations*

3. Which commercial laboratory pioneered the use of variable tension rootzone evaluation for sand based rootzones which minimizes the chance for turf failure and demonstrated that the use of 40cm tension testing requirement was inappropriate for the evaluation of USGA Greens?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

*Adopted by the USGA 1993 Recommendations*

4. Which commercial laboratory pioneered the use of the uniformity coefficient of sand as an evaluation tool to select rootzone construction materials for perched water table golf greens?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

*Adopted by the USGA 1993 Recommendations*

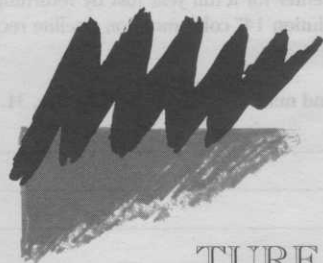
5. Which commercial laboratory developed and field tested in 1992 the industry standard for quality control of the construction of sand based perched water table systems?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

6. Which commercial laboratory shared five years of documented commercial laboratory and field development research with the USGA Green Section, which represented the bulk of the new changes in the 1993 Recommendations, in an effort to improve the quality of golf greens and minimize the environmental impact of golf courses?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

**FACT: The answer to all of the above questions is Turf Diagnostics & Design**



**TURF  
DIAGNOSTICS  
& DESIGN**

## Base your choice of testing labs on the facts.

The leader in the design, testing and evaluation of high performance turf systems.

*Accredited by the American Association of Laboratory Accreditation*

310-A North Winchester ■ Olathe, Kansas 66062

Phone (913) 780-6725 ■ Fax (913) 780-6759 ■ E-mail: turfdiag@turfdiag.com ■ <http://www.turfdiag.com>