

BRIEFS



OB APPOINTS GREENWOOD TO SI REED

AURORA, Ore. — OB Sports has appointed Bret Greenwood project manager for the 45-hole golf facility at Si Redd's Oasis Resort Hotel and Casino in Mesquite, Nevada. Greenwood succeeds Van Batchelder who was initially assigned to coordinate the transition of OB Sports management which began in March 1997. Greenwood will assume ongoing day-to-day management of the golf facilities. For the past three years, Greenwood directed all activities at Gold Canyon Resort & Golf Club in the Phoenix Metropolitan area.

TROON CREATES FOUR NEW POSITIONS

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Troon Golf, a development and management company, has announced the promotion of four of its facility managers into the newly created positions of area managing directors. The move is part of the company's regional re-structuring in preparation for its anticipated rapid growth during the next few months. The four named and their respective areas include: Paul Stringer (Southern California, Southern Arizona and Las Vegas), Jack Elliott (Central and Northern Arizona), Mark Kizzire (Colorado and Texas) and Jay Overton (East Coast). Collectively, the group provides Troon Golf with more than 80 years of golf industry experience.

NATIONAL GOLF LANDS EAGLE BROOK

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — National Golf Properties Inc. has acquired Eagle Brook Country Club in Geneva, Ill., a western suburb of Chicago. Eagle Brook is a private country club featuring an 18-hole golf course designed by Roger Packard and Andy North and a new clubhouse with a pro shop, grill room, banquet facilities and meeting rooms. Eagle Brook will be leased to American Golf Corp., which operates more than 250 golf courses throughout the United States and the United Kingdom. Pursuant to a triple net lease, National Golf Properties will receive minimum and annual base rent equal to 9.75 percent of its investment in Eagle Brook.

GRAYHAWK PROMOTES HEPBURN

SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ. — Tiffany Hepburn has been named director of operations for Grayhawk Golf Club's Kostis McCord Learning Center. As Director of Operations, Hepburn will handle the day-to-day operations, budgeting and marketing for the Learning Center as well as coordinate the Center's three-day golf schools, half-day workshops and private playing lessons.

Graham Cooke corners Maritimes

By HAL PHILLIPS

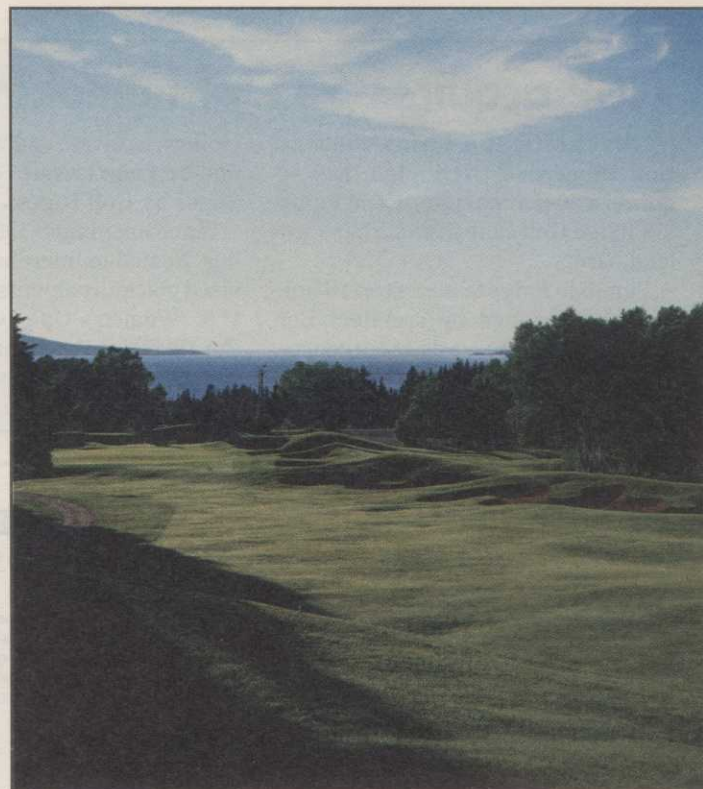
HALIFAX, N.S., Canada — With four new course projects in various stages of construction, a high-profile renovation in the books and a club management contract in the offing, Graham Cooke & Associates has single-handedly created critical mass here in the Canadian Maritimes.

"I much enjoy the Maritimes," said Cooke, whose design firm is based in Montreal. "The economy has perked up recently, and the provinces understand this is a way to establish a [tourism] connection with New England and other parts of Canada. I suppose I was in a good position because it's really taken off."

Fresh off his restoration of Stanley Thompson's Highland Links in Ingonish Beach, Cape Breton, Cooke and his colleagues will open Osprey Ridge Golf Club in Bridgewater, N.S., next spring. While construction continues on separate 18-hole projects in Inverness, Cape Breton, and Fox Harbour, N.S., the firm will try its hand at club management when Glen Arbour Golf Club opens for play here in spring 1999.

"This will be our first management venture," said Cooke. "We'll go on a contract basis with good people who have golf knowledge of the Maritimes. Our first review will include people involved in the golf course industry, people with suitable experience running something as recreational as Glen Arbour."

Cooke said his firm will hire a club manager for Glen Arbour "sometime next year," during which time the clubhouse will be built and the course — 6,710 yards of rollicking



The 15th at Highland Links rolls down toward the cool waters

golf routed around Sand, Bottle and Beaver lakes — will fully mature.

An ambitious 500-acre project, Glen Arbour is the first integrated residential golf project in the Maritimes. Annapolis Basin Group, Inc., a first-time golf developer, has planned some 200

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National Fairways, RDC joint venture picks up Forsgate CC

GREENWICH, Conn. — Forsgate Golf LLC, a joint venture between National Fairways Inc. of Greenwich, Conn., and RDC Golf of Parsippany, N.J., has purchased Forsgate Country Club (CC), a private 36-hole club in Jamesburg, N.J.

Forsgate CC, situated midway between New York and Philadelphia on exit 8A of the New Jersey Turnpike, is a private country club offering 36 holes of golf along with a 23,000-square-foot clubhouse.

National Fairways will manage the day-to-day operations of Forsgate CC. RDC's food and beverage experience will play a major role in the club's operations.

The Forsgate acquisition gives National

Fairways 19 courses with an additional two under development.

"The Forsgate purchase is part of a proactive plan to increase the number of golf courses in the National Fairways fold to 50 over the next several years," said Marc Bergschneider, founder and chief executive officer of National Fairways in a prepared statement. "We are focusing on the Northeast because we believe it's more efficient and cost effective to stay close to home. We also see numerous development opportunities here because the Northeast is not yet overdeveloped like parts of the Southeast."

RDC plans to add three to five golf facilities per year on the East Coast.



National Fairways has been known for its show stoppers. Pictured above is #16 at Hudson National Golf Club in Croton-on-Hudson, New York.

Capitol Golf takes Jones Creek

By PETER BLAIS

BETHESDA, Md. — Capitol Golf Group, a Maryland-based course acquisition and management firm, has purchased Jones Creek Golf Club in Augusta, Ga., and plans additional acquisitions in the coming years, according to Director of Operations David Allen.

Jones Creek is an 18-hole, Rees Jones-designed layout that opened in 1985 as the centerpiece of the 520-acre master-planned community of Jones Creek. The semi-private, 400-member facility has been ranked among the top courses in Georgia and the Southeast.

The company hopes to acquire additional daily-fee and semi-private clubs in the Eastern United States, particularly the Southeast.

"The Southeast has a longer playing season and a good mix of metropolitan and resort areas," Allen said. "We have a familiarity with the people in that region."

Allen said Capitol Golf has no numerical goals in terms of course purchases. The firm has the financial resources to purchase one or several facilities at a time if they fit the company's growth plans and then operate them through Capitol Golf Services, the company's management arm.

What differentiates Capitol from other management firms? "We

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FROM THE COVER

Cart-path rule

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to minimize exertion and not to walk up and down hills.

Lassing Pointe is one of two courses operated by Boone County. It was completed in 1993, says Duckworth, and opened for play in 1994. Because the turf was still relatively new, the course's cart-path rule was strictly enforced. When Duckworth returned to play in early 1996

he asked for an exemption from the rule. A once-a-week player with a 16 handicap, he explained that his disability would not allow him to leave the cart and walk up to 60 yards on sometimes hilly terrain. The course refused his request because of what it considered tender turf and suggested he play at the other municipal course 11 miles away.

Duckworth went before the Boone County authorities, who likewise refused his request. Golfer and golf course dug in their heels.

Duckworth contacted Greg Jones,

founder and president of The Association of Disabled American Golfers. A polio victim at age three, Jones became an avid golfer despite being limited to crutches and in 1992 formed the organization. Today it has more than 700 members, including most major golf industry organizations.

"I told him," said Jones, "Don't just sit there. Seek advice and you don't need to pay an attorney." Jones told him he had protection under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA.) He suggested Duckworth file a grievance with the De-

partment of Justice.

After his request was refused in an exchange of letters to county authorities. Duckworth went before them personally and got no satisfaction, so he filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Justice in April 1996. Justice referred the matter to the Department of the Interior, which is the designated investigating agency under Title 2 of (ADA.)

The matter was handled by Jack Andre, equal opportunity specialist for the National Park Service.

"The act requires that all state and local programs be available to people with disabilities," reported Andre, "unless providing access would cause an undue burden, like financial, or alter the nature of the program, in this case the game of golf."

Andre communicated with the county, which held that based upon advice from the USGA and the course architect, the tender turf (three years after completion) could be damaged by carts deviating from the path. Andre went to the course for an on-site inspection. As Duckworth only golfed once a week, Andre argued, how much damage could his cart do, especially in light of daily tractor, mower and utility cart traffic. The county responded that its other course would allow Duckworth to deviate from the path.

"We found," said Andre, "that each course is unique. That's why people play golf. Along with this, Mr. Duckworth was playing in a league at Lassing Pointe." He ruled that the course would "...have to allow this reasonable modification [driving off the path] to allow the man to play golf."

According to Andre, the county wrote to him advising that it would comply on April 1, 1999. "It [the date] was just too

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Capitol Golf

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bring a unique combination." Allen said, "of golf experience and experience in other businesses — hospitality, service, real estate, management and acquisitions.

"The golf industry is changing dramatically. If you have only golf experience and don't know how the golf industry mixes into general business management, you could lose out.

"The Mom-and-Pop operations are starting to reach the point where they are consolidating, just like the local department stores started to become parts of large chains. We don't want to take away the atmosphere of the small operation. We just want to add the resources that are available through consolidation."

Pro shop and clubhouse changes were set to begin in early September, Allen said.

"When we're done it will be considered one of the best values in the Southeast," Allen added. "There will be some wonderful opportunities at Jones Creek."

Capitol Golf purchased the course Aug. 1 for \$5.15 million, the Capitol executive said. Work should be done by January or February. Reconditioning costs have run about \$100,000, he added.