

Marsh ready to complete first in China

BEIJING — Thirty minutes from Tiananmen Square lies the soon-to-be-completed Hua Tang International Golf Club designed by Graham Marsh. It marks his first foray behind the Bamboo Curtain and is due for completion in October following over two years of construction.

The 18-hole championship course and real estate/resort development, a joint venture between Hong Kong-based Interform and the Great Hall of the People, is situated alongside the Sanhe River and is built on sandy-soiled farm land.

The design has retained as many of the existing trees — including blossom, Chinese Elm, Willows, Birch and Pine. According to Marsh, this tree retention gives the impression of maturity far in advance of that normally associated with new courses.

The construction of the 6,900 yard course has been carried out by a Taiwanese-based company using local labor, a bit of a diversion from Marsh's usual construction routine.

"It has been a source of satisfaction to see the quality of the course given that it is a departure from our usual construction processes," said Marsh. "However, we have been able to have Edd Watts, an Australian experienced in Graham Marsh Golf Design courses, on site during the construction. But where we would normally have shapers sourced by us to carry out the shaping works, the locale and client requirements resulted in the use of local labor. This meant that the course has taken longer to construct than we would normally anticipate but the end result is, as I mentioned, particularly satisfying."

The first nine holes are already open for play and are attracting significant interest from players and tournament organizers who are already considering Hua Tang for future Professional events — a fate which Marsh-designed courses in Australia are used to with the Vines Resort in Perth, Terrey Hills in Sydney, Palm Meadows on the Gold Coast and Robina Woods having

all hosted Tour events.

North America is the next continent which Marsh aims to conquer as an architect.

His first course, near Lexington, Kentucky, is in the final planning stage. Marsh, whose U.S. Senior Tour form has been meteoric, has been actively pursuing design projects in the US.

"It's been difficult to get the right project to start with as, although there are many courses being built each year in the States, we need to get product on the ground here to prove our capabilities in this market," said Marsh. "We know we can do it; now we have the opportunity to prove it to this market."



Trouble awaits the golfer on the 16th at Hua Tang International Golf Club.

Another Maintenance Crisis?

Outsourcing Your Golf Course Maintenance To IGM Cures Your Biggest Headache.

Golf course maintenance is the largest source of frustration for golf course owners/operators.

Control your costs and dedicate your time and energies to making the rest of your operation more profitable.

Outsource your golf course maintenance to IGM.

- Increased Control of Operational Expenditures
- Improved Management Productivity
- Reduced Administrative & Personnel Functions
- Organizational Support For Your Superintendent
- Insulation From Maintenance Staff Turnover
- Increased Agronomic Expertise For Your Golf Course

IGM
Golf Course Maintenance Specialists

331 South Florida Avenue
Suite 41
Lakeland, Florida 33801
(941) 686-2376
Fax (941) 683-0455
www.igm.net

(800)413-5500

Eng track opens

DONGGUAN CITY, Province of Guangdong, China—James J. Engh Golf Design Group's first golf project in China opened here in May. Dongguan Hillview Golf Club opened to unprecedented player demand, Engh said. Meanwhile, the Engh-designed Dragon Hills Golf Club was recently completed in Thailand.