

## Ross restoration also helps Fla. water supply

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The restoration of the 1920s-era Timuquana Country Club by golf course architect Bobby Weed has done more than just fix up a classic Donald Ross design.

The tree-lined course, which had suffered from tree overgrowth and drainage problems, is now using treated water to

irrigate. In doing so, the club is helping reduce the amount of water taken from the Florida aquifer and assisting the U.S. Navy in its goal of releasing less treated water into the St. Johns River. The course is located on the banks of the St. Johns River south of downtown Jacksonville.

The two-phase restoration

project was created through some unique circumstances. The club made the decision to renovate because of a mandate by the Florida State Water Management Agency, which forced a change from well water to recycled water for irrigating the golf course. Because of water issues, Timuquana Country Club was faced with vacating the

entire irrigation system.

"Since the golf course was going to be out of play for a period of time anyway, the membership voted to restore the layout and repair the drainage problems the club had lived with for years," said Weed. "Essentially, we kept the routing intact. We removed approximately 800 trees that had overgrown the fairways, changing the original Ross strategy. We

kept the old growth oaks that are characteristic of the area, but removed many of the new pines. It's not the first time a Ross course has been restored, but it is probably the first time a Ross course has been restored in conjunction with a branch of the U.S. Armed Services. It was a win-win situation for both parties, particularly from an environmental stewardship standpoint."

## New Tampa club recruits exclusive membership

TAMPA, Fla. — The Tampa Bay area's newest golf course is also one of its most exclusive.

The Old Memorial Golf Club, designed by golf course architect Steve Smyers, will limit its membership to 400 with only 155 local memberships. The club, which was the vision of the founders of the Outback Steakhouse chain, is aiming to become an ultra-exclusive golfer's haven with a national and international membership in the vein of Pine Valley or Augusta.

Old Memorial will offer its members and guests four suites on the second floor of its 25,000-square-foot clubhouse and two private 5,000-square-foot cottages on the grounds with eight sleeping rooms in each.

The golf course itself will offer three different styles within a round: open, links-style holes; tighter, wooded holes; and holes set around a lake and wetlands area. No two consecutive holes play in the same direction and Smyers has found room for 120 bunkers.

"I think the thing we tried to accomplish was to develop a golf course that not only looks different, but played different," Smyers told *The Tampa Tribune*. "We wanted to put the old traditional links style of play into the golf course. To develop a course that would allow you to negotiate your way around. We didn't require forced shots over water. We didn't require a high fade or a little hook. We allowed the golfer to use his imagination and give him several options as to how he wants to play the hole."

### IGM TO OPERATE NAPLES, FLA. GOLF FACILITY

NAPLES, Fla. — International Golf Management (IGM) of Lakeland has been selected to provide golf course maintenance duties for The Heritage Greens Golf Club when it opens this month. IGM will oversee the course's grow-in phase and all maintenance for three years. Heritage Greens, designed by golf course architect Gordon Lewis, is a public, 18-hole course.

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