

## Beauty from ashes

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nally built for DuPont employees, Seaford was a fine nine designed by Alfred Tull, who first built courses for Walter Travis, A.W. Tillinghast and Devereux Emmet before designing scores of tracks on his own. Seaford members long desired another nine holes, but did not have the land. Neighboring DuPont, however, did own enough property and leased it to Seaford when the course was built.

Meanwhile, DuPont fulfilled its obligations to the government environmental agencies and, in fact, awarded Whole in One Design Group its Safety, Health and Environmental Excellence Award for DuPont Nylon North America.

The project was indeed a challenge for Mandell and partner Robert Rauch.

They not only faced dealing with this huge pile of coal ash, but also working around monitoring wells and electric and water lines throughout the property.

"We incorporated 500,000 yards of the coal ash as fill," Mandell said, "then added a 1-foot cap of soil over that. On green sites we used 4 feet of soil on top of the ash."

The ash, he said, resembles a sandy loam. "It's a decent growing medium, but not necessarily for golf courses," he said.

The property, part of which had been a DuPont company airstrip, was flat, with 12 feet of fall from one end to the other. Mandell and Rauch added contour by moving another 95,000 yards of material.

Part of the material for the cap came from the five ponds that were built — all connected to create a drainage system.

The end result, Mandell said, is a new nine that resembles Tull's philosophy — exactly what Seaford's members wanted.

The original design is "a neat nine holes," he said. "In keeping with it, we kept the flavor of the plateau-style greens and paid a lot of attention to the approaches. Sometimes the greens were

plateau, and in other spots flush with the edge of the fairway. I kept close watch on having no tiers.

"The bunkers all had sand laying flat in very serpentine shapes. We replicated those shapes pretty successfully."

The exception, he said, was that some of the original bunkers were 5 and 6 feet deep, and the most severe on the new nine are 3 to 4 feet deep.

The project was an engineering challenge, Mandell said. With only 12 feet of fall "there was not enough gravity and positive drainage. We had to finagle the earth to make it drain."

Whole in One built two large ridges to create rolling terrain. In many places it is 20 feet high, and a 40-foot-high berm runs along the 17th hole, blocking the view of the factory parking lot. And pipes interconnect the five ponds to maintain the water level.

The result — a 5,505- to 6,612-yard, par-72 18 holes with bentgrass greens and ryegrass tees and fairways.

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Meanwhile, Whole in One opened a second course on May 2: an 18-hole executive track that joins a Lindsay Ervin-designed nine-hole par-3 at Greenfields Golf Park in Berlin, Md., outside Ocean City.

General Manager Ed Colbert and Director of Golf Buddy Sass own the facility and plan to have Whole in One add a nine-hole regulation course at some time in the future.

The new executive course plays to a par 65 and ranges from 3,977 to 5,210 yards.

Because of a tight site, Mandell and Rauch designed one triple tee and a 13,000-square-foot double green.

"We built really neat greens and a lot of mounding for protection," Mandell said, adding that golfers will use all the clubs in the bag when they face par-3s greatly varying in distance, seven par-4s, the longest is 405 from the back. Two long par 5s: 590 and 575.



### COLUMBIA POINT OPENS

RICHLAND, Wash.—James J. Engh, Golf Design Group, Inc., has opened its latest project here, Columbia Point Golf Course. The course is owned by the city of Richland and managed by I.R.I. Golf Group of Plano, Texas. Columbia Point has been nominated through Golf Digest as one of the country's Best New Affordable Public Courses for 1999. *The Tri-City Herald* described Columbia Point as "spectacularly unique."

## New Vista Bella owner hires Snyder, Richardson

KINGMAN, Ariz. — Golf course architects Arthur Jack Snyder and Forrest Richardson have been selected to design Vista Bella Golf Course here. An 18-hole regulation layout previously announced to begin construction in 1996 with a routing by Gary Panks, Vista Bella has undergone an ownership change along with significant site plan and routing revisions.

"We started with an almost blank canvas," said Richardson, of Phoenix. "The objective was to work with the previous site plan, yet add new thinking that would better suit the growing Kingman market."

New design plans reduce the project's reliance on ground water with less formal turf areas, and feature fewer

on-course lakes.

"Things are changing fast in Kingman," said Richardson. "Our goal is to develop a course with tremendous character, yet preserve at all cost the charm and simplicity that makes Kingman such a unique place."

Snyder described the Vista Bella site as having "views so spacious and beautiful it may be difficult to keep your mind on the game. In any direction one gets the feeling the view just goes on forever."

The course is scheduled to begin construction this year as part of improvements to new phases of the Vista Bella master-planned community. PrimeStyle Development Inc., of Phoenix, is the owner/developer.

## The First Tee and BLM

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Foundation to identify public lands suitable for development of golf teaching and playing facilities.

The agreement provides for the World Golf Foundation to:

- Encourage environment-friendly management of golf facilities;
- Work with BLM to identify potential sites for golf facilities;
- Assist in planning and developing golf facilities, ensuring ongoing support and maintenance;
- Design facilities to meet community needs and site constraints;
- Share expertise and experience in environment-friendly design, development and management of golf facilities;
- Incorporate wildlife habitat preservation, enhancement and interpretation into design, development and management of golf facilities;
- Provide opportunities for women, minorities and especially youth, to learn to play golf and participate in the golf industry;
- Participate in activities that encourage inner city and other youth to play golf and pursue careers in golf, recreation or tourism.

## Valparaiso moves ahead on course, training center for youth

VALPARAISO, Ind.—Don Childs Associates (DCA) will master plan a golf course and training center for the city here in a project aimed at reaching youth.

"We believe we are the first municipality in the nation to successfully take the golf training center concept as embraced by the Tiger Woods, First Tee, and Hook-a-Kid Foundations to the construction phase," said John Seibert, director of Parks and Recreation for Valparaiso. "Our staff has been working hard for two years on this project from initial ideas to where we are today. With founding and council approvals in place, we are targeting construction to start in late August, with all aspects of the facility open in the spring of 2000."

The City Council has approved the project and the sale of \$3.5 million in municipal revenue bonds to pay for development and construction.

The teaching and training center will feature a 55-station range, putting course, chipping green and sand bunker, and a three-hole training course with par-3, -4, and -5 golf holes. The clubhouse will be designed to feature an indoor teaching center with state-of-the-art video equipment for instruction and swing analysis.

Meanwhile, DCA will soon be designing the new headquarters and training center of the Minority Golf Association of America (MGAA) in Miami. Developers of the site are poised to break ground later this summer with the facility fully operational in 2000. The academy is the project of Tibor Hollo, Hank Thomas and John David, president of the MGAA.

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