

CSM christens first course in Titleist Township

ACUSHNET, Mass. — As home to Titleist and Footjoy Worldwide for the past 80 years, the town of Acushnet has become synonymous with golf's biggest company. Amazingly, while this tiny New England hamlet could boast its own line of eponymous golf balls — who could ever forget the Club Special? — the town of Acushnet has never been home to a single golf course. Until now.

Acushnet River Valley Golf Course, a layout designed by Cornish, Silva and Mungeam (CSM), opened for play in August. CSM partner Brian Silva has fashioned an interesting assortment of golf holes here, on a parcel of land that features three distinct environments: a rolling meadow, a dense New England forest, and an abandoned gravel pit.

"All architects say this, but Acushnet River

Valley will truly feature a unique degree of variety," said Silva.

Once municipal funding was secured in November 1996, the town and CSM didn't waste much time. Ground was broken in April 1997, with International Golf of Arlington, Mass., handling course construction.

Acushnet River Valley GC plays more than 6,800 yards from the tips and 4,800 from the front, with three sets of tees in between.

Bohannon starts fresh

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Prior to Paragon, Bohannon was a design associate for Nicklaus Design from 1988-94, working as a liaison between the design and construction functions for courses in Taiwan and Thailand. A previous association with Holmes & Co. had him building such regarded courses as Pinehurst National and Grand Cypress golf clubs.

With the experience of the Asian projects under his belt, said Bohannon, the standard U.S. jobs appear to be fairly cut and dry.

"If you can build a golf course in Asia you can surely do it here," he said. "The complications you run into there are too numerous to mention, nothing is easy. There're equipment and manpower problems, language barriers. It's a nice surprise when you come back and realize just how easy it is to get materials."

Getting the venture like Live Oak off the ground is a series of small steps, he said. In past few months, he's taken time to spread the name and talk to course architects and developers in order to stress the company's mission.

"You have to explain to the client up front what they're going to get. It's simple. You have to be honest with them. You have to tell them what it's going to cost and when it's going to be done. I've seen it too many times where too many people come in and low ball and the client doesn't get what he wants. Completing the job on time is a real stickler in this industry."

For starters, Live Oak will concentrate on renovation work as it gears up to take on some full-service, turnkey work. The company is currently doing some renovation work at Meadowbrook Golf Course in Rutherfordton, N.C. "I'd like to stay in the Southeast, but we've recently bid jobs up in Michigan and Pennsylvania. So, we'll see what happens."

CEC Properties

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construction of nine new golf courses, three of which are already under construction. It will transfer all of its existing golf course facility management contracts to Classic Golf Management, a wholly owned subsidiary of CEC Properties.

Sam Gunderson will become the president of First Golf Acquisition Corporation, Balalis said.

CEC Properties began operations in 1994 and is focusing on becoming a major provider of services to the golfing industry.

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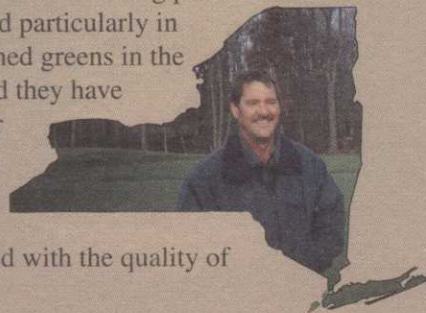
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