

BRIEFS



GEORGE GETS MASS. JOB

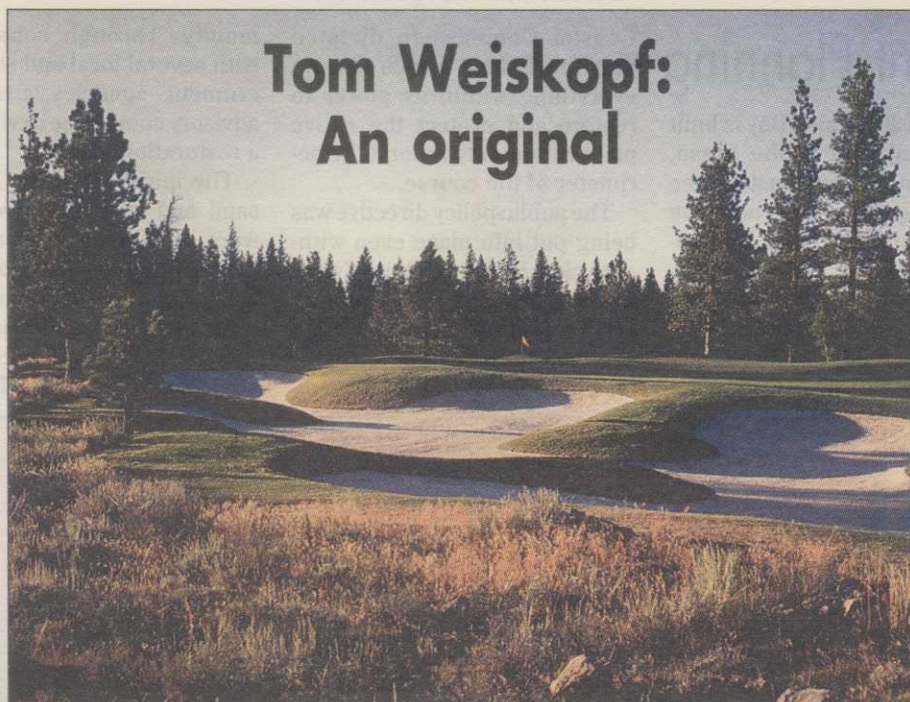
DANVERS, Mass. — WMSJ Co. Inc. has selected George Golf Design, Inc. to construct a three-hole practice facility and upgrade the existing driving range complex for Sun 'N Air golf facility. The facility will consist of three par-3 holes of 110, 200 and 170 yards, a combination of natural and artificial grass tees, and a short-game area which allows the practice of all shots within 50 yards of the hole. The third hole features a 6,000-square-foot green over water. This addition will provide an upscale golf practice and learning facility to the Boston area. Construction is under way by Quality Grassing & Services of Lithia, Fla. "This facility will provide the opportunity to teach every shot in the game," said course architect Lester George.

PLAYER INKS APPALACHIAN PROJECT

MOUNTHOPE, W.V. — Gary Player Design has been signed to design an 18-hole course as part of an extensive development near Beckley by Sun Mountain Enterprises, Inc. The project will include a hotel, outdoor amphitheater, conference center, driving range and residential components. The Sun Mountain property is situated in the Appalachian Mountains. The Player team was given the chance to study more than 2,000 available acres before it settled on the most dramatic 400 acres. The holes will be situated in and wind their way through valleys, featuring elevation changes of up to 100 feet. The design also will include numerous lakes and bunkering in Player's design characteristic. Construction of the lighted driving range is underway and the golf course is set to break ground in March. Sun Mountain Resort course opening is planned for July 2000.

ASGCA OFFERS DEVELOPMENT BROCHURE

CHICAGO — A free booklet, Golf Course Development Planning Guide, from the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) is helpful to anyone taking the first steps to develop a new golf course. The 16-page brochure, with full-color illustrations and photography, covers all the key components involved in a new course project. To get a free copy, people should send a self-addressed, business-size envelope to the American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.



The greens complex of the Weiskopf-designed par-4, 435-yard 14th hole at Lahontan in Truckee, Calif.

When Tom Weiskopf quit the PGA Tour at 40, he was the fourth all-time money winner and sixth all-time tournament winner. In 1984 he joined Jay Morrish as a design team whose first creation, Troon Golf and Country Club in Arizona, was selected Best New Private Course in 1986 and whose Shadow Glen outside Kansas City and Forest Highlands in Arizona finished one-two in 1989. Morrish and Weiskopf went their separate ways in 1995, but Weiskopf has continued to design award-winning golf courses, most notably Loch Lomond in Scotland, already rated among the world's best. GCN Managing Editor Mark Leslie caught up with Weiskopf at his Scottsdale, Ariz., offices after the New Year.



Tom Weiskopf

Q & A

Golf Course News: Compare the satisfaction of seeing a finished course of yours to winning a Tour event.

Tom Weiskopf: The comparison would be the recognition for a lot of hard work. There is a lot of preparation that goes into tournament golf. There are a lot of determinations during four rounds of golf. And it's over a much shorter time frame than it is doing a golf course.

There is a tremendous difference. Playing tournament golf is a wisp-of-the-will existence. When you win a tournament, it is soon forgotten by the general public. Whereas when a golf course is finished and is being played, it is there for a long, long time and is in living memory for a long time.

GCN: How do you respond to grouching by golf course architects about Tour pros "jumping into the business"? Is it sour

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AMP: Examples from California

By DR. ROBERT ABBOTT

The theoretical concepts behind Adaptive Management Planning (AMP) are not difficult since it is essentially the same experimental method taught at all good universities.

The difference is that AMP is a management strategy based on information derived through experiments designed within the context of social/economic policy constraints. Putting AMP into practice is much more challenging than an experiment back in the nursery area for a new fertilizer on your favorite strain of turfgrass.

PART 2

AMP tends to involve people from a variety of disciplines, and a considerable expenditure of energy and money. The real virtue of the AMP approach is that it enables superintendents and developers to move beyond the gridlock, head-butting, red-in-the-face frustration stance with the regulatory community. AMP elevates the interactions and communications into a let's-talk-it-over mode, so that they all can come up with answers.

But AMP is also very exciting because of the rewards of solving a tough problem, and achieving real understanding through a community effort that tends to create long-term professional relationships.

Here in Northern California there are many examples of AMP at golf courses. Two striking examples are observed at Pebble

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Dyes designing 4th in Dominican

By PETER BLAIS

LA ROMANA, Dominican Republic — Architects Pete and Alice Dye are building their fourth course here at the Fanjul resort, home of Casa de Campo (Teeth of the Dog), one of the Dyes' best-known layouts.

Altos de Chevon, which means high above the (Chevon) river, began construction a year ago and is scheduled to open by fall 2000. It will be the third Dye-designed resort course here, joining Casa de Campo and The Links. Casa de Campo opened in 1971 and hosted the world amateur championship in 1974. La Romana Country Club, also a Dye project on the resort grounds, is a private layout.

Despite the devastating effects of last fall's Hurricane Mitch, course work quickly resumed. The green pads were under construction in early January, according to Alice Dye.

"We didn't have rain, like Puerto Rico," Dye remembered of Mitch. "We had much higher winds. They were clocked at 225 miles per hour. It denuded all the trees."

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Wild Horse Golf Club forecast to be one of state's best.

Nebraskan neighbors build together

By MARK LESLIE

GOTHENBURG, Neb. — In Nebraska, "community" takes on a whole new meaning. And "community-owned golf course" does not necessarily mean "municipal golf course." Such is the case at Wild Horse Golf Club here, where more than 200 people not only hold shares in the course but probably also got down and dirty building it.

"I tell you what: These [Nebraska] people work together to help each other out," said Dan Proctor, who co-designed Wild Horse with partner Dave Axland of Bunker Hill Golf Course Design and Construction. "If somebody needs something, they go and help them. Local people did most of the tilling. After their work, they'd bring a tractor over to the site. Some

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Dove Valley Ranch opens

CAREFREE, Ariz. — The upscale Dove Valley Ranch Golf Course opened here Nov. 18.

The Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed course features an abundance of saguaro cacti, mesquite trees and a variety of desert wildlife as well as 6.3 acres of lakes.

A special aspect of Dove Valley Ranch's construction involved RBI Golf's effort to revegetate one-third of the golf course which used to be an old berm. All existing vegetation on the site was moved to this and other undisturbed areas of the course.

PALM DESERT, Calif. — The Desert Willow Resort's much-anticipated second golf course, Mountain View, opened in October and is being billed as a kinder, gentler golf experience than the existing Firecliff layout.

Hurdzan/Fry designed the 6,913 yard Mountain View course along with PGA Tour professional and design consultant,

Desert Willow opens 2nd

John Cook. Their goal with Mountain View was to create a "companion course" for Firecliff which is a decidedly tougher desert golf course.

With that in mind, the Mountain View course uses the desert as more of a backdrop than a prominent design feature.

This allows for wider fairways

and makes the course more accessible to the high handicap golfer.

The course, which has spectacular views of the Santa Rosa mountains, also has a couple of unique design features.

On the 6th and 9th holes, there are several rock elements, some over 20 feet high, which were

created from casts to form replicas of the ancient Indian Canyons.

The course finishes in dramatic fashion at the 18th, a dogleg, 538-yard, par 5 which features a green flanked by a waterfall and a stream.

Desert Willows Resort is a public golf facility owned by the City of Palm Desert and managed by Kemper Sports Management.

Dyes in Dominican

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But four months later, all the leaves are back."

The Dyes are familiar with the effects of hurricanes, having designed the Ocean Course at Kiawah Island, S.C., which was in the direct path of Hurricane Hugo during construction in 1989. "We never got the instant regrowth there that we got here. We had to nurture those trees. They were so badly salt-burned, they just wanted to die," Dye remembered.

Altos de Chevon sits on 200- to 300-foot bluffs overlooking the river. One nine leads south toward the river, with vistas of the sea in the background.

The second nine turns north, affording views upriver toward the inland mountains. "It's an absolutely magnificent piece of ground," Dye said.

The major construction challenges have been removing rock and obtaining topsoil, Dye explained. "There is no topsoil on 50 percent of the site, so you have to take it from where it is to where it isn't," she said. "This whole country has plenty of rock. The rocks range in size from a thimble to a baseball, but there are so many of them."

Special permits were required to cut any trees since simply removing trees is illegal. "They don't want to make the same mistake Haiti did, cutting down all the trees and having mud slides," Dye said.

Plans are to use paspalum as the major grass on greens and fairways, making it possible to use salt water for irrigation, Dye said. "That [using paspalum] will revolutionize this entire area," she said. "Obtaining irrigation water is a major problem throughout the Caribbean."

The Dyes' younger son, P.B., is designing a course farther east in Punta Cana. "Oscar de la Renta and Julio Iglesias are involved in that one," she said.

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