

BRIEFS



GEORGE GETS MASS. JOB

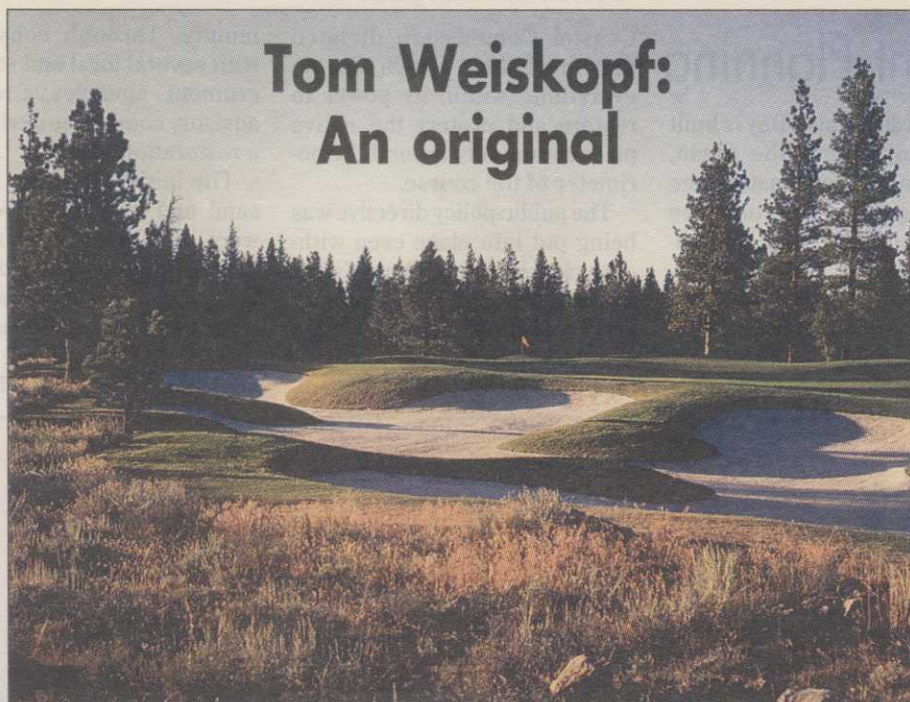
DANVERS, Mass. — WMSJ Co. Inc. has selected George Golf Design, Inc. to construct a three-hole practice facility and upgrade the existing driving range complex for Sun 'N Air golf facility. The facility will consist of three par-3 holes of 110, 200 and 170 yards, a combination of natural and artificial 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 grousing 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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Nebraskan neighbors unite

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didn't even own shares; they just wanted the course built."

Axland and Proctor hired one person to help with the course shaping. If they needed equipment or labor, Proctor said, "We'd ask one of the board members. If we needed a large tiller they'd go find it. If we needed 10 guys to

clean weeds out of the bunkers, they'd organize a crew."

The result?

Wild Horse has a lot of the character of a famous course which sits just 10 miles away: Sand Hills Golf Club, a track designed by Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw which was named Best New Private Golf Course in 1995.

"This is a wonderful piece of ground. It is like a section of Sand Hills broke off on this 400 acres," said Proctor, who, along with Axland, worked with Coore and Crenshaw as shapers for Sand Hills and on California's famed Riviera Country Club, among others.

Proctor described the land as "soft, more compact, gently rolling but with a lot of character—perfect for golf. You can walk it."

While Sand Hills' trademark is a number of natural "blowout bunkers," Wild Horse had only a couple natural blowouts. So Axland and Proctor added about 60 more.

They moved only 5,000 cubic yards of dirt on the project, taking earth from the clubhouse site to build up the greens complexes.

A look of rugged, native grasses imparts a major element to the course's character.

"I won't be so conceited as to say it's in the class of Sand Hills," Proctor said, "but, in Nebraska, there's nothing other than Sand Hills you could compare it to."

The cost, too, is hard to beat.

Even with a top-of-the-line irrigation system, the course cost only \$1 million to build. The clubhouse and maintenance complex will cost approximately another \$400,000.

Raising the money was another "community effort" in this town of 3,500.

A small band of Gothenburg residents decided to build an 18-hole course in the town, then bought the land. They sold 40 of the 51 large house lots around the perimeter of the property, raising nearly a half million dollars. Then they sold nearly 1,000 shares in Wild Horse at \$500 apiece. Another \$1 million.

Gothenburg State Bank helped out with the financing and, early in the process, a dentist Dr. Jim Haver, signed a \$150,000 note to keep the project alive.

True to its community character, when Wild Horse opens in the spring it will charge \$25 greens fees, \$400 for a family membership, \$350 for individual memberships, \$175 for students, and annual cart fees of \$175 per family. An initiation fee of \$500 is payable over five years, according to Director of Golf Robert Wehnes. This type of fee is foreign to Wehnes, a Southern Californian and past member of Riviera Country Club.

Wehnes plans to open the back nine in March and the full 18 holes in April or May.

"They will get so much outside play that they can keep it affordable for the local people," Proctor predicted. "People play a lot of golf in Nebraska and when they hear of a good golf course, they go to it. This is a very fun course to play."

Wehnes agrees. Robert is the son of the late Bill Wehnes, an honorary life member of the PGA who first backed Arnold Palmer and whose slope and rating process was adopted by the U.S. Golf Association.

Having grown up playing the likes of Riviera, Pine Valley, Merion and other famous tracks, Wehnes said: "I understand good golf courses and grasses. And this is a great golf course. It needs a few years to mature, but I love the contour of it. You will not have a flat lie on any of the fairways. The greens are a nice size. And Josh [superintendent Josh Mahar] has done a great job, along with Dan and Dave, getting this course together."

The par-72 track covers 5,000 to 6,798 yards over four sets of tees, with some holes having up to six tee boxes.

The facility includes a 17,000-square-foot practice putting green, full driving range and practice chipping green with a bunker.

GOLF COURSE NEWS



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