

## BRIEFS



### MARTIN JOINS SIBBALD ASSOC.

ST. LOUIS — Randall Martin, long-time businessman and green committee chairman, has joined John Sibbald Associates, a 23-year-old search firm specializing in recruiting superintendents, general managers and golf professionals for private clubs. Martin is former green committee chairman at Algonquin Golf Club in St. Louis and current chairman at Crystal Downs Country Club in Northern Michigan. He can be reached at 616-352-9421.



Randall Martin

### ENVIRONMENTAL GOLF ADDS PAIR



Eric Bescoby



John McNair

CALABASAS, Calif. — Environmental Golf has appointed Eric Bescoby director of golf course maintenance and John McNair director of golf management. Bescoby, formerly director of Rain Bird's golf division, will manage the business unit dedicated to golf course maintenance at current courses and seek to increase overall business. McNair, formerly general manager of Environmental Golf's Cherokee Run Golf Club in Conyers, Ga., will oversee golf course operations and the development of new management services.

### CMAA CONFERENCE SET

SAN FRANCISCO — The Club Managers Association of America will hold its 72nd World Conference on Club Management and 22nd Annual Exposition in San Francisco from Feb. 28 through March 4. Approximately 90 conference sessions will focus on a variety of topics. For more information contact 703-739-9500.

### GOLF TRUST BUYS COOKS CREEK

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Golf Trust of America has closed its acquisition of Cooks Creek Golf Course, an 18-hole upscale, public facility located in Ashville, Ohio, near Columbus, for \$6.1 million. The course will be leased to Cook/Rainieri Management.

# Getting right to the heart of the matter

## A little forethought can help emergency personnel save a life

By MARK LESLIE

LOMPOC, Calif. — After Village Country Club lost one member to a heart attack while on the course, and another collapsed from allergic reaction to a bee sting on the 8th green, the president and superintendent had an idea that many courses across the country might copy.

They labeled all perimeter out-of-bounds posts with the street address of the nearest house. Therefore, if an ambulance needs to be called, by cellular phone or radio, life-saving time can be saved.

"With a membership whose average age is 65, we need to minimize medical emergency response time," said superintendent Bob Taeger.

"Hopefully, the plan will never be needed. But, if an emergency does occur, the few minutes saved locating the emergency site will minimize the injury."



The street address of the house in the background is posted on this out-of-bounds marker at Village CC to help emergency vehicles quickly locate an injured golfer.

## Automated external defibrillators: standard equipment for courses?

By DOROTHY NELSON STOOKEY

Without warning, while enjoying a round of golf, an elderly man with no known heart disease collapses from sudden cardiac arrest. Fire department personnel respond in less than eight minutes.

But they have no automated external defibrillator (AED). They initiate CPR. Twenty-two minutes later, paramedics arrive with a de-fibrillator to shock the man several times. But it's too late. He's dead.

I didn't write this scenario to scare golfers and course operators. In fact, I didn't write it. It's the first paragraph of an American Heart Association (AHA) pamphlet called "Cardiac Arrest and the Need for Early Defibrillation." The AHA is

leading a campaign to have AEDs installed in emergency service vehicles and public places, such as office buildings and sports arenas. Some country clubs and golf courses have bought

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## ClubCorp, Golden Bear develop first joint golf project

DALLAS — ClubCorp and Golden Bear International—which recently formed a partnership to build, own and operate Jack Nicklaus signature courses worldwide—will develop their first joint venture project in Dahlenega, Ga., located an hour north of Atlanta.

The newly formed joint venture is developing the signature Nicklaus links and related club facilities at BirchRiver, a new mixed-use development. The new layout will be semi-private when it opens in the summer of 2000, with plans for it to become fully private as the BirchRiver community matures.

"We know this project at BirchRiver is only the beginning of a highly successful partnership," said Dave Richey, vice president of development at ClubCorp.

The new course will be situated in the Chestatee River valley, surrounded by mountain views and known for its past and present opportunities to pan for gold. The course will play across the river five times, and feature an island green. Other amenities will include a clubhouse, swimming pool, tennis court, pro shop, and dining facilities.

"Over the years, we have teamed

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## RCGA sells Glen Abbey to ClubLink

OAKVILLE, Ontario, Canada — The Royal Canadian Golf Association (RCGA) has reached an agreement to sell Glen Abbey Golf Club to ClubLink Corporation, setting the stage for RCGA growth and regionalization in Canada, according to Executive Director Stephen Ross.

The deal was expected to be completed and the purchase price announced by late January.

As part of the association's long-range plan, the RCGA is currently surveying properties in the Greater Toronto Area, Montreal and Calgary.

"We have taken the first step towards creating a new foundation for golf in

Canada," explains Ross. "This deal opens many doors of opportunity to further develop our grassroots initiatives, as well as develop new golf facilities, all focusing on enhancing support of the game across the country."

The RCGA has owned the Jack Nicklaus-designed Oakville layout since 1981, but the association's desire to geographically expand and continue to develop its member programs resulted in this decision.

Contributing factors to the sale of Glen Abbey included:

- the RCGA's plan to increase its pres-

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Rolling Hills Golf Club in Davie, Fla., the course where the movie "Caddyshack" was filmed, was recently purchased and renovated by Wayne Huizenga's Florida Panthers Holdings. See story on page 1.



## MGM, Primadonna merge assets

LAS VEGAS— MGM Grand, Inc. and Primadonna Resorts, Inc. have approved, in principle, MGM Grand's acquisition of Primadonna in an all-stock transaction. The merger is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 1999.

Primadonna Resorts, Inc. is an entertainment, hotel and gam-

ing company. Primadonna owns Whiskey Pete's, Buffalo Bill's and the Primm Valley Resort in Primm, Nev., two championship courses in California, and a 50-percent interest in the New York - New York Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nev.

MGM Grand, Inc. is an entertainment, hotel and gaming com-

pany headquartered in Las Vegas. The company operates the MGM Grand Hotel/Casino there, the MGM Grand Hotel/Casino in Darwin, Australia, owns a 50-percent interest in New York - New York and manages casinos in South Africa.

The terms of the merger provide for Primadonna's stockholders to receive 0.33 shares of MGM Grand common stock for

each share of Primadonna stock held, or a total of approximately 9.5 million shares of MGM Grand common stock. The transaction is subject to the execution of a definitive merger agreement, Primadonna shareholder approval and the satisfaction of various conditions to be contained in the merger agreement, including obtaining certain regulatory approvals.

## OB markers

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Members are encouraged to bring cell phones when golfing. If an emergency occurs, a golfer can go to the nearest out-of-bounds post and call the appropriate emergency number. "The way cell phone calls are routed," Taeger said, "you may want to ask the nearest fire department for the appropriate emergency number. The fire department then proceeds to that address and runs directly onto the golf course and emergency scene."

Taeger uses a stainless steel tape writer, which costs \$200, to make tags. Each contains the address and emergency response phone number, then is nailed to the back of the 4- by 4-inch post.

Two recent emergencies led to the brainstorming and address tags. Last spring a member died of a heart attack on the 6th tee. Then, in August, a member of the club president Robert Flaherty's foursome was stung in the leg by a bee and collapsed, with shallow breathing and a slow heart beat.

In the case of the heart-attack victim, the emergency response time did not contribute to his death, but the call to the "6th tee" caused confusion, Taeger said.

When the bee-sting incident was called in, emergency personnel responded quickly and saved the day. Soon afterward, Flaherty told Taeger of his frustration in trying to describe to the fire department how to get to the emergency site.

"Together, we formulated the idea of labeling the stakes," Taeger said. "We consulted the fire department and they agreed the idea had merit."

## Defibrillators

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tions alone will probably not prevent you from being held liable if a patron dies while a defibrillator sits idly by.

As AEDs become cheaper and more commonplace, you should be alert to the benefits and costs to your facility. Course operators should carefully consider the issues raised in this article and others, such as the age of their golfing clientele and the reliability of local emergency response systems, before deciding to make an AED part of their emergency plans. Consult your insurer, if not an attorney, before doing so.

*Dorothy Nelson Stookey is a partner in the 50-person, general practice law firm of Sherin and Lodgen LLP, with offices in Boston and Los Angeles. She specializes in the area of labor and employment law and is the head of the firm's Golf and Hospitality Law Group.*

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Team <sup>c</sup>	■	●	●	●	●	●	NR	NR
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