

Endangered eel irks golfers

BERLIN, Conn. — Town officials are finding that expanding the busy Timberlin Park golf course to 27 holes is proving to be more work than anticipated.

Consultant Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. has submitted four proposals for the nine-hole addition, but none have met with approval.

Residents, who were already irate about the proposed use of adjacent parkland for the expansion, received more ammunition in October when

conservationists discovered that the proposed area was the habitat for the eel-like American Brook Lamprey.

All of this irks area golfers who claim the course can peacefully coexist with the eel and insist that the nine-hole addition is necessary to ease overcrowding.

A fifth proposal is pending, but consultants are having a hard time routing the course around the protected habitat and expect that the Department of Environmental Protection will otherwise block the expansion project.

NY project makes concessions

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. — Plans for the Saratoga National Golf Club are one step closer to approval.

Developers Robert Howard and Thomas Newkirk of Tomsargo Corp. have altered the design of the course to avoid

using sensitive wetland areas.

Six greens were originally planned along the lake shore, now only the 15th hole will border the lake. They also moved the proposed golf school and maintenance building to another area.

Weiskopf goes No. Caribbean

MIAMI — The Island Land Company based here has formed a joint venture to develop The Island Club, a new \$120 million luxury golf and vacation resort community on a 274-acre oceanfront site on the Island of Great Exuma in the Southern Bahamas.

Tom Weiskopf will be designing the championship, 18-hole, 7,100-yard, oceanfront course, which is scheduled to open in the winter of 1999.

Gregori International, a French construction firm specializing in island developments, will be the general contractor for the development.

Great Exuma, which has a longstanding reputation as a yachtsman's paradise, has recently opened a new airport and is a 90-minute flight from Miami.

Golf Buddies breaks ground

CAMELLIA CITY, Ala. — Golf Buddies Inc. broke ground Oct. 30 on the 18-hole, 6,900-yard, par-72 Gobbler Hollow Golf Club north of Greenville, Ala.

The fairways will be a special hybrid Bermudagrass created by the Auburn University School of Agronomy. Greens will be sodded with "Champion" Bermuda.

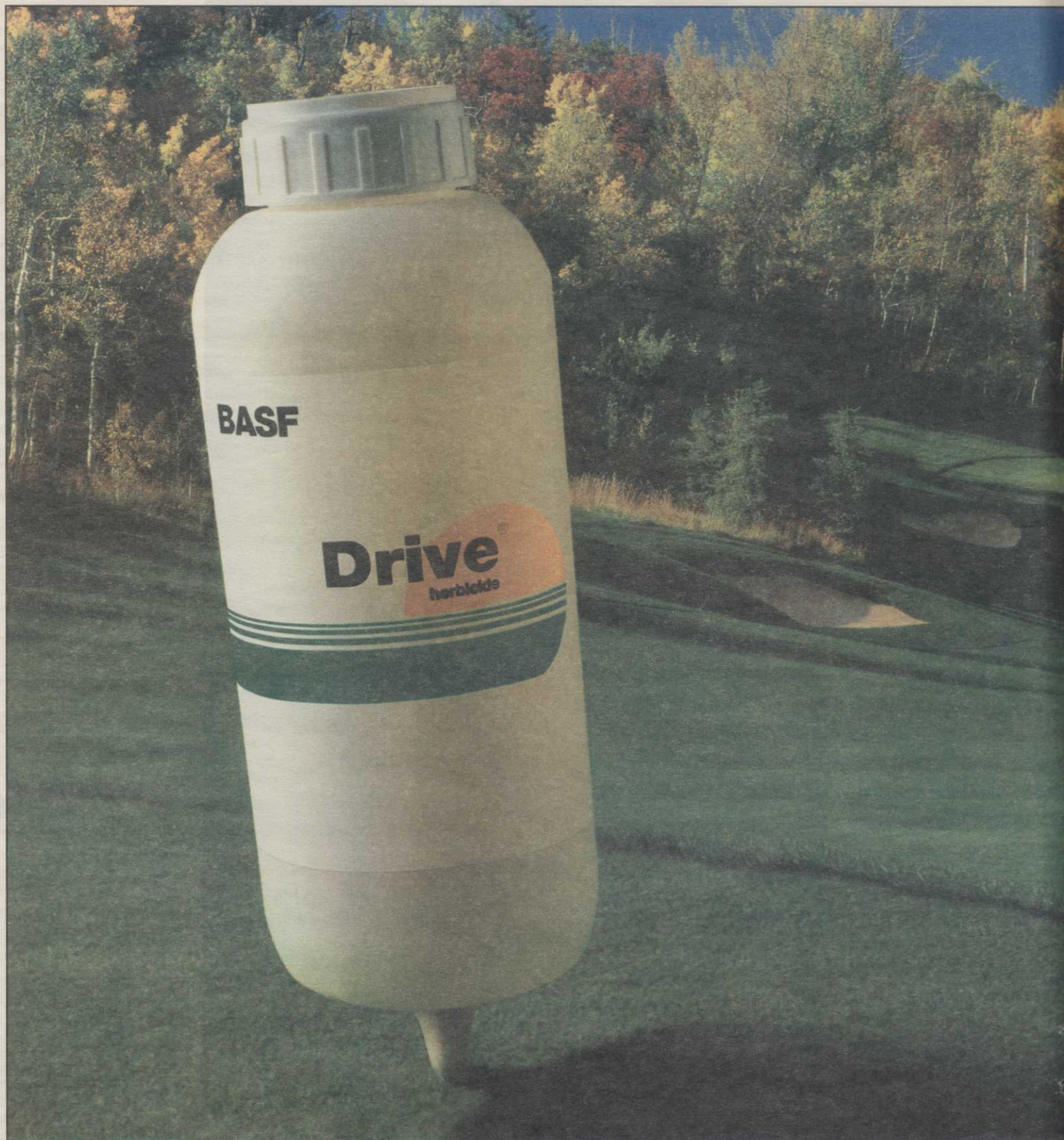
Rough shaping has already begun and the course is due to open on Memorial Day 1999. Teague Construction will handle the course construction.

Toronto firm eyes Fla. project

NAPLES, Fla. — The Parklands Development Limited Partnership, a Toronto-based, real-estate developer, recently paid \$13 million for a 324-acre site in the Bonita Beach area.

Preliminary plans call for an 18-hole course and residential community.

Parklands Development has built other Florida residential golf projects such as Key Marco in Marco Island and Heritage Greens in North Naples.



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