

Architects bring major 'players' to conference

CHARLESTON, S.C. — The 53rd Annual Meeting of the American Society of Golf Course Architects will be held here March 20-25.

ASGCA President Bob Lohmann said the society has planned several informative professional development sessions for the annual meeting. F. Morgan "Buzz" Taylor Jr., president of the United States Golf Association, will lead a discussion entitled "A Look Ahead" — a sneak peak at future programs and events in the golf industry. Other scheduled speakers include: Jim Awtrey, executive di-

rector and chief executive officer of the PGA; Joe O'Brien, chief operating officer of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America; William Kubly, president of the Golf Course Builders Association of America; Joseph Beditz, president and chief executive officer of the National Golf Foundation; and Mike Tinkey, deputy execu-

tive director of the National Golf Course Owners Association.

In the first of two scheduled professional development seminars, Pat O'Brien, director of the Greens Section for the USGA's Southeast Region, Ronny R. Duncan, a professor from the University of Georgia and Dr. Joseph Duich, a professor from Penn State University, will dis-

cuss new grass varieties that will help architects design courses that are easier and less costly to maintain.

Tod Leiweke, executive director of The First Tee Program, will update ASGCA members on his organization's growth. The First Tee, with the cooperation of members from the USGA, PGA, LPGA and Augusta National Golf Club, is working to make the game of golf more ac-

cessible to people of all diversities and social status.

The society will also honor Arnold Palmer with the 1999 Donald Ross Award at a special banquet to be held at the Country Club of Charleston on March 22. The Ross Award is given annually to an individual who has made significant contributions to the game of golf and the profession of golf course architecture.

Crenshaw Golf Properties buys first golf club

EAST HAMPTON, N.Y. — Crenshaw Golf Properties, a partnership between Credit Suisse First Boston and Ben Crenshaw, announced the acquisition of a controlling interest in East Hampton Golf Club here.

The original landowners, the Bistran family, are partners in the venture with Crenshaw Golf Properties. The club, which is currently under development, is an exclusive private golf club which will offer a limited number of memberships, available by invitation only.

The course is located at the corner of Abrahams Path and Accabonic Road, land which has been part of the Bistran family for more than 50 years. Crenshaw Golf Properties plans to open the course on labor Day weekend.

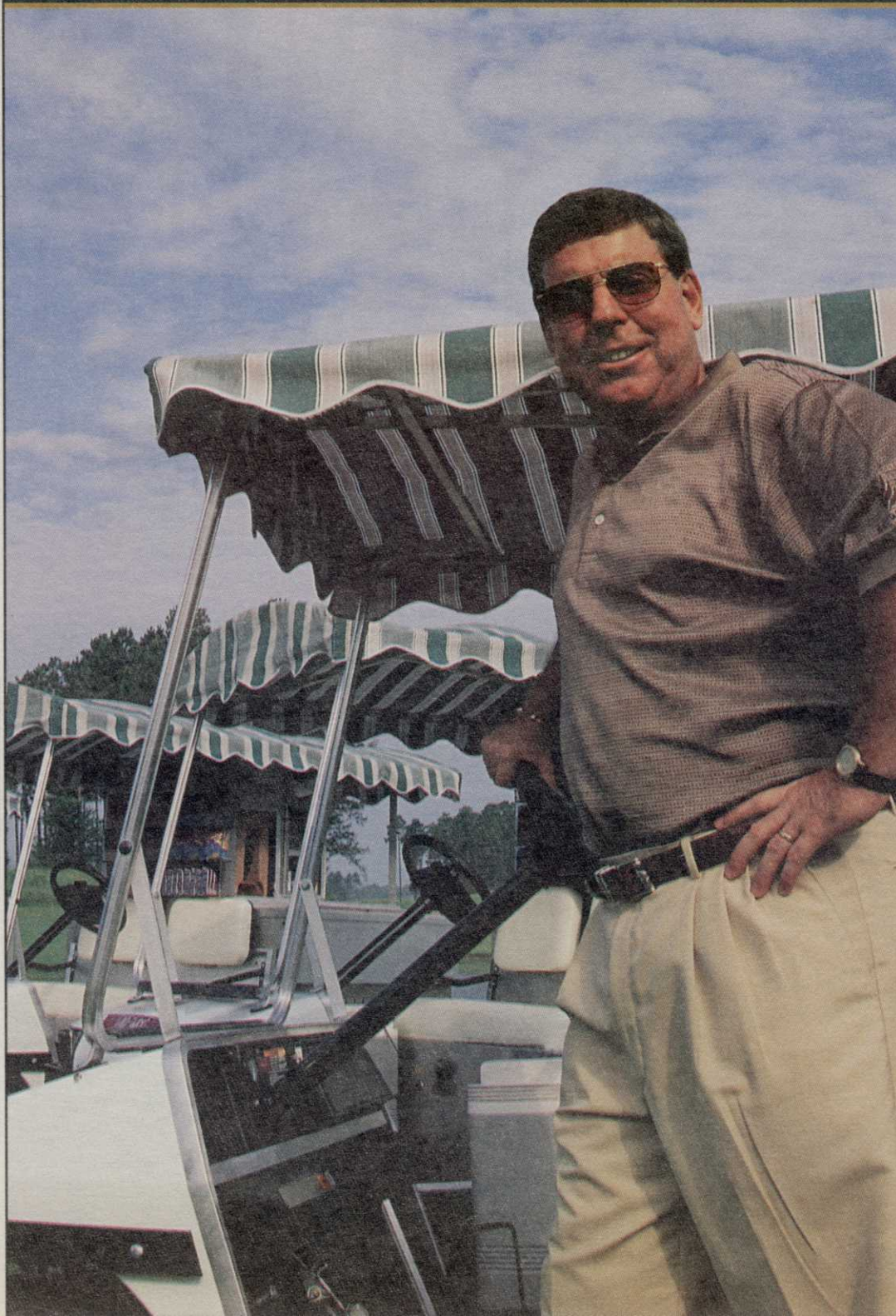
Ben Crenshaw will open the course just a few weeks before he begins his duties as captain of the United States Ryder Cup Team in the biennial, international Ryder Cup matches.

Pete Bistran first had the vision to develop a golf course in 1978 and the entire Bistran family has been actively involved in developing the golf club in the last several years. The design team of Bill Coore and Crenshaw was engaged in early 1998 to complete the design and construction.

Crenshaw Golf Properties is actively pursuing golf course acquisitions and management opportunities throughout the United States. C.J. McDaniel, CEO of Crenshaw Golf Operations, said, "We are very excited and pleased with the completion of this acquisition, particularly since East Hampton Golf Club is our first. The coming year is going to be very exciting for us, and the golf industry as a whole. We anticipate completing the acquisition of several other golf courses of similar quality in the near future."

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