



**THE LEDGES OPENING
BACK NINE**

Maine's latest in a series of new golf courses — The Ledges — will open its back nine holes on May 27 in York. Managing partner Pat Rocheleau said the local Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual fund-raising tournament on the William Bradley Booth-designed track that day. "We're hosting it as a 'thank-you' for the support from the business community and the locals who supported us," Rocheleau said. A grand opening for the entire 18 holes will be held at a later date to be determined, he said. Above is The Ledges' signature 8th hole, which demands an accurate tee shot from ledges high above the green, which is partially encircled by a large pond.

Club officials approve LaQuinta CC renovation

LA QUINTA, Calif. — La Quinta Country Club officials have approved a \$1.5 million plan to renovate the golf course.

"The Jewel of the Desert" hired Robert Muir Graves and Damian Pascuzzo to update the 40-year-old track. Scheduled improvements include rebuilding 18 greens and tees, remodeling bunkers and upgrading the practice facility.

"Our design intent is to improve playability and strategy," said Pascuzzo. "We want to add some tees to vary the length and to

make the 9th and 18th holes more thought-provoking. A primary concern of ours is to maintain the overall character of the golf course. It's a great members course and we aren't going to change that."

In the rotation for the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic on the PGA Tour, La Quinta plans to break ground April 19 with an opening set in time for the Tournament in January 2000. Trans Pacific Golf Construction Co. of Pleasant Hill has been chosen as the golf course contractor.

GCBAA joins First Tee program

2-year agreement calls for builders to construct facilities at cost

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — The Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBAA) has become a major partner in The First Tee program, an initiative of the World Golf Foundation to provide affordable and accessible playing opportunities for beginning golfers, especially youths.

The First Tee program, announced in November 1997 by Honorary Chairman George Bush, aims to provide hundreds of new golf facilities over the next decade by working through local chapters that can help design programs and facilities to meet the unique needs of each participating community.

"Golf may be unique in the values it teaches," said Bush. "It is a game of honor, integrity and good sportsmanship and it can build an individual's self-esteem and self-control."

"This is a perfect fit for the GCBAA," said Phil Arnold, executive vice president. "Our members build the best golf courses in the world and The First Tee program meshes with our own Sticks for Kids initiative." Sticks for Kids is a nationwide program to provide good quality golf clubs for children who otherwise could not afford them.

The two-year partnership agreement calls for GCBAA members to construct facilities at or near cost whenever a participating builder can be matched with a local First Tee chapter. Participation by individual builders is voluntary.

Common types of facilities will be three-hole courses, a pitch-and-putt courses, nine-hole executive courses and full-scale 18-hole courses. All will feature extensive teaching and practice areas and other facilities.

"The saving in construction costs could really be significant — amounting to several million dollars, depending on how many facilities we can participate in," said Arnold.

The First Tee's initial goal is to develop 100 facilities by Dec. 31, 2000. "Four of the six Official Suppliers to the First Tee are GCBAA members," Arnold noted. The four are Toro (maintenance and irrigation equipment), Club Car (golf cars and utility vehicles), Syncroflo (pump stations) and Jacklin Seed (grass seed).

The partnership agreement specifically calls for the GCBAA to encourage members to:

- participate in the construction of First Tee facilities at or near cost;
- participate in programs, projects and activities that encourage youth, especially inner-city youth, to play golf and pursue educational and career tracks in golf; and
- incorporate wildlife habitat preservation, enhancement and interpretation in the construction of learning and playing facilities.

In addition, the association will:

- promote The First Tee program and sites; and
- make The First Tee a beneficiary of the Sticks for Kids program.

In turn, The First Tee program will:

- cooperate in establishing criteria and construction practices to encourage environmentally friendly development of facilities;
- assist in the design and construction of facilities to meet community needs and site constraints;
- provide opportunities for minorities, especially youth, to learn to play golf; and
- participate in programs that encourage youth to play golf and pursue educational and career tracks in the golf, recreation and tourism industries.

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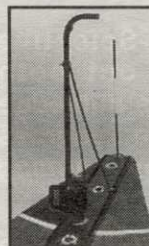
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