

BRIEFS



FAZIO PLANS DRAMA IN TEXAS

FRISCO, Texas — Many specimen trees will be planted and an environment will be created “that is very dramatic and exciting,” said Tom Fazio of the 18-hole Stonebriar Country Club he will design in this Dallas suburb. “Stonebriar gives us a great opportunity to produce an outstanding golf course.” The 7,045-yard, par-72 course, which will be Stonebriar’s second 18-hole layout, will cover approximately 160 acres and include a practice range, chipping area and putting green. It is expected to be completed by fall 2000. It will be accessible to club members and their guests and guests of the planned Westin Stonebriar Resort Hotel. Stonebriar’s original course, designed by Ken Dye, will remain private.

PHELPS LANDS VAIL JOB

VAIL, Colo. — The Eagle Vail Metro District has received \$3.5 million of bond financing for improvements to the Eagle-Vail golf course. Architect Richard Phelps has been asked to plan significant improvements throughout the entire course, including new tees, greens, sand and grass bunkers and irrigation. The goal is to make the course stand out in Vail valley’s increasingly competitive market. It is anticipated that it will take approximately three to four years to complete the work, not including the work currently underway at the practice range. The remodeled practice range includes a new 10,000-square-foot putting green, 5,000-square-foot chipping green, 30-station tee line; two new grass tees and target greens.

TIDEWATER RECEIVES FACELIFT

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — Tidewater Golf Club here will be renovated by year’s end, to help celebrate its 10th anniversary. Tidewater, designed by owner Ken Tomlinson and named best new course of the year when it opened, will replace the turf on the greens with an improved variety of bentgrass, rebuild the bunkers and make other cosmetic improvements.

SMITH TRACK OPENS IN NY

VERONA, N.Y. — Sandstone Hollow Golf Club, a par-3 nine-hole track at Turning Stone Casino Resort in Verona, N.Y., has opened. The dramatic course was designed by Rick Smith and Warren Henderson. Former Golf Course Superintendents Association of America President Joseph Baidy is the superintendent.

Coore, Crenshaw make Island music



Ben Crenshaw

By MARK LESLIE

EAST HAMPTON, Long Island — The 40-year dream of the three-generation Bistrian family to build East Hampton Golf Club here has come true, and with one improbable improvement: Ben Crenshaw, with partner Bill Coore, designed it.

“I never dreamed of involvement from someone [with Ben’s fame],” said Barry Bistrian, son of Bistrian family patriarch Pete. “People here on the island want a high-end golf course. We wanted it the best it could possibly be. But it’s a lot more golf course than I ever imagined.”

The entire Bistrian family has been heavily involved in the project, including Pete and his wife Mary, both in their 80s, their children Bonnie Krupinski and Barry, president of Bistrian Gravel Corp., and Barry’s sons, BJ and Patrick (a zero handicapper).

“Some of the nicest people,” Coore said about the Bistrians. “We were so fortunate to get this job.”

Pete Bistrian, whose contracting business had worked on some golf courses, first envisioned a course on the property in the mid-1940s. He cleared the “links” part of the land to raise potatoes in 1946-47, farmed it until the mid-1960s, then received approvals for the golf course in 1978.

But, because of the demands of their wide-ranging businesses and various environmental and water permitting problems, the Bistrians got only as far as laying out some holes. But when Crenshaw and Coore were on Long Island’s north

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RTJ II designs private golf club in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Golf course designer Robert Trent Jones Jr.’s newest Las Vegas creation, Southern Highlands Golf Club, is expected to open in December.

“Now we are creating the golf course’s personality,” Jones said as he fine-tuned it in September. “You can only do so much at the drafting table or computer terminal. Unless you visit the course while it’s being built, you can’t really get a sense of how it will relate to its surroundings and the various natural conditions that exist, like prevailing winds, mountain views, etc. In many ways this is the most exciting and

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The par-3, 17th “Peninsula,” sets against the city backdrop. The tee takes a commanding view of the valley below. At 251 yards from the back tee, many rounds may be saved or lost here.



America’s oldest course adds nine

Dorset Field Club

DORSET, Vt. — Like many private golf clubs with a strong sense of history and tradition, change does not come quickly at Dorset Field Club here. Therefore, it’s big news that after 113 years of operating as a nine-hole course, the southern Vermont club has added another nine holes.

Dorset’s move to 18 became official in mid-July, when the new holes opened for play. But why did it take so long for Dorset to make the move? Dorset Field had just bought an adjoining plot of land when course architect Steve Durkee approached the club in 1995 with his plans for expansion. The members were convinced that the move to 18 holes was needed, and that Durkee was the right man for the job.

“Steve came to us with several exciting alternative, and was our architect of choice because of his excellent presentation,” said Dorset President Tom Barnet.

The nine new holes evoke a links-style feel and are interspersed seamlessly into the historic course. Although the original architect is unknown, many historians point to the Dorset Field Club as the oldest continually operating course in the United States. Members have played over the same golfing grounds since 1886.

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Harbottle, Zoeller team up in Reno

RENO, Nev. — Designed by John Harbottle with assistance from PGA Tour star Fuzzy Zoeller, The Challenge at ArrowCreek Golf Club has opened as the city’s newest private course.

The Challenge is part of a 36-hole development by Jeff Dingman. ArrowCreek’s other course, The Legend, which is open to the public, was designed by Arnold Palmer.

“What makes The Challenge unique,” said Harbottle, “is the character of its bunkering and the deep canyon which plays along and across several holes on the back nine.”

The course lays out on more than 200

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Golf course architecture hits Web

EUGENE, Ore. — What began as the submission of additional golf courses over WON.net by devoted computer golfers to supplement the shipping of Sierra Sports' PGA Championship Golf, has escalated into a creative phenomenon. The golf simulation's Course Architect has inspired even casual and first-time computer gamers to create and post favorite home courses, fantasy courses, and even a masterfully constructed venue in Georgia, all ready for download with the click of a mouse.

To date, more than 35 Course Architect creations have been posted on WON.net (<http://wonswap.won.net/pgaswap.shtml>), expanding upon the eight that shipped with Sierra Sports' PGA Championship Golf, 1999 Edition in May. Players who purchase the CD-ROM for Windows 95/98, which holds an MSRP of \$29.95, are directed to WON.net and its state-of-the-art WONswap tool, which enables easy and intuitive downloading of Course Architect submissions over the

Internet. The Course Architect is a tool that creates golf courses with exacting 3D detail, right down to the elevation of greens and vegetation surrounding the fairways. With names like "18 The Hard Way," "Deerfield Trace," and "Bogey Shores," Course Architect submissions are designed to meet the standards of the Sierra Sports Golf Association (SGA).

To further personalize the experience of Internet golf and Course Architect creativity, log on to the SGA on WON.net (<http://www.won.net/sga>) and download the new Library Creator, which works with the

Course Architect to import the player's choice graphics, textures, and even location-specific sounds. From banners to beer carts, the player determines how his or her home course will appear for each round.

The SGA officially launched the SGA Season II in July. Its Amateur Tour, PGA Championship Tour and exclusive SGA Tour inspire players of all skill levels to compete for prizes.

Crenshaw

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shore on another project last year, former Mid-Amateur champion Kenny Bakst tipped them off about the Bistrans. Contact was made, and today the 18-hole private East Hampton Golf Club sits waiting to open the doors next spring.

"I can't tell you how much fun it's been," said Coore. "We did some things we would not normally do. The greens are extremely interesting — one might even say 'quirky' in places. The National [on Long Island] or Somerset Hills Country Club [in New Jersey] have some of the most incredibly creative and yet workable greens that have ever been done in this country, so we felt as if we should make these greens imaginative and fun. You can do that on a course that is not overly demanding from tee to green, and this sits on only 123 acres. And so we did.

"From the standpoint of contours and types of holes, we had long wanted to do this. But we felt it would be received better in this part of the country, given the people who will be playing it. We certainly could not do this in a resort and most other courses."

"East Hampton is wonderful because of the main ingredients of sand and the native grasses," said Crenshaw. "There is a myriad of things that sand helps so much. It's certainly aesthetics, it's raw material, it's slashes of sand that lead one to believe the course is more natural..."

Coore described the 18 holes as three different types of courses. "Some of it is an open field that is flat — very much like Garden City [Golf Club in New York], with native grasses and some hummocks and interesting bunkers and greens," he said. "Then the 17th and 18th holes have beautiful rolling terrain — almost a parkland look. And the front nine has a Pine Valleyish look. It has some 30-foot elevation changes. As a result of the sand, we did some holes with large exposed sand areas."

The property, Coore added, "is not the likes of The National or Shinnecock [Hills Country Club in Southampton]. We started with the concept of just doing an interesting, fun golf course. We knew it was not going to be long. The family wanted us to do the best for this property — and for golf."

To that end, there are no homes on the property and Crenshaw and Coore designed it to be a walking course. There are no cart paths.

Crenshaw and Coore, Barry Bistran said, "came here and, right from the get-go, what we wanted to do fit in with the way they do things."

Coore gave accolades to shapers Jimbo Wright, Dave Axland and Jim Craig, and to bunker-building expert Jeff Bradley.

General Manager Tom Barnard of Buena Vista Hospitality Group, a veteran of the Orlando and Hilton Head areas, said he is in the midst of getting permits for an interim clubhouse. Membership, he said, will not exceed 250.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

The best overcoat you'll buy this winter



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Glennview, IL

"During the construction of this course in 1989-90, our owner bought a nearby tree farm, a spade truck and enough Transfilm for 2,700 Scotch pines 6 to 15 feet tall. Also, over 700 deciduous trees were planted. We were told to expect losses of around 300 trees, but thanks in part to Transfilm, our replacements totaled less than a hundred."

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