

BRIEFS



SEASIDE AMONG FASTEST-GROWING

Seaside Golf Development, Inc. Founder and President Scott Pate reported that his firm was recently ranked by Dunn & Bradstreet and Entrepreneur Magazine as the 44th fastest-growing small businesses in the nation. The rankings were listed in the June issue of Entrepreneur Magazine. Seaside Golf Development, Inc. is a golf course construction company that was formed in October 1997. It is currently working at The Mountain Brook Club and Shoal Creek, both in Birmingham, Ala.; Limestone Springs in Onconta, Ala.; and Spanish Oaks in Brooksville, Fla.

JOHNSTON SIGNS S.C. DESIGN DEAL

FORT MILL, S.C. — Clyde Johnston has been retained to design an 18-hole daily-fee golf course here, called Springfield Golf Course. The course is owned and will be managed by Leroy Springs & Co., Inc., which has three other courses within a 30-mile radius of Springfield. Clear Springs Development Co. is making available the land for the course. In designing Springfield, Johnston will work along the banks of Sugar Creek, a swiftly moving, 70-foot-wide waterway that drains rainwater from much of the metro-Charlotte area. Springfield Golf Course is expected to open in the fall of 2000 or spring of 2001.

PLAYER OPENS WOLVERINE

GRAND TRAVERSE, Mich. — Gary Player has opened the Wolverine, an 18-hole layout at KSL-owned Grand Traverse Resort here. The front nine is routed through a landscape that incorporates the large wetlands that have been protected, as well as expanded. The second nine holes feature substantial elevation changes that offer views of Traverse Bay and the entire property. Hardwoods and spruce trees line many of the fairways. The Wolverine's bunkering is some of the most dramatic of all Michigan courses with bold faces and bright white sand, which is in contrast to the darker-colored sands that more often are used in the state's designs.

SHARK HIRES HORROW

JUPITER, Fla. — Great White Shark Enterprises has retained Rick Horrow as its development advisor. The announcement was made by Greg Norman and Great White Shark President Bart Collins. Horrow is president of the South Florida-based Horrow Sports Ventures.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Sandy Lyle has his designs on course architecture

Alexander Walter Barr Lyle, MBE - AKA Sandy Lyle - knows a thing or two about golf. Having turned professional in 1977,

he has since won the British Open and the U.S. Masters as well as 21 other tournaments on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, not to mention five Ryder

Cups... Having dipped his toes in the art of designing of golf courses some years ago, he is now ready to take a deeper plunge. *Golf Course News International Bureau Chief Trevor Ledger caught up with Lyle during his preparation for the 128th British Open Championship at Carnoustie in July.*

Q & A

GCN: Tell me about your partnership with Strategic Golf Design of Colorado, which has formed Sandy Lyle Golf Design.

Sandy Lyle: It started last year. It was something that I had been on the sidelines that I wanted to do, other than just playing tournament golf. The guys at Strategic Golf were keen to team up, also to use my name I suppose, and I was keen to get more into the design side of golf. It's a very competitive market, obviously, with [Greg] Norman, [Nick] Faldo, [Arnold] Palmer, [Jack] Nicklaus and [Tom] Weiskopf out there. But we



are looking to do a few "facelifts" and we'll try and make something work out of it.

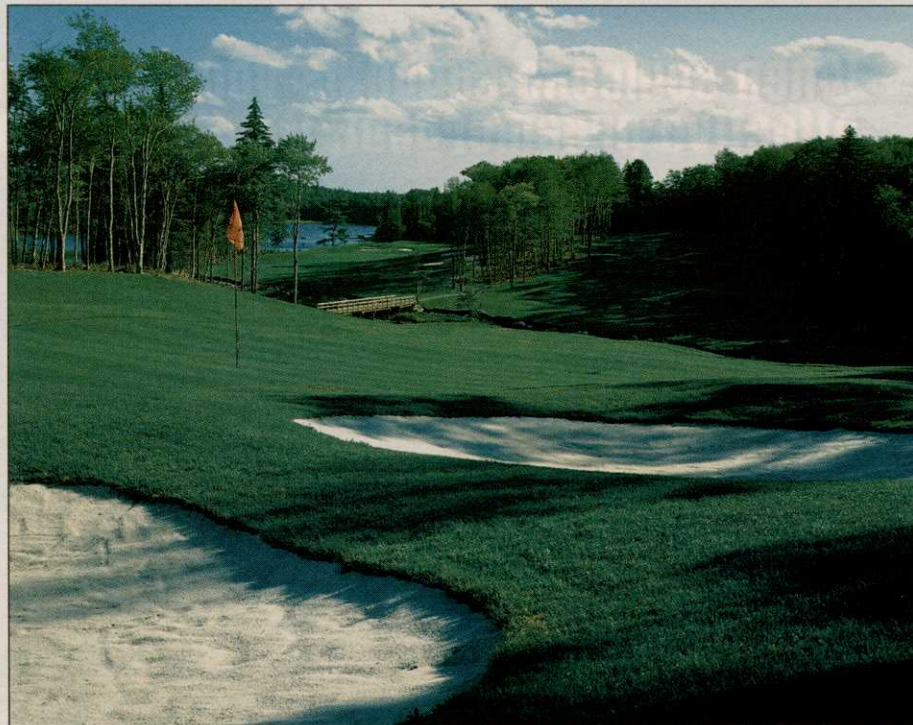
GCN: Does this increased design activity mean you will play in fewer tournaments?

Lyle: I don't think it will do that actually. I'm not playing the maximum amount of tour-

naments as it is. I'm not playing 34, 35 tournaments per year. I'm down to the low twenties and there is less pressure every week trying to make the cut.

GCN: So, when you finally quit the Tour, will you go full tilt into golf course design?

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NOVA SCOTIA'S NEWEST

The Graham Cooke-designed Glen Arbour Golf Course, located between the city of Halifax and the Halifax International Airport, opened July 15 for public play. Five tees stretch the layout from 4,736 to 6,800 yards and the all-bentgrass track plays through mature hardwood stands and around three lakes. Superintendent Mike DeYoung is overseeing the facility's involvement in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System "to enhance [the property's] habitats to ensure the protection of plants, fish and wildlife." The facility includes an additional nine-hole par-3 track and a practice facility.

Honours jumps into golf market

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — With an eye toward becoming an immediate, active force in the golf industry, Honours Golf Co. LLC officials say they will move toward development, acquisition and management of first-tier golf course facilities.

Principals are Bob Barrett of Birmingham and Rob Shults of Atlanta. The company will maintain offices in both cities. Chairman of the board is Robert E. Julian of Omaha, Neb. Julian retired from Peter Kiewit Sons, Inc., in 1995 as executive vice president and chief financial officer. Julian continues to be involved in his business investments and serves on the board of directors for Level Three Communications.

The company has raised \$50 million in equity, which it will use to acquire and develop golf courses. It will focus on high-end daily-fee facilities in metropolitan markets and resort areas.

Barrett has had a long career in golf, as a professional, manager, and devel-

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Yale grad Rulewich restoring alma mater's course

C.B. Macdonald's original bunkers get new life, facelift

By MARK LESLIE

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Yale University Golf Course, the last project completed by the "Father of American Golf Course Architecture," C.B. Macdonald, is undergoing a facelift of its 42 bunkers after decades of neglect.

"We have none of Macdonald's drawings or plans, but we do have 1924 construction photos and some old aerials," said golf course architect Roger Rulewich of The Rulewich Group, a Yale alumnus who is overseeing the project.

Saying university officials "do not know what they have here" in a design by one of the great classic architects, Rulewich said of Macdonald: "I love him. The Yale course is the first I ever played golf on."

Seth Raynor and Charles "Josh"

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The Rulewich Group restored this greenside bunker on the par-4 4th hole at Yale University Golf Course. The bunker had eroded over the years, time "eating up" the slope. Rulewich installed 500 cubic yards of material and "flushed" the sand on the bunker.

Highly ranked Pole Creek adds another Griffiths 18

WINTER PARK, Colo. — Pole Creek Golf Course has added holes to the award-winning 18-hole layout here in the Fraser Valley.

The addition was designed by Denis Griffiths, who designed the original 18 holes that Golf Digest voted the best new course in America in 1985 and "the number-one place to play in Colorado" for 1996-97.

"The first time I saw Pole Creek valley with its meadows of wildflowers, the creek, and the meandering tree line, it was almost as if you could mow the tall grasses, set flags out and be ready to play," said Griffiths. "The site was a natural; with 18 holes fitting quite nicely on the terrain framed by the perfect mountain backdrop."

Griffiths has designed the new nine holes to be significantly different and at the same time to compliment the current playing experience. Trees line the entire course but golfers still have plenty of room on most holes.

Griffiths' use of elevation changes and natural land forms make an



The 8th green on the new nine holes at Pole Creek Golf Club's Ridge Course in Winter Park, Colo.

assortment of challenging holes. The culmination of the design is the arrival on the 9th tee with a panorama of the valley. Tee shots over 300 yards will be frequent due to the 100-foot drop on this 561-yard finishing hole.

The grand opening of the new nine

holes was July 31.

The Fairways at Pole Creek commissioned Griffiths to design the new nine holes and formally gifted this addition to the Fraser Valley Metropolitan Recreation District, owners of the Pole Creek Golf Club, on Aug. 1.

Tiger's Eye unique for the Carolinas

SUNSET BEACH, N.C. — Grass sprigging and sodding has begun on architect Tim Cate's Tiger's Eye Golf Links here. Designed to be the flagship course of the 1,300-acre Ocean Ridge Plantation, Tiger's Eye has numerous design features unique for the Carolinas coast, including a dramatic rock-lined waterfall, two- to four-ton ancient coquina boulders lining the ponds and lakes, and big elevation changes. Tiger's Eye is set to open to the public in January.

"There has been a lot of curiosity about the course from the first day we began construction," said Tom Plankers, director of golf at Ocean Ridge. "Visiting golfers and even passers-by have inquired about its unusual look and the breathtaking beauty of the boulder-lined ponds and rolling fairways. A lot of folks have told us that it is more reminiscent of the great layouts of Pinehurst than the coast. Many have asked to book tee times, and now we feel that we are at a stage where we can accommodate those requests."

Tiger's Eye represents a labor of love for Ocean Ridge owner Ed Gore and Cate, who worked on the course design for more than six years before beginning construction in 1998. Sixty feet of natural elevation changes were the foundation for Cate's shaping of boldly rolling fairways. More than 10,000 coquina boulders—many as large as five tons—were mined and brought to the site to give the layout a unique look. In addition, a 250-gallon-per-minute waterfall was built next to the 18th tee, designed by Cate.

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Key to renovate Panther Course

VENICE, Fla.— New York-based Stephen Kay Golf Course Architects is putting the final touches on an 18-hole master plan renovation of the Panther Course at Plantation Golf and Country Club here.

Plantation holds the distinction of being the longest-running qualifier site for the LPGA Tour. All 18 greens complexes have been completely re-designed to offer golfers a different style than they are used to in this area of Florida.

\$50M in hand Honours jumps into golf

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oper. A native of Augusta, he began his career in the business as an assistant pro at Augusta National Golf Club, home of the Masters Tournament.

He later became golf professional and operations manager at Shoal Creek in Birmingham, which hosted three major championships in seven years, the 1984 and 1990 PGA Championships and the 1986 U.S. Amateur. Moving from Shoal Creek, he became a key player in the development of the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail in Alabama.

From that position, he moved to manage the golf operations for the diversified Drummond Co., which included Old Overton Club in Birmingham, The Grasslands in Lakeland, Fla., and Rancho LaQuinta in Palm Springs, Calif.

He is currently managing partner of the Charley Boswell Golf Course at Highland Park here, and Kelly Plantation in Destin, Fla.

Prior to forming Honours Golf, Shults was with Wachovia Bank in Atlanta after receiving his M.B.A. from Vanderbilt University. A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Shults spent

four years as a U.S. Army officer.

The Honours brand will be evident in all properties owned, developed and operated by the company, with an emphasis on course conditioning and customer service. "We will strive to deliver a 'country club for a day' experience for each of our players," said Barrett. "There are an increasing number of golfers who want a country club golfing experience without the commitment and cost of a country club. Our goal is to provide that experience on a consistent basis at all of our courses. The biggest gap we see at most golf courses today is the lack of attention to the needs of the average golfer."

"We anticipate that we will add two to three new courses per year during the next five years, initially focusing on the Southeast. While there are several attractive acquisition opportunities which we are currently evaluating, we are also very interested in developing our own courses," said Shults.

Over time, the company hopes to form partnerships with developers and manage the golf course development within large-scale residential development projects.