

BRIEFS



ASGCA RELEASES SUPPLIERS DIRECTORY ON CD

The American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) has introduced its first-ever Suppliers Directory on CD-ROM — an interactive, electronic version of the group's printed directory. By using the CD-ROM directory, people in the golf industry can quickly search and select information on more than 90 product and service providers, including contact information on the 139 member architects of the ASGCA. Data once submitted by suppliers in printed format, is now electronically scanned and categorized under one or more listings including: Irrigation System and Equipment; Seed, Sod & Nursery Products; Consultants & Professional Services; and Golf Course Builders. From the supplier listings, users can also link directly to live URL's (web site addresses) and can send e-mail directly to key individuals. The electronic directory will be published annually. The CD-ROM can be ordered by sending a check for \$25 (U.S.) to the American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 North LaSalle St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.

TPC LAS COLINAS REDO NEARS COMPLETION

LAS COLINAS, Calif. — TPC Four Seasons Resort Las Colinas is nearing completion on Phase I improvements. Nearly one-third of the \$3 million worth of improvements has been completed since the plans were announced last March. The work has been led by course architect Jay Morrish, the original designer of the TPC.

HARBOTTLE'S BANBURY OPENS

EAGLE, Idaho — BanBury Golf Club, designed by John Harbottle III, has opened for play here. Located on the Boise River, the 18-hole course is part of the BanBury Meadows real-estate development. It is operated by Tradition Golf, a new company owned by PGA of America member Jerry Breaux superintendent Clint Travis.

PRESIDIO CONVERTS TO BENTGRASS

SAN FRANCISCO — Arnold Palmer Golf Management has begun converting existing greens to bentgrass at Presidio Golf Course. The conversion began last October and will conclude in early 2000. Currently, the course's putting surfaces are poa annua.

Superintendent Sapochak's first golf course design called a hidden gem

By PAUL L. KAUFMAN JR.

GEORGETOWN, S.C. — About 30 miles south of Myrtle Beach lies Winyah Bay Golf Club, a hidden gem opened a year ago as the first design effort of former golf course superintendent Matt Sapochak.

Sapochak had honed his design skills as a shaper and construction superintendent for Pete and P.B. Dye at DeBordieu Golf Club in Georgetown and Prestwick Country Club in Myrtle Beach, and had done a substantial in-house renovation while superintendent at Deertrack Golf Course in Surfside Beach.

The current general manager of Winyah Bay, Sapochak said: "When I had the opportunity to design Winyah Bay, I

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Winyah Bay Golf Club south of Myrtle Beach is receiving international acclaim.



Austria's venerable Innsbruck-Igls Golf Club faces major renovations.



The 15th hole at Grosse Ile Golf & Country Club, before (inset) and after renovation.

Matthews busy at home and abroad

VILLAGE OF IGLS, Austria — Golf course architects Matthews & Nelhiebel have begun their first European project: design of renovations to the Innsbruck-Igls Golf Club, in the Austrian Alps here.

America's Bruce Matthews and Vic Nelhiebel traveled to Austria at the invitation of the club's agronomy consultant, Josef Leinauer of Peiting, Germany. Leinauer is a pioneer in the use of combined subsurface irrigation and drainage systems for golf greens and athletic fields.

Innsbruck-Igls Golf Club is one of the older courses in Austria, founded in 1935 as a nine-hole course. Its 18-hole course in nearby Rinn lies on the forested lower slopes of the Patscherkofel Mountain, site of the 1964 and 1976 Winter Olympics downhill ski venue. In fact, the community of Rinn's local ski slope crosses several holes. From almost anywhere on the course, there are views of the Inn Valley below and 10,000-foot Alpine peaks beyond.

Nearly all members of the club prefer to walk the course, despite the challenging terrain. Played from the championship tees, Innsbruck-Igls measures 5,945 meters, with a par of 71.

The initial design renovation focuses on improved bunkering and green visibility, as illustrated by the 12th Wildbach hole, a 345-meter par-4, playing uphill. Because of the sidehill locations and surrounding fir forest, drainage of spring water and defining the fairway limits in

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Austin course recreated from memory

By FRANCES G. TRIMBLE

The task was straightforward: Take readers of a club history back in time to 1924 and show them a golf course that has not existed in its entirety since the late 1940s and, to the best of anyone's knowledge, was never represented on a scorecard or in the local newspaper.

Without the recreation, modern golfers would have difficulty believing that the course where teaching legend Harvey Penick once caddied, and early Southwest Conference golf

championships were contested, once featured tee shots over a now-bustling north-south thoroughfare called Red River Street. The holes on the east side of Red River were replaced by a shopping center in the early 1950s, after the course was sold to the city of Austin. The land west of Red River remains a nine-hole municipal layout known as Hancock Park.

All agreed a recreation was historically important, though golfers who played the course in the 1920s and '30s were in short supply.

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British designers offer new architectural masters program

GUILDFORD, Surrey — The British Institute of Golf Course Architects (BIGCA) has developed a new Masters program in golf course architecture, extending its educational thrust into a degree-level qualification.

The degree course is to be established at Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh in conjunction with its specialist college, Edinburgh College of Art as well as with Merrist Wood College and

Elmwood College in Cupar, Fife.

The course, which will take the form of a nine-month diploma in golf course architecture, leading to a three-month Masters program, will be full-time residential. It will parallel, in its first stage, the present part-time/distance learn-

ing diploma operated by the BIGCA at Merrist Wood. This current two-year diploma course will also be expanded to take in a two-center field study program in both Surrey and Fife, giving students the chance to experience the historic links courses of Scotland.

BIGCA Educational Coordinator Ken Moodie was upbeat about the developments.

"It is a tremendous initiative

for the three educational establishments to have come together with the institute to establish this new degree program and develop the existing diploma course in a complimentary manner," he said.

Inquiries for educational services in golf course architecture have been received from three other universities — one each in Poland, Switzerland and China.

Grant aid for the education arm of BIGCA has been agreed by the Royal & Ancient, which has granted financial assistance for the next three years to a total value of £30,000. This is in addition to the £7,500 given for the further development of the BIGCA library. Toro and Barenbrug are similarly continuing their support with the ongoing Student Architect Award and Student Prize.

Matthews

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shaded areas were important objectives. Due to local development restrictions, changes to the ground level were limited to plus-or-minus one meter from the existing grade, requiring a subtle approach and careful sand placement to ensure visibility.

"While this restriction on earth-shaping seems extreme by American standards, it is not unusual in Austria, or especially Germany," said Matthews. "Often, rural areas and farmlands are considered cultural landscapes, worthy of preservation or protection in much the same way as our wetlands or shorelines."

This status can make the approval of golf course developments a long and arduous process. At the same time there is a great demand for new courses and a growing interest in golf in both countries. Austria, in particular, has experienced a boom in golfing and course development in recent years.

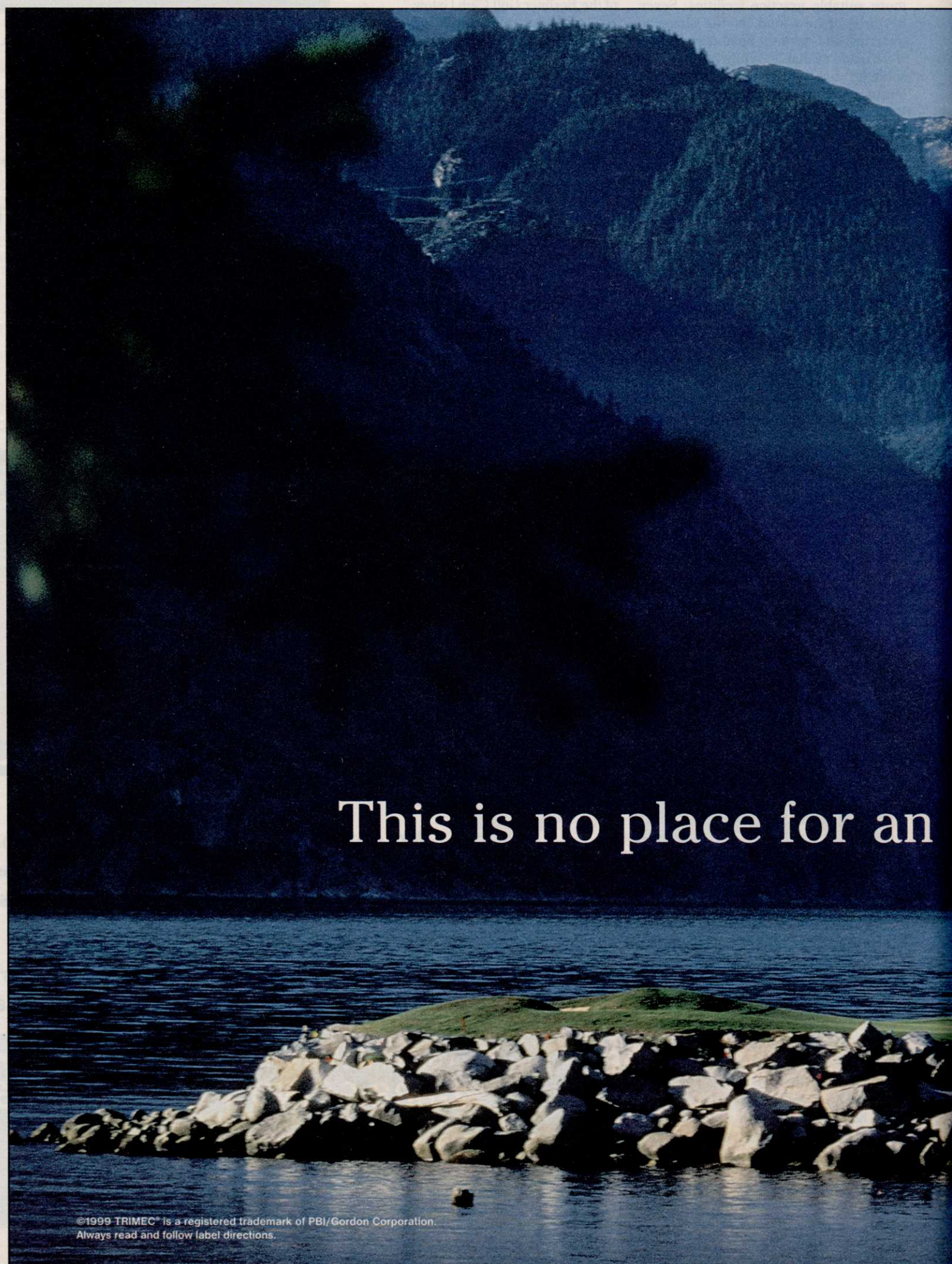
Also at Innsbruck-Igls, to reduce conflict with recently constructed homes immediately adjacent to the 18th fairway. These houses are afforded little protection from errant shots by in-place netting, and their close proximity illustrates the relative scarcity of buildable land in this mountainous area.

"While designing for golf in this part of Europe poses some unusual challenges from our perspective, the unique scenic and cultural setting gives the game of golf another dimension," Matthews said.

Back in the United States, Matthews Grosse Ile Golf & Country Club has completed the first phase renovations of its 1919 Donald Ross layout. Matthews was retained to design the project in a historically sensitive manner. The initial phase included the restoration of bunkers in the original style and format of Ross' design.

The club's greens committee and Matthews reviewed the his-

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This is no place for an

Tournament Players Club planned for Mexico City

By PETER BLAIS

MEXICO CITY — Construction is scheduled to begin late this summer on a PGA Tour Tournament Players Club golf course 30 miles northwest of the Mexici City.

Hurdzan/Fry Golf Course Design — in conjunction with professional golfer John Cook

and PGA Tour lead designer Chris Gray — has completed the preliminary design for the 18-hole, private/resort course scheduled to open in 2002.

"The housing plan has been wrapped around the golf course," said Hurdzan/Fry Senior Design Associate David Whelchel. "They let us put the golf course where

we wanted it, within reason."

Group IUSA, which has built several courses throughout Mexico, is the developer, according to Whelchel. The first phase of the TPC project will include the course, a hotel and commercial area. A second course is under consideration. Corporate villas are also planned in hopes

of eventually landing a PGA Tour event, Whelchel said.

Whelchel said the property is located at 7,000 feet altitude, which should allow for plantings of bentgrass, ryegrasses and fescues, although the final turf selection has not been made. Bisecting the property are two small rivers, one of which has carved a bluff that will play an important part in the course design.

"On a clear day you can see two volcanoes east of the city," said Whelchel of the mountainside site. "We'll probably move more than a million yards of earth."

Cook's father, Jim Cook — who runs a tournament management firm and oversaw the Mexico Open — brought the Hurdzan-Fry team in on the project, Whelchel said.

Austin CC

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The situation was resolved in part with oral histories from two surviving Austin Country Club members who recalled the layout, along with approximate yardages and course features. Still, the descriptions did not provide quite enough information for a draftsman to draw the holes on paper.

Enter Ed White, 1936 Walker Cup Team member and the University of Texas' first NCAA Individual champion.

Asked what he remembered about the course he played as a Texas undergraduate, White responded, "Want me to draw it for you?"

White's sketch was turned into a color rendering by Planned Environments, Inc., the firm that also did renderings of the second Austin Country Club location on Riverside Drive and the present-day Davenport Ranch layout.

Unfortunately, White never got to see the finished product. He died of cancer last fall.

Matthews

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tory of changes to the course, beginning with the original plan. Using early engineering drawings and a series of aerial photographs from different eras, it was determined that the layout and greens were unchanged since the inception. However, as with most courses of this era, bunker shapes, sizes and locations had been modified or changed with time.

The construction of the bunker project was completed in late fall of 1999 by TurfDrain, Inc. of Guelph, Canada. Overseeing the construction were project architect Howard Nauboris and superintendent Andrew Socie.

Grosse Ile Golf & Country Club's second phase construction will include drainage of six greens, fairways and roughs and a state of the art irrigation system. Work will be completed this year.

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