

Settlement

Continued from page 30

have been avoided.”

Since then, he added, Lansdowne has reoriented the driving range, so golfers now aim away from the practice green. The lower tier of the green, where Tobin was hit, has been closed.

COURSE DISPUTES LIABILITY

Throughout the legal proceedings, Lansdowne maintained that it was not at fault.

In Gerard Dumont’s statement, he said that Lansdowne personnel, including starters and rangers, “are trained to monitor the practice range to ensure it is used in a safe manner. In fact, Lansdowne prides itself on an exemplary safety record since the time of our opening in 1991.”

Dumont’s statement said “there has been no determination that the practice facility was hazardous to our guests or members. Similarly, there was never any determination that Mr. Tobin’s unfortunate medical condition resulted from any action on the part of Lansdowne Resort. To this day, it has never been determined who hit the golf ball or from where the golf ball was hit that Mr. Tobin says struck him while on our putting green. No jury or judge determined the reason for his medical condition in this case.”

“They never admitted liability,” agreed Mims. “And yes, the insurance companies did control the defense of the case. But it’s hard to believe, with what the case settled for, that there isn’t at least a tacit acknowledgement that they could have lost in court.”

Jim Tobin, who lives in Charlotte, N.C., now gets around in a wheelchair. “I don’t care about the money,” he said. “I would just like to get my life back, which I can’t. I just want to walk and play tennis with my son again.” ■

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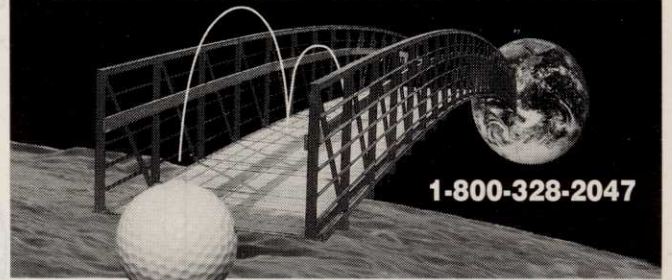
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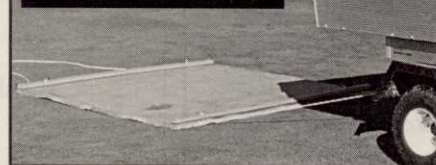
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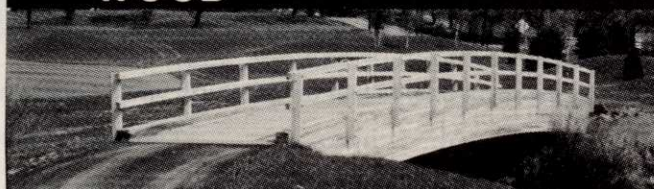
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4-7 — *Georgia GCSA Annual Meeting in Savannah.* Contact 706-742-2651

6-9 — *West Virginia GCSA's Turf Conference and Trade Show 2000 in Morgantown.* Contact 304-243-4154

14-16 — *The New York State Turfgrass Association's New York Turf and Grounds Exposition in Syracuse.* Contact 800-873-8873.

14-16 — *Penn State Golf Turf Conference.* Contact 814-863-3475.

29-1 — *47th Rocky Mountain Regional Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show in Denver.* Contact 303-770-2220.

DECEMBER

4-7 — *The Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show 2000 in Columbus.* Contact 888-683-3445.

JANUARY

6-10 — *National Golf Course Owners Association's 2001 Annual Conference at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.* Contact 843-881-9956

8-11 — *2001 North Carolina Turfgrass Conference and Show in Charlotte, N.C.* Contact 888-695-1333.

15-18 — *Michigan Turfgrass Conference in Lansing.* Contact 517-321-1660.

17-19 — *The Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show in Chicago.* Contact 847-526-2010.

28-1 — *74th World Conference on Club Management in San Diego.* Contact 703-739-9500.

FEBRUARY

15-17 — *Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Conference and Show in Dallas.* Contact 800-472-7878.

24-27 — *Canadian International Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show in Vancouver.* Contact 800-387-1056.

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