

Fox Hopyard expects partial opening later this year

EAST HADDAM, Conn. — Hopyard Country Club, an elegant Roger Rulewich design, is nearing completion in the gently rolling farmland of southeastern Connecticut. The course is expected to put some holes in play late in 2000, with a grand opening of the entire layout expected early next year.

Located in East Haddam, the track boasts a setting of stone walls, brooks and majestic hardwood trees. Several greensites snuggle up to stone-lined ponds, while others are embraced by woodland hollows.

The layout, surpassing 7,000 yards, is an enjoyable walk, featuring alluring views and centered by a clubhouse perched on a rock outcropping overlooking the course. With wide fairways, a variety of teeing options and framing bunkers to direct play, the course can be enjoyed by golfers of all ability levels, but it will only reward precise and powerful shot-making from the championship markers.

One unique construction aspect at Fox Hopyard is that not a single inch of the course was sodded. Seeding was effectively accomplished using a tackifier that allowed the grow-in to proceed on schedule despite a summer that featured numerous heavy rain storms. On slopes and around greens, EcoAegis was used in the seeding process. This wood fiber mulch includes a fertilizer as well as a tackifier. On flat, open surfaces, the more economical EcoAegis II (a straight wood fiber product) was employed.

In addition to Fox Hopyard, The Roger Rulewich Group currently is working to complete construction of three new 18-hole courses sure to draw critical acclaim: Grande Dunes Resort Golf Course in Myrtle Beach, S.C.; Saratoga National Golf Course in Saratoga, N.Y.; and Wild Turkey Golf Club, at the New Jersey complex that already boasts the Rulewich-designed Ballyowen. Each of these courses is expected to open in 2001.

Also ongoing are several high-profile remodeling projects, including work at Yale University Golf Course in Connecticut and The Dunes in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Work will begin next year on an extensive remodeling project at famed Palmetto Dunes in Hilton Head, S.C. ...

Rulewich spent much of his summer in Spain, again designing an 18-hole resort course in Castellar, near Valderrama, and continuing with additional remodeling at Valderrama.

Construction in Castellar is expected to begin this year. Plans call for the course to be a par-72, covering more than 7,600 yards. Rulewich emphasized that Castellar, located less than three miles from Valderrama, has its own identity.



Grow-in is underway at Fox Hopyard in East Haddam, Conn. The Roger Rulewich course takes advantage of its rolling farmland terrain and was grassed without using a single inch of sod.



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