

European course architects finally united under single banner

GUILDFORD, Surrey, England — The merger between Europe's three leading golf course architect organizations was finally ratified in London in July. The British Institute of Golf Course Architects (BIGCA), the European Society of Golf Architects (ESGA), and the Association Francaise des Architectes de Golf (AFAG), have merged under the title of the European

Institute of Golf Course Architects - EIGCA.

EIGCA now represents the vast majority of qualified and experienced golf course architects throughout the continent of Europe - from Spain to Scandinavia, from Iceland to Italy.

The EIGCA intends to pursue the goals developed by the former British Institute, includ-

ing: enhancing the professional status of the profession, developing the role of education and increasing the opportunities for its members to practice in countries throughout the world. The EIGCA is recognized by the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews and the English Golf Union and is hoping to draw on support from all golf federations throughout Europe as well as

pan-European organizations.

The head office is at Merrist Wood House, Worplesdon, in Surrey, with a second office in Vienna, Austria. The Institute has appointed a new executive officer, Julia Green, to be based at Merrist Wood. Green took up her post with the formation of EIGCA. Gerlinde Jahn will continue to front the Vienna office, a post which she held for the Eu-

ropean Society of Golf Architects.

David Williams was elected president of the Institute, with Peter Harradine installed as vice president. Elected to the council were; Simon Gidman, Ken Moodie, Rainer Preissmann, Alain Prat, Mark Adam and David Krause.

Williams expressed great thanks to all those who had put considerable effort into the lengthy merger negotiations over the past five or six years. In particular he mentioned the members of the "working party" - largely represented by the new council - who finalized all the legal and other details of the merger over the past couple of years.

LinksCorp buys Pebble Creek

BANNOCKBURN, Ill. — LinksCorp LLC has purchased the Pebble Creek Country Club in Taylors, S.C. Located just 15 minutes from downtown Greenville, Pebble Creek is one of the area's top private club facilities. The club features two 18-hole championship golf courses, both designed by architect Tom Jackson. The club also features a large driving range, full practice facilities, complete swim and tennis complex and a full-service clubhouse.

"We already own Willow Creek Golf Club [in Greer] and we have been looking to expand our presence in the Greenville-Spartanburg market," said Gary Binder, LinksCorp's senior vice president of operations. "We are planning to make significant improvements to the golf courses and clubhouse as well as offer membership programs that meet the needs of our current and future members."

eTeeTime enters NZ

LA QUINTA, Calif. — eTeeTime has signed Pukekohe Golf Club, a popular par-71 layout near Auckland, New Zealand as a client. "We have now reached our seventh country and the company is nearing the 600-course mark," said eTeeTime executive vice president Michael Stone. eTeeTime.com features detailed information about Pukekohe as well as for hundreds of other courses worldwide, making it easier for golfers located anywhere to book tee times worldwide with instant confirmation.

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