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No carts allowed

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Farmlinks breaks ground

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Uplink to align with Club Car

By A. OVERBECK

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Club Car has inked an exclusive alliance with Uplink Corp. as part of an ongoing effort to add complementary products and services to its growing "solutions network."

Uplink, a manufacturer of GPS-based golf course management systems, is the third company to align with Club Car. CitiCapital is providing financing and SoloRider Industries is making an adaptive golf car for Club Car.

"The industry that we are competing in today is one that has gone through tough times," said president and

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The 13th hole at the Torrance Course at St. Andrews Bay, with St. Andrews in the distance.

Old Course gets a new neighbor

By JAY FINEGAN

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland — The first of two new 18-hole layouts will open here in September, right across St. Andrews Bay from the Old Course of the Royal & Ancient.

Golf architect Denis Griffiths, of Braselton, Ga., has been working on the complex for three years. The dual-course project marks his first design sojourn in Scotland, golf's Holy Land, and he calls it a "once in a lifetime opportunity."

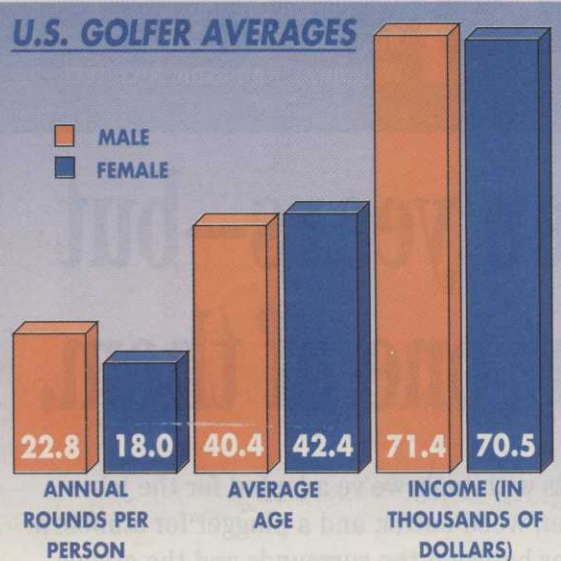
The late Gene Sarazen provided design services on the so-called Torrance Course, named for Sam Torrance, a PGA touring pro who consulted on the design. This par-72 layout, now playable, stretches to 7,026 yards and provides stunning views from cliff-edge tees and greens.

The second course — the Devlin Course — opens next summer. Sarazen worked on this course, too, as did former PGA Tour great Bruce Devlin. Equal in challenge to the Torrance track, this par-71 course plays at 7,020 yards from the tips, over Kittocks's Den.

Griffiths served as coordinating architect on all 36 holes, being built by Southern Golf, out of England. Both courses will be open to the public.

The developer, Donald Panoz, has the credentials for such a high-profile project. He has already built several major golf resorts in the United States, including the upscale, 63-hole Chateau Elan Golf Club in Georgia, and Diablo Grande, with 36 holes of golf on a 36,000-acre development in Northern California.

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Source: National Golf Foundation, Golf Participation in the U.S./2001 Edition.

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Bank of America suing Golf Trust for \$170 million

By JAY FINEGAN

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Bank of America, acting for itself and a group of lenders, has brought suit against the beleaguered Golf Trust of America. The bank is seeking full and immediate repayment of approximately \$170 million, plus late charges and attorneys' fees.

The 1,500-page lawsuit was filed here May 22 at the North Carolina Superior Court of Mecklenburg County. On that same day,

GTA's shareholders approved the company's plan to liquidate its holdings. Under the plan, the company would sell off all of its courses for as much as \$425 million and pay off creditors and stockholders over the next two years.

Golf Trust, based in Charleston, S.C., has said that immediate payment of the full amount could push it into bankruptcy.

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Kip Tyler brings Salem CC back from the brink

By ANDREW OVERBECK

PEABODY, Mass. — As the snows and ice of winter and the torrential rains of spring began to depart from Salem Country Club back in April, revealing extensive winterkill damage, superintendent Kip Tyler shook his head wondering, "Why this year?" Then he got down to business.

With less than three months left until the 2001 Senior U.S. Open, Tyler had his work cut out for him: The practice green had been wiped out; four greens were shot; five were in bad shape and nine were "OK." In addition, Tyler estimated that he lost eight out of a total of 25 acres of fairway turf.

"Some of the fairways were 40- to 50-percent



Kip Tyler

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Defibrillator, head pro save golfer's life

By JAY FINEGAN

MANCHESTER CENTER, Vt. — Utilizing a Survivalink FirstSave defibrillator, PGA head professional Bob Stearns helped save the life of a golfer at Manchester Country Club.

Stearns used the automated external defibrillator (or AED) to resuscitate Ted

Rugg, a guest playing June 8 on the Manchester course. Immediately after learning that Rugg had collapsed near the 18th green, Stearns grabbed the AED from the wall outside the golf shop and rushed to the victim's side.

Assistant pro Fred Auletta performed

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PERIODICAL

St. Andrew's Bay set to open

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AIMING FOR THE SPIRES

The 503-acre complex, called St. Andrews Bay Golf Resort and Spa, sprawls along more than two miles of coastline. It lies close enough to the medieval town of St. Andrews that all the Links Trust courses are visible.

"We use St. Andrews, the town, as a backdrop on four holes on the Torrance Course," Griffiths said. "We have used the various spires literally as targets. There's a hotel on our project, and players over on the Old Course could use it as an aiming point on 13 or 14."

Most Americans would call the Torrance Course a links-style layout, Griffiths observed, but

depending on what the wind is doing. The wind can be quite fierce."

It's no easy task to pick out a signature hole on the Torrance Course, Griffiths said. His personal favorite, however, is the 14th, which plays to the sea. A shot that rolls off the back of the green will plunge down the cliff and into the drink.

"We've set it up so that, as you stand on the tee, you're tempted

to go left, but too far left is out of bounds," he explained. "There are a couple of bunkers on the right-hand side that look intimidating. But you really want to play over those bunkers to get the best shot at the green," he noted, "because you get more roll towards to green.

The strategy is, don't always play what appears to be the easiest

way. For that little bit of risk, there's a significant reward."

STUNNING CLUBHOUSE VISTAS

A 209-room hotel, to be built and managed by the Panoz organization, will feature first-class restaurants and conference facilities. The clubhouse, slated to open next summer, will sit astride Kingask Hill, offering

commanding views in all directions.

"The clubhouse will occupy a very dramatic site – absolutely incredible," Griffiths said. "It sits out on a point, and your view is either the sea, the golf course or St. Andrews, or all three."

With the clubhouse pre-wired to host international golf tournaments, we may be hearing a lot more about St. Andrews Bay in the future. ■



The eighth and 12th greens at the Torrance Course

since it's not down in the dunes it's technically not a links track. From a grassing standpoint, however, it looks like one.

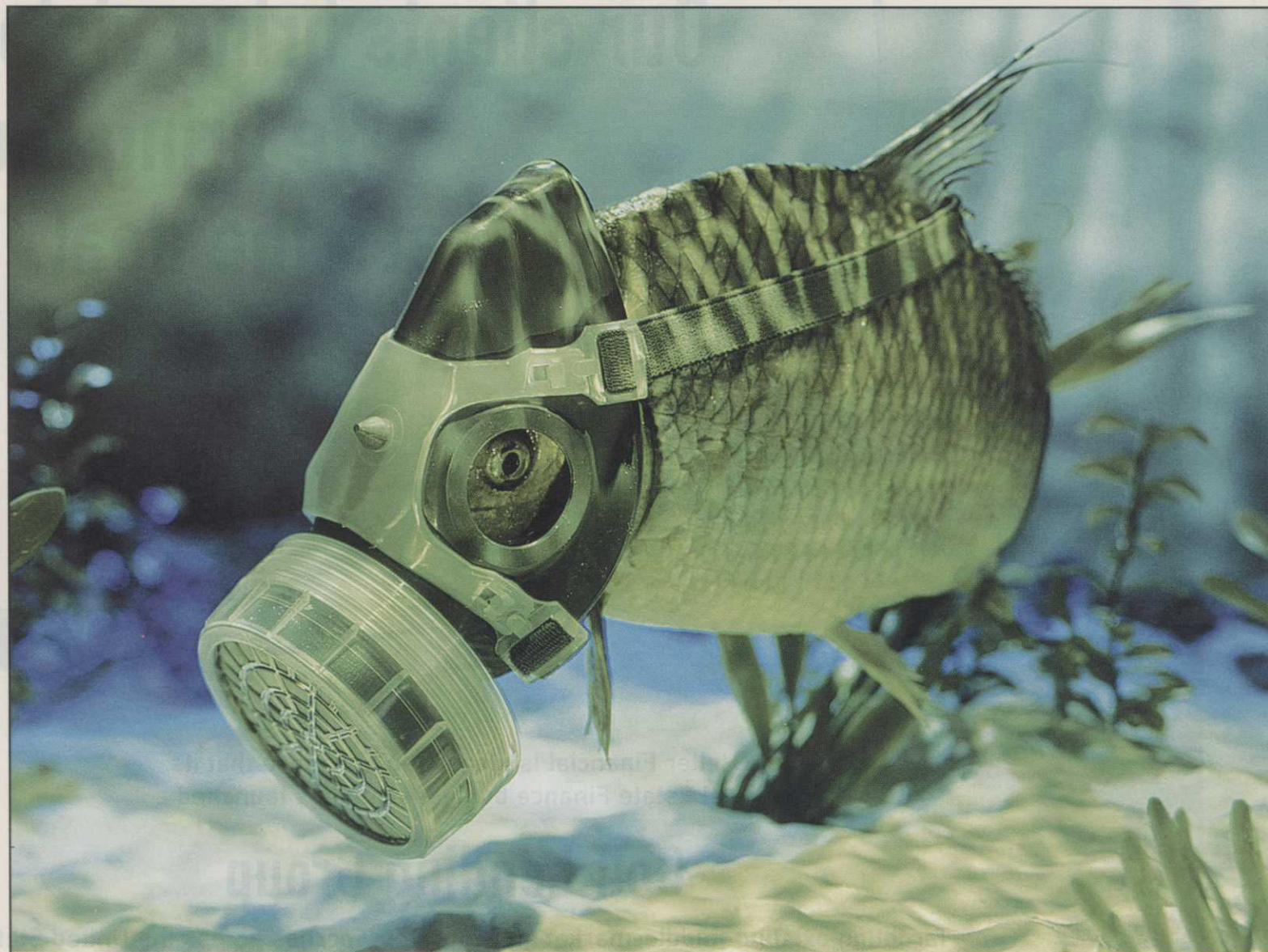
"We have nearly 75 acres of native grasses on the course," Griffiths said. "We've gone to extensive lengths to do something that's very environmentally sensitive. We will incorporate into those native areas what the Scots call woody scrub, and a substantial portion of that will be gorse. We're trying to revegetate the site with indigenous grasses that were there hundreds of years ago, before the property became a farm."

All told, on both courses, 146 acres are being revegetated with native grassland species.

THE RISKY 14TH

The Torrance layout runs along cliffs that rise 80 to 150 feet above the water, affording breathtaking views. "From every hole on the first 18, you can see St. Andrews Bay or the North Sea," Griffiths said. "It's really spectacular."

To keep balls in play, given the strong winds, the architect created generous fairways. "You actually have quite a bit of room on the Old Course, too," Griffiths said. "A few of our fairways are paired side by side, but the majority are fairly wide, giving you plenty of opportunity left or right,



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