



BRIEFS

ASGCA SETS REMODELING SYMPOSIUM

CHICAGO, Ill. — The American Society of Golf Course Architects is continuing its "Remodeling University" education series. A day-long symposium designed to educate golf course decision-makers about the basics of remodeling is set for April 25 at The Olympic Club in San Francisco. Panelists and speakers include such well-known ASGCAMembers as Robert Muir Graves, Kyle Phillips and Bruce Charlton, vice president of the Robert Trent Jones II design firm. "This is a must for anyone currently involved in the remodeling process or thinking about remodeling in the future," said Brian Ault, ASGCA president. The program will address issues relevant to course owners, green committee members, general managers, superintendents and others, he said.



BAILEY ADDING NINE AT POWDER HORN

SHERIDAN, Wyo. — Powder Horn Golf Club here, ranked second best in Wyoming, plans to open nine new holes in July of 2002. Golf architect Dick Bailey, of Scottsdale, Ariz., crafted the original 18 holes and is handling the design work. The par-36 addition, playing to 3,690 yards from the tips, "will further elevate the stature of the Powder Horn and provide golfers with an unforgettable experience," Bailey said. The daily-fee course, which opened in 1997, sits at the base of the Bighorn Mountains. Also on Bailey's drawing board is Golden Ranch in Oracle Junction, near Tucson, and two new golf layouts in Casa Grande, Ariz., for the Robson Communities.

WEED RENOVATING COURSE FOR 'GATORS

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — Weed Golf Course Design has been selected by the University of Florida to renovate the school's 1921 Donald Ross-designed 18-hole layout in Gainesville. Work will begin next spring, after the golf season is over, and the course is expected to be ready for play in fall 2001. "We have renovated designs by several architects, and it is always a challenge to review the original strategy and bring a great old design up to modern standards without interfering with the original flavor of the course," said Bobby Weed.

Engh's Redlands Mesa on track for public play

By JAY FINEGAN

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. — Here on the western slope of the Rockies, where the Gunnison River meets the mighty Colorado, the Golf Club at Redlands Mesa is on track for public play this summer.

Designed by Jim Engh of Engh Golf Design Group, the 18-hole course will stretch to some 7,050 yards. The site is visually spectacular, featuring serpentine canyons, enormous boulders and dramatic views.

Rising majestically to the west are the 800-foot sandstone cliffs of the Colorado National Monument. To the east and across the valley looms the Grand Mesa, the world's highest flat-topped mountain. The red-rocked landscape is breathtaking.

The layout is testament to Engh's ability to work with difficult sites. The routing takes advantage of the natural surroundings, resulting in a course that blends well with the land. Typical of Engh's work here is the 17th hole, a 240-yard par-3. Lying more than 130 feet below the tees, the large green is snuggled into a natural rock amphitheater.



The third hole at the Golf Club at Redlands Mesa

Another striking green complex can be found at the 4th hole. This par-4 plays slightly downhill and bends gently to the right. The green hangs precariously on the edge of a 100-foot cliff. Any ball to the right, Engh says with understatement, "will not be recovered."

The layout is planted with bentgrass tees and greens and a Bluegrass/Ryegrass mix on the fairways.

RBI Golf of Littleton, Colo., built the Golf Club at Redlands Mesa, which Engh said "is sure to become one of the finest golf courses in the mountain region."



The 17th hole of the Rees Jones course at Pinehills Golf Club, set to open this spring

Rees Jones, Jack Nicklaus building 36 holes at historic Plymouth

By JAY FINEGAN

PLYMOUTH, Mass. — More top-notch daily-fee golf is scheduled to hit New England this spring with the opening of Pinehills Golf Club here in historic Plymouth, eight miles north of Cape Cod.

The Pinehills complex will feature two new 18-hole championship courses, one by golf architect Rees Jones — opening first — and the second by Nicklaus Design, slated for a spring 2002 inauguration.

The club also includes the most extensive practice facilities in New England and three golf schools providing quality PGA instruction.

At Pinehills, golfers will be able to enjoy the "total golf experience" offered by the world's premier resorts, including a comprehensive range of facilities and the highest level of service and amenities, according to said David Leibowitz, vice president of

Centennial Golf Properties, which owns and operates the club. "Pinehills was designed in keeping with the rich traditions of the world's greatest game and fills a unique niche within the golf marketplace," he said. "To find two championship golf courses of this caliber, along with the many amenities we offer, is unprecedented for New England, and creates an incomparable golfing experience."

TWO COURSES, DIFFERENT LOOKS

Jones' recent accomplishments include the Nantucket Golf Club, honored as best new course by *Golf Digest* in 1998 and ranked among *Golf* magazine's top 100 Courses in the World. Jones also renovated The Country Club in Brookline, Mass., for the 1999 Ryder Cup.

At Pinehills, he worked with topography featuring dramatic, glacially carved kettles and kames. "Diverse

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Newport National finally ready to break ground

By JAY FINEGAN

MIDDLETOWN, R.I. — Construction is finally underway at the long-awaited Newport National Golf Club, a 36-hole complex about five minutes from Newport's famous historic waterfront.

The first 18-hole course, an Arthur Hills design, is expected to be completed by next September, with a grand opening in spring of 2002. The second course will most likely open in spring 2003. The architect for the second layout has not yet been named.

Construction financing was secured through Rhode Island-based Clubhouse Capital, which is also serving as the project's golf and financial advisor. Clubhouse president George Marderosian said the total price tag on the project will be in the neighborhood of \$25 million, and that market demographics bode well for the club's financial success.

Wadsworth Golf Construction, of Plainfield, Ill., one of the world's largest golf course builders, is doing the heavy lifting, with Rainmaker Golf Development, of Columbia, Md., acting as construction manager.

Newport National's two courses — one private and one public — are widely considered to be in the front ranks of golf projects in the Northeast. The Aquidneck Island facility will sprawl over 400 acres of pristine farmland, affording views of the Sakonnet River and nearby farms and vineyards.

Both courses will be links-style layouts. "It's gently rolling land," said Marderosian, "but as with most Arthur Hills courses, there will be a moderate

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Newport National on the way

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course will measure just over 7,000 yards from the tips."

FINANCIAL TROUBLES FORCED DELAY

The project had been delayed for several years pending the resolution of title-related problems and liens placed by unpaid creditors. To halt a pending foreclosure, the original developer, Sunnyfield LLC, sought court protection through a Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition.

While the Chapter 11 proceedings were unfolding, all title and related issues were settled and all the required real estate parcels were secured. An affiliated company, Newport National Golf Club LLC, has emerged from bankruptcy as the new project developer, with Roger Grady is the chief executive officer. "This is a group of local business guys doing this," Marderosian said. "There are no big national golf holding companies involved."

Clubhouse Capital entered the action in early 1999, when it committed to a \$3-million bridge loan. Under the current structure, the original developers retain 100 percent ownership of the club. However, according to Marderosian, both courses will be professionally managed, and Newport National will be seeking a relationship with a regional or national golf management company in mid-2001.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

The Hills layout, the East Course, will be run as a non-equity private club, open only to members and their guests. Membership sales will begin in March, with initiation fees running about \$30,000 for a single membership and \$35,000 for a family, and with annual dues starting at \$5,500. The club also will aggressively market corporate memberships.

Given the demand for membership in the Newport market and the site's premier location,

Hills tackles UK renovations

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Renovation work has started at the University of Kentucky's Big Blue Course, under designs created by architects Arthur Hills/Steve Forrest and Associates. Landscapes Unlimited is the contractor for the improvements, expected to be wrapped up by spring 2002. The university's other course, Wildcat, will be updated once Big Blue is completed.

"The work will not alter the basic routing of the existing course, but there will be significant enhancements with the tees, greens, bunkers and practice facilities," Hills said.

Marderosian expects initiation fees to hit \$60,000 by the time the East Course opens for play. He noted that the Newport area has long suffered from an undersupply of golf holes. Of the five 18-hole courses on Aquidneck Island, four are private and one is semi-private. Most have long waiting lists and one new course, Carnegie Ab-

bey, which opened last summer, commands an initiation fee of \$100,000.

ENVIRONMENTALLY CORRECT

The daily-fee West Course will be a resort-style facility, catering mainly to local players, tourists and guests of Newport-area hotels and inns. "For the first time ever, Newport guests will have access to great golf," Marderosian said.

Plans call for a 12,000-square-

foot clubhouse for the private East Course, and a state-of-the-art practice facility. Tennis courts and a swimming pool might be added later.

The Aquidneck Island Land Trust, a Newport-based conservation group, helped fund the acquisition of several key parcels over the past few years and acquired the development rights to the site, thereby ensuring that it remains

"open space" in perpetuity. In keeping with that philosophy, Newport National will build a walking and bridal trail through the property that will be open to the public and will connect to the so-called Sakonnet Greenway, which extends six miles down the length of the island.

As another concession to the environment, no housing will be built on the site. ■

TERMINATION



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