

GCBAAs adds five new members

LINCOLN, Neb. — A trio of course construction companies has achieved member status in the Golf Course Builders Association of America. The three — Davenport, Iowa-based McCubbin Construction Corp., Scottsdale, Ariz.-based Sema Golf LLC, and Phoenix-based Weitz Golf International — have met the main requirement, having held the general contract on at least three courses in the last five years.

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Meanwhile, Loveland, Colo.-based Bilberry Golf and Caseyville, Ill.-based Munie Outdoor Services have been granted associate member status in the GCBAAs, based on having built at least one course in the last five years.

CC of the Desert

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80,000 square feet with all the decks and verandas and terraces. We hope to have it completed for New Year's 2002."

\$90,000 FOR INITIATION

The whole operation will be run by the developers until members take equity control over the club. Membership will be limited to 275 per course to allow ready access. The developers recruited a number of founding members from some of the most exclusive clubs in the area.

When 275 members are on board, the project will kick into phase two — the final 27 holes and amenities. Phase one, besides the first 27 holes and clubhouse, includes the practice range, putting course and entranceway.

"We are a very private, high-end equity country club," said Gasper. "We'll be compared favorably to the better clubs in the

Coachella Valley — Bighorn, Vintage, Tradition and Quarry at La Quinta."

Gasper said membership fees start at \$90,000, with annual dues in the \$825 range. "The way it works out here, once you get to about 100 members, the initiation fee will go to around \$150,000," he said. "After we've created some interest and equity, the fee will jump to about \$250,000." Building lots, he said, run from \$250,000 to about \$950,000.

HUGE AQUIFER UNDER DESERT

Water for irrigation should not pose a problem, Gasper said. The All-American Canal, carrying mountain snowmelt, flows near the property. And a 1,000-foot-deep well on the property can produce more than 3,000 gallons per minute.

"We think at least 80 percent of the

water we use on the courses and the common area will be canal water," he said. "In the winter, which is our season, you don't get snowmelt, but we'll have the well. Underneath Palm Springs there's a huge aquifer. This whole area used to be under water. It dried up after the last Ice Age, but

there's a massive amount of water underneath this desert floor."

For now, the cost of the well water is purely the cost of pumping it up. Gasper sees that changing over the next five years. "I think eventually there will be a permitting process," he said, "or they will bill you for groundwater. There will be restrictions, like you have over in Phoenix, where it's five acre-feet per acre per year." ■

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— John Gasper



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