

BRIEFS

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT GARRITY JOINS FORMA

IRVINE, Calif. — FORMA, a planning and landscape architecture firm based here, has hired Mark Garrity as a director and landscape architect. Garrity is a licensed landscape architect with more than 15 years of experience in golf course and hotel/resort landscape architectural design. His range of experience also includes management of an overseas office in Bangkok, where he completed numerous large-scale resort and golf course projects in Indonesia and Thailand. They include Blue Lagoon, a master-planned resort community in Pattaya, Thailand, and Emerald One, a golf resort and clubhouse complex in Jakarta.



Mark Garrity

RYANGOLF ADDS TWO IN FLORIDA

DEERFIELD BEACH, Fla. — RyanGolf has landed two new construction projects, both in Florida. U.S. Home Corp. has selected RyanGolf to build an 18-hole Arthur Hills-designed layout in Bradenton, to be called The Harborage Golf Club. Completion is scheduled for late summer of this year. In addition, developer Gulf Bay Group has awarded RyanGolf the construction contract for The Creek Course, also designed by the Hills firm. The Creek layout, unfolding in Naples, will feature 16 lakes, rock bridges and nature preserves. It is expected to be finished by October.

FIRST TEE PROJECT UNDER WAY IN KANSAS

BONNER SPRINGS, Kan. — Kansas City junior golfers will be the beneficiaries of a new First Tee facility being developed adjacent to the 18-hole Sunflower Hills Golf Course, west of Kansas City. Joe Louis Barrow, Jr., national director of the First Tee program, presented a check for \$135,000 to Tom Watson and the Junior Golf Foundation of Greater Kansas City toward development of the facility at the TD Waterhouse Championship, a Senior PGA Tour event. Kansas City-based architect Craig Schreiner is donating his design services for the facility, which will feature extensive teaching and practice areas.

Dramatic Doonbeg takes shape on Irish coast

By JAY FINEGAN

DOONBEG, Ireland — Set hard by the Atlantic Ocean on the rugged, windswept coast of southwestern Ireland, Greg Norman's new Doonbeg Golf Club appears destined to match up well to its two fabled neighbors, Ballybunion and Lahinch.

The links layout, sprawling over a mile and a half of beachfront, is unfolding amid a dramatic combination of huge dunes, crashing surf, and a landscape of extravagant gorse and greenery.

Doonbeg is a joint development of Landmark National, of Upper Marlboro, Md., and Kiawah Resort Associates, of Kiawah Island, S.C. The two companies have previously collaborated on high-profile courses. As the major financial partner, the Kiawah group will hold title to the property.

Norman, winner of two British Open titles, is the lead designer, although the design was basically a matter of blazing an 18-hole trail through a nearly perfect linksland. "On the majority of fairways, we literally mapped out where we wanted to go and just brought out lawn mowers," said Bill Norton, public relations director



The first hole at Greg Norman's Doonbeg is framed by the dunes.

for Kiawah Resort Associates.

A soft opening is planned for the fall, with regular play slated to begin in spring 2002.

SUPERLATIVES FLYING

Superlatives start to fly when anyone associated with Doonbeg talks about the project.

"It's like the Grand Canyon," said Charlie Arrington, Kiawah's director of design and planning. "You can see all the pictures you want, but you can't really experience the depth and emotion until you see it. Doonbeg is that type of site. It

Continued on page 22

New 'laboratory course' under way in Nebraska

By GARY BURCHFIELD

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb. — The National Arbor Day Foundation has teamed up with golf course builder Landscapes Unlimited and Arnold Palmer Golf Course Design to build a "laboratory-type" course adjoining Arbor Day Farm on the outskirts of Nebraska City.

According to Landscapes Unlimited's CEO Bill Kubly, the new ArborLinks Golf Course will truly be a practical testing laboratory for golf course design and construction. "We want to demonstrate that you can build a great golf course at reasonable cost, so that more people can afford to play, and incorporate sound environmental features in the process," Kubly said.

While there has been a lot of discussion about golf course contributions to the natural environment, little hard data has ever been collected. The partners involved in ArborLinks aim to change that. Even before construction started last fall, Landscapes Unlimited specialists were taking soil samples across the 300-acre course area and water samples from Table Creek, which runs through the course. Soil and water samples will be taken periodically throughout the construction process and after the layout is completed. Samples will be analyzed at the University of Nebraska's turfgrass laboratory in Lincoln.



Arnold Palmer on site with Landscapes Unlimited's vice president of operations, Brad Schmidt

A LIVING LABORATORY

A variety of turf and landscape plantings are being incorporated into the course, ranging from native species to some exotic plants not native to the Plains environment. "We will actually have different 'plant communities' around the golf course," said Kubly. "Not like a patchwork quilt, but aesthetically designed to

Continued on page 20



The 7th hole at The Tribute, a 466-yard par-4, is called 'Fin Me Oot'

Tripp Davis puts wee bit o' Scotland in Texas

By JAY FINEGAN

THE COLONY, Texas — Golf course architect Tripp Davis is a huge fan of Scottish golf. He's logged lots of time not only playing Scotland's courses but studying their design. So when American Golf Corp. asked him to build a Scottish links-style course here at The Colony, Davis was more than ready.

"They wanted me to take my 18 favorite Scottish holes and build a course that reflects their influence," Davis said. "The idea was to use it as a marketing tool, and that's where they've gone with it. For me, as an architect, it was a dream project."

The recently opened final product, called The Tribute Golf Club — a tribute to Scottish golf — is challenging but plenty of fun. It checks in at just over 7,000 yards from the tips and 5,352 from short pegs, and it features holes inspired by some of Scotland's most storied courses: St. Andrews, Carnoustie, Royal Troon, Nairn, Prestwick and six others. The Old Course at St. Andrews rates four "appearances," and Carnoustie and Prestwick two apiece.

BAR MOVED FROM SCOTLAND

To enhance the linksland look on this one-time cotton

Continued on page 19

Tripp's Tribute

Continued from page 15

field of 250 acres, builder Landscapes Unlimited moved some 750,000 yards of earth, dozing up some dunes and big mounds.

"Every square inch of the course was shaped," Davis said. "The original ground was completely flat. The challenging thing about building a course in Dallas is to give it some contour, but do it in such a way that it doesn't make it unmaintainable."

The spacious English Tudor clubhouse contributes to the club's theme with a Scottish pub, including a huge wooden bar transported from Scotland and even a photograph signed in 1900 by Old Tom Morris. There, to the plaintive strains of bagpipes, you can rehash the travails of your round over some Scottish spirits as well as American brew. The clubhouse is so comfortable that Davis recently moved his design headquarters to it.

The ever-present North Texas winds add another linksland element to this high-end daily-fee course, as does the large Lake Lewisville adjacent to the layout's western edge.

The construction cost was in the moderate range—\$4.1 million, excluding grow-in.

'CAPE' HOLE ON NUMBER SIX

Davis points out that the holes aren't exact replicas of his favorite 18 from Scotland. "We weren't trying to copy holes," he explained said. "We were trying more or less to create the feel of those holes. We were also trying to build a good golf course, not just a collection of good holes."

"The first hole at Machrihanish, which is our sixth hole, was one of the first 'cape' holes ever designed," he added. "A cape hole basically allows you to bite off as much trouble as you can chew, whether it's a native area or a lake or an ocean."

"On that hole at Tribute," he said of the 423-yard par-4 called "Battery." "The tee sits out on a peninsula, and you hit across a portion of Lake Lewisville, which runs alongside the hole. But the green complex and bunker placement there have nothing to do with the original hole."

The 172-yard number 11 at The Tribute, similarly, takes its cue from the famous 11th at St. Andrews, one of the best par-3s in all of golf. It was here, at the 1921 British Open, that Bobby Jones picked up his ball in disgust and disdain of the course.

"The main thing there is the way the tees are built," Davis said. "There are like six levels of tees, and two big, deep pot bunkers in front of the green. That's what gives the hole its character."

One more example: The 13th at The Tribute—"Sutors"—is a 310-yard par-4 modelled after the 15th at Nairn Golf Club in northern Scotland.

"Nairn's 15th is a short, drivable par-4, but the fairway has just got unbelievable movement to it," Davis said. "What makes it unique is that you can throw a driver out there and have no clue where it will bounce. It can hit a downslope and go 20 yards over the green, or hit an upslope and end up 40 yards short."

At Tribute's Nairn hole, the fairway can send a drive careening in any direction. The green is dominated by a false front that can roll shots 10 yards back into the fairway. If you can control your approach to the shallow green well enough to be on the same level as the pin, you've got a

chance at a bird.

GIVING DUFFERS A CHANCE

Davis had to make some sacrifices along the way, to keep the course fun and playable for the average golfer. The seventh hole, for instance—"Fin Me Oot"—was inspired by the fifth at the Ailsa Course at Turnberry, one of the most dramatic and difficult par-4s on that great course.

"The thing I liked was the strategic placement of the bunkers at Turnberry," the architect said. "But Turnberry is tough. You need a handicap of 10 or better to even play the place."

"We can't do that here," he said. "The whole premise of The Tribute is corporate outings—they make up half of the play. You're going to have some guys out there who can't break 150. So you have to accommodate for that, although our Turnberry hole is still a 466-yard par-4."

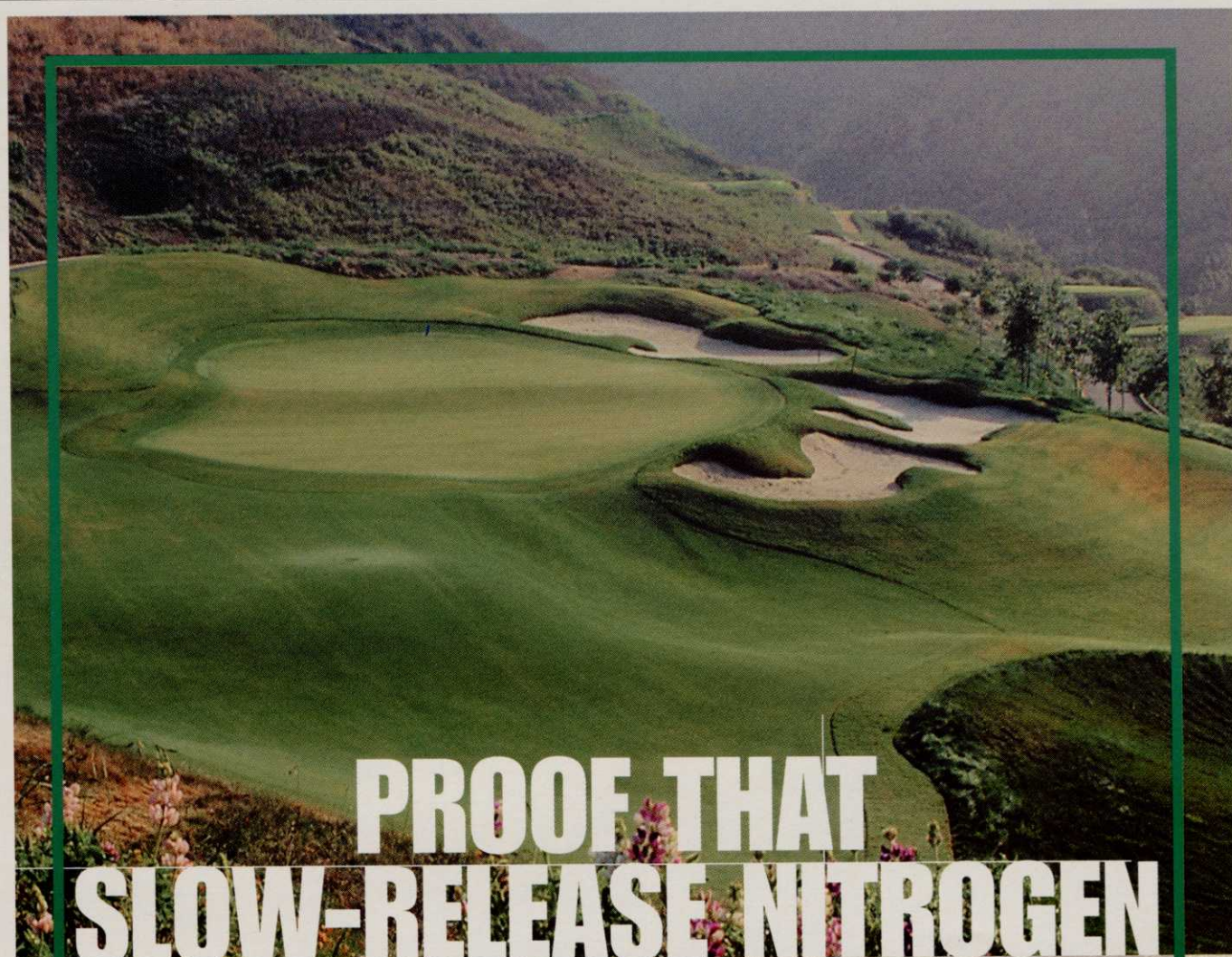
The Tribute is in the process of being certified by Audubon International as a wildlife sanctuary, partly because Davis used eight native grasses to address habitat issues. The primary grasses planted to mimic the famed Scottish gorse and heather were Buffalo grass, Side Oats Grama and Little Bluestem. Fairways

sport 419 Bermudagrass, and 90 bunkers punctuate the layout.

All told, the builders planted turfgrass on 119 acres, including the 17-acre driving range. "So the course was right at 100 acres planted," Davis said, "which is almost double what you usually fund."

SECOND COURSE ON THE WAY

With the club up and running, Davis is designing a second 18-hole course near The Tribute. The new one, set to break ground in July, will meander through a residential area, where American Golf and developer Matthews Southwest plan to build some \$1-million houses. ■



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