



BRIEFS

RAINMAKER TO DEVELOP STONY POINT

COLUMBIA, Md. — Rainmaker Golf Development, based here, has reached agreement to develop the Stony Point Golf Club for the town of Stony Point, N.Y. The 18-hole layout will be designed by Jacobson Golf Course Design. Rainmaker's selection came after the municipality's national search for a project manager to shepherd the development. The town has established a budget of about \$15 million and hopes to break ground on the course this month, with an opening date in June 2003. No builder has yet been named. Stony Point is located along the shores of the Hudson River in southern New York. The course will incorporate many granite ridges and bluffs, offering some 150-foot elevation changes from tee to fairway.

Retooled Bay area layout reopens as Monarch Bay

By JAY FINEGAN

SAN LEANDRO, Calif. — An \$8.1-million renovation has transformed the San Leandro Golf Complex into a sparkling 27-hole layout now called Monarch Bay Golf Club.

Set on San Francisco Bay, the remodeled facility gives Bay area residents a retooled championship layout and a spiffed up nine-hole executive track called Marina Golf Course.

Architect John Harbottle completely redesigned both courses in this project undertaken jointly by the City of San Leandro and American Golf Corp. It's believed to be one of the largest privately funded renovations ever on a municipal golf facility. "American Golf brought the money to do the development and the city guaranteed the lease," Harbottle said.

Measuring over 7,000 yards, the 18-hole daily-fee track — the Tony Lema Course — holds the distinction of being the second longest and most difficult par-71 layout in the state. However, multiple tees give players a range of options.

Named after local hero and British Open champion Tony Lema, the links-style layout meanders over gentle terrain. Sixteen of 18 holes enjoy views of San Francisco Bay, with some parts of the course bordered by natural wetlands.

FIRM, FAST FAIRWAYS

The executive nine-holer was closed for a year for its renovation, followed by



The Monarch Bay Golf Club looks out on San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge.

Photo by D2 Productions, Murphy/Scully

the year-long shutdown of the Lema layout, which reopened in March.

"We renovated both of them top to bottom," Harbottle said. "There wasn't a blade of grass left unturned. The Tony Lema Course is totally different now. A lot of the layout remains the same, because the holes fit the terrain very well. But green locations have shifted, and the bunkering is completely changed."

Steep, sod-faced bunkers placed throughout the course create a complex

design, where careful strategy is rewarded with shortcuts and open approaches to the greens. The firm, fast fairways and prevailing winds make for a true links feel. The challenging layout is already scheduled to host the USGA Mid-Amateur Championship qualifying round in August.

LANDFILL LOCATION

The \$8.1-million budget wasn't as large as it sounds, according to Harbottle.

Continued on page 25



Photo courtesy of the ehs collection

(Left to right) Mickie Gallagher, Dave Ogilvie, Bobby Jones, and Alfred S. Bourne at Augusta Country Club, where Jones kicked off his 1930 Grand Slam.

Silva restoring Ross' Augusta CC

By PHILIP HALL

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Architect Brian Silva will break ground this July on a thorough restoration of Augusta Country Club, a Donald Ross design with a rich golf history that actually predates Ross and stretches back to the 19th century.

Augusta Country Club will close for the summer and fall and reopen for play next January, according to general manager Henry Marburger. When the restoration is complete, Augusta CC will feature a layout as true to its Ross plans as any course in the Southeast.

Silva first visited the club two years

ago. "At that time, the discussions centered mostly around restoring the bunkers," recalled the architect, whose extensive Ross restoration portfolio includes Seminole Golf Club in North Palm Beach, Fla., Biltmore Forest Country Club in Asheville, N.C., Old Elm Golf Club in Chicago, and Charlotte (N.C.) Country Club, host to last year's USGA Senior Amateur.

"After that initial visit, the club got hold of Ross' original, working drawings from the Tufts Archive in Pinehurst," Silva continued. "And I mean drawings straight from the source: Ross' hand-written notes are

Continued on page 26

Barbaron, Southeastern co-building the North Course at Bonita Bay's Mediterra

NAPLES, Fla. — Last December, on the same day the Bonita Bay Group opened the South Course at Mediterra, the company broke ground for its second layout, the North Course, two years ahead of schedule.

Now, in an innovative move to ensure the opening of the North Course this December, the company has hired two

"This is the first time we have worked side by side with another contractor on the same course," said Danny Moman of Barbaron, "and it's working out extremely well."

According to Mickey McSwain, this is also the first time that Southeastern Golf has worked on a course in conjunction with another contractor.



Construction is under way at the North Course at Mediterra.

separate golf course contractors to build the Tom Fazio-designed layout.

Barbaron Inc., out of Inverness, Fla., and Southeastern Golf, based in Tifton, Ga., have been brought in to pioneer this tandem approach.

MOVING AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

"The two-contractor approach is definitely outside of the norm, but it's something that our team felt would make the construction process much more efficient,"

Continued on page 23

Ross renovation

Continued from page 19

right there on each individual hole plan. It's not just a route plan – these are the original working drawings used during construction.

"The club also has some very good vintage photography, too, so we know quite well what Ross intended this course to look like. Bit by bit," Silva said, "the scope

of the work changed and eventually the club decided to go the full restoration route."

HONING TO VINTAGE STYLE

Working with superintendent Greg Burleson and Gainesville, Ga.-based contractor Course Crafters, Silva will thoroughly restore the Augusta layout.

All 18 putting surfaces will be refurbished in accordance with the Ross drawings. Existing bunkers will be restored in the vin-

tage style. Lost bunkers will be reinstated to their original positions and configurations. And all 18 tee complexes will be rebuilt in the classic, rectangular style Silva employed to such great effect at Biltmore Forest.

"We won't be moving fairway bunkers further down the fairways to accommodate modern play lengths," explained Silva, "and here's why: Ross used his trademark, random bunker ap-

proach at Augusta. He sprinkled bunkers about the fairways in such a way that they would come into play for everyone, no matter how far you hit it.

"Also, and just as important: the original bunkers were cleverly cut into slight upslopes. Moving them for distance's sake would not allow the bunkers to be placed in such wonderfully natural positions."

CLUB'S EARLY DAYS

Formal golf has been played

here by Rae's Creek since 1897, when the nine-hole Bon Air Golf Club began accommodating local members and guests of The Bon Air Hotel, which owned the course. By 1900, when Harry Vardon played an exhibition at Bon Air GC, the facility had expanded to 18 holes. Later that year the hotel renamed it the Country Club of Augusta.

To ease crowding on this so-called Lake Course, club members built another 18 strictly for their use – the Hill Course. Designed by club president Dr. William Henry Harison Jr. and longtime pro David Ogilvie, it debuted in 1909. Summer guests included John D. Rockefeller, Warren G. Harding and William Howard Taft.

In 1921, the club officially settled on its current moniker, Augusta Country Club. Five years later, Seth Raynor would convert the sand greens on the Lake Course to Bermudagrass.

In 1927, Donald Ross – in town to design the Forest Hills Golf Course – was retained to convert the sand putting surfaces on the Hill Course to Bermudagrass. He also substantially rerouted the front nine and completely rebunkered the layout, as detailed on his drawings.

BOBBY JONES' GRAND SLAM

The Lake Course would not survive the Depression, but the Hill Course not only endured but compiled a luminous tournament history of its own.

Bobby Jones kicked off his Grand Slam year at Augusta CC with a 13-shot victory over Horton Smith in the inaugural Southeastern Open. That was 1930, several years before he would found the adjoining Augusta National Golf Club on the other side of Rae's Creek.

"Like Biltmore Forest, Seminole and others, Augusta Country Club is a great example of Ross' ability to use the terrain to its absolute best advantage," said Silva, a partner with Uxbridge, Mass.-based Cornish, Silva and Mungeam Inc. "The routing here is superb, but the Ross details need reviving. His working diagrams show putting surfaces that had more undulation than they do today. The work we do this summer will seek to re-instill some of this flavor – within reason, considering today's faster putting speeds.

"The original course was sprinkled with random bunkers throughout the fairways," he added, "including a really great set of diagonal cross-bunkers on the uphill third hole. There was wonderful flow to the layout, as the fairways sinewed their way around bunkers from tee to green. The working diagrams even show the 16th as a punchbowl green. The club is determined to bring all this back." ■

Your course is only as good as its foundation.

Every blade of grass depends on the soil beneath it. On the soil microbes that feed it. And nothing provides food and energy to soil microbes like Nitroform® ureaform. It releases the right amount at the right time. Only when grass needs it.

The controlled release of Nitroform gives you six months or more of turf-growing benefits and even

longer-lasting payoffs for your soil.

Nitroform fights the effects of heat, traffic and drought. It helps develop roots and reduce thatch. Have your fertilizer supplier make Nitroform the foundation of your fertilizer program.



The Foundation Nitrogen