

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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Pick up the pace

From GPS to hard-nosed policies, courses are using many tools to fight speed of play problems.....20

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Photo by Johnson Design

NATIVE AMERICAN RESORTS

Architect Gary Panks is actively pursuing opportunities to work with Native American communities. He has already designed Twin Warriors Golf Course (above) for the Santa Ana Pueblo in Beranlillo, N.M. and is currently working on a course for the Gila River Indian Community. See story page 16.

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COURSE MANAGEMENT

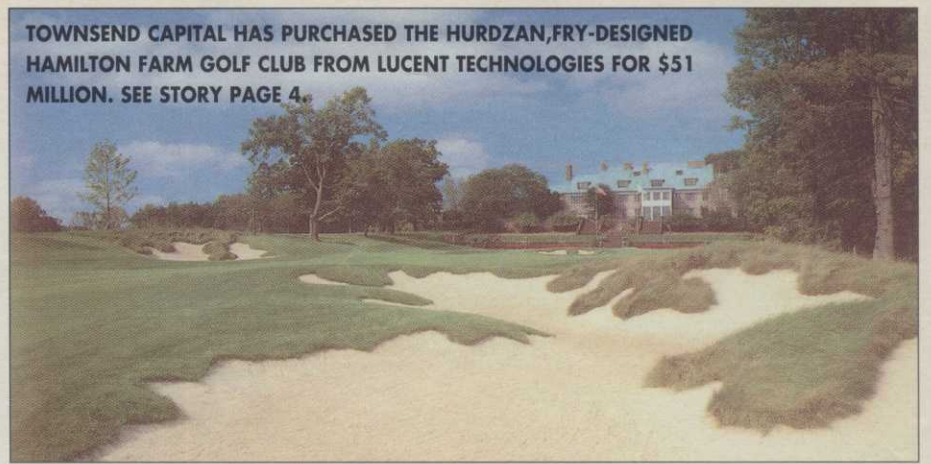
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PERIODICAL

TOWNSEND CAPITAL HAS PURCHASED THE HURDZAN, FRY-DESIGNED HAMILTON FARM GOLF CLUB FROM LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES FOR \$51 MILLION. SEE STORY PAGE 4.



Dow AgroSciences sorting out Rohm and Haas acquisition

Company to expand its golf presence

By ANDREW OVERBECK

INDIANAPOLIS — As the consolidation trend in the chemical industry continues to unfold and competition heats up, companies are scrapping for whatever market advantages they can get their hands on. In the case of Dow AgroSciences, it made the move earlier this year to purchase Rohm and Haas because the added product lines boosted its position in fungicides and expanded its presence in the turf and ornamentals market.



Scott Eicher

"As we looked at our product line, we realized that we've always lacked a strong fungicide line," said Scott Eicher, Dow AgroSciences' senior product marketing manager for turf and ornamental.

The need to balance its product portfolio, which is strong in both herbicides and insecticides, was made especially clear last summer when the rates and uses of its popular Dursban insecticide was scaled back by the Environmental Protection Agency. According to Eicher, addressing product gaps was important for the company

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EDITORIAL FOCUS: Winter Preparation

Currier preparing for winter, 2002 Open

By JOEL JOYNER

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. — "I'm hoping like crazy we don't get a lot of snow this winter," said Craig Currier, superintendent here at the Black Course at Bethpage State Park and host to the 2002 U.S. Open.

Currier was brought on in 1997 just as the Black



On course at Bethpage Black: (left to right) Superintendent Craig Currier, USGA executive director David Fay, architect Rees Jones, and parks superintendent Dave Catalano.

Course, one of five public layouts offered here, was closed for an entire year to undergo a \$2.7 million refurbishment. Golf course architect Rees

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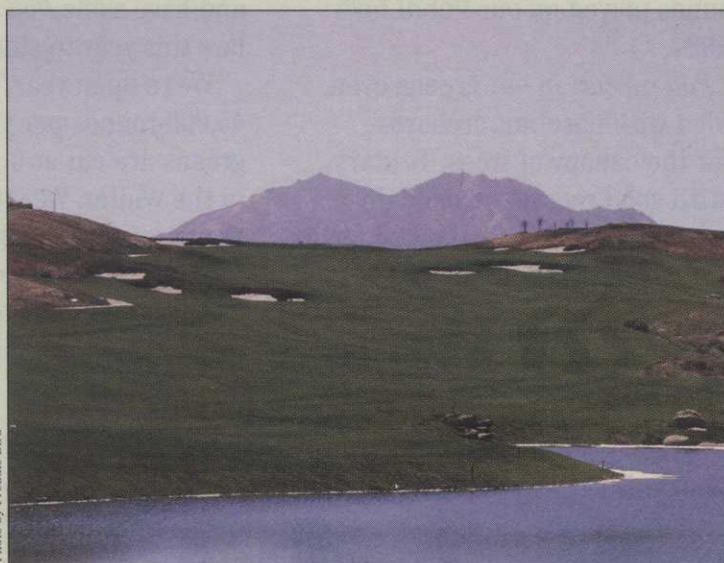


Photo by Freddie Bird

The sixth hole at Troon's Shadow Lakes Golf Club located east of San Francisco

Troon adds to California stable

By DOUG SAUNDERS

BRENTWOOD, Calif. — Shadow Lakes Golf Club has opened for play here continuing the growth of the stable of courses built and operated by Troon Golf Management of Scottsdale, Ariz. The facility is situated in the rolling grasslands of this agricultural community just east of San Francisco in a region that has seen a flurry of golf course construction in the last three years.

The 6,700-yard Gary Roger Baird-designed course plays through a

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IRS's depreciation ruling due in November

By ANDREW OVERBECK

ATLANTA — The National Golf Course Owners Association, along with accounting firm KPMG, is continuing to work with the Internal Revenue Service to achieve a favorable outcome in its two-year battle to update tax rules to allow for the depreciation of greens, bunkers and tees.

The issue, which has been fast-tracked as part of the IRS's newly created Industry Issues Resolution (IIR) pilot program, is set to be settled by November.

Besides an initial meeting with the IIR group in June, KPMG partner William Ellis organized a course visit for IRS officials in

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Shadow Lakes

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housing complex developed by Brookfield Homes. Troon Golf owns and manages the golf course separately from the real estate development, but homeowners will be allowed to purchase memberships for the course. The facility is the third Troon Golf Management course in Northern California and is an integral part of their strategy to develop clusters of courses within a region.

FOLLOWING THE TERRAIN

The course, which was built by Temecula, Calif.-based Ranger Golf Construction, features five lakes and water comes into play on seven holes. The site plays over a series of rolling hills giving the course over 80 feet of elevation change. The flowing terrain lends itself well to a traditional looking course that follows the lay of the land.

These classic features include distinct bunker shapes developed by 32-year-old lead designer Todd Eckenrode, who, after a five-year stint with Roger Baird designs, has recently opened his own design firm.

"I try to shape the edges of the bunkers to make them look like they have been there for decades. Rather than having sharp lines at the edge I like to create a rounded furrow with longish grass. I also try to place them in a way that directs the golfer around the layout," Eckenrode explained.

A GOOD DELAY

Head superintendent Kyle Peigh has been on the Shadow Lakes site throughout the grow-in period. Peigh, a Penn State graduate who joined Troon Golf after a four-year stint at Desert Mountain in Scottsdale, Ariz., raced to seed the course with a rye-bluegrass mix on the fairways and Dominant bentgrass on the greens before the last winters' onset.

"It was a bit late to get our seed in last year, but we lucked out in having a relatively dry winter," Peigh said. "We were originally planning to open in April but the delay to September has really helped to let the turf harden before play begins."

The delay was ironic in that it was brought on by an issue regarding the location, size, and drainage of the parking lot around the clubhouse location, rather than the normal environmental concerns that seem to slow down so many projects in the state of California.

"We had very little trouble in the initial approval process but the parking lot issue just popped up at the very end of construction," Peigh said. ■

IRS decision

Continued from page 1

July. The group spent a day on the construction site at Drumm Farm in Independence, Mo. — a Hurdzan, Fry design that is being built by Landscapes Unlimited.

"We spent two and a half hours touring the course with the construction supervisor," said Ellis. "We were able to see greens,

tees and bunkers at all stages of construction."

The complexity of the construction and the expensive nature of drainage systems are the basis for the NGCOA's depreciation position.

"They thought it was beneficial to see the construction methods which involve integrated drainage systems," Ellis said. "They have indicated that new

guidance is being developed that will specifically address greens. The question now is whether the guidance will address other improvements such as bunkers."

According to Ellis, greens are very clear in the IRS's mind because modern construction consistently contains integrated irrigation and drainage systems.

"Most modern greens should be eligible for depreciation be-

cause of their nature of construction," he said. "Tees, however, may not. Many

tees are still push-up and may not be eligible because they do not have integrated drainage." The new guidance will be very factual in nature. It will not be a blanket decision for greens, tees or bunkers," added Ellis. ■



EMPTY SODA CANS COME BACK AS FULL BEER CANS. IS RECYCLING GREAT, OR WHAT?

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A. π

B. 

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