

Business briefs

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e2e acquires Smyth

Scottsdale, Ariz.-based e2e Golf Solutions purchased Smyth Systems, a software provider in the golf, club and resort industries since 1949.

e2e Golf Solutions says it can increase profits for golf course owners and operators by offering an integrated suite of software solutions and services that manage all aspects of course operation.

Kemper to manage Va. facility

Northbrook, Ill.-based KemperSports Management signed a long-term contract with the Virginia State Golf Association Foundation to operate its 27-hole VSGA Golf Center, designed by Tom Fazio and currently being built in Richmond, Va.

KemperSports will provide consulting services during the construction phase and assume management upon the center's opening in 2001.

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"But these Opens lacked something," Fay contends. "(The courses) were too young and immature."

While the USGA favors fabled courses, they must be capable of throwing one of golf's biggest shindigs. Consider:

- The site must accommodate a minimum of 25,000 spectators.
- The site must park at least 15,000 cars within 15 minutes of the course.
- The site must have enough hotel rooms nearby to accommodate the U.S. Open throng.
- The site must be close to a major airport, although Fay admits that Pebble Beach, near Monterey, Calif., and others are exceptions.

The final decision on a U.S. Open site rests with USGA's executive committee after input from staff and a preliminary recommendation from the championship committee. But the determining factor could be the person who lobbies the loudest.

"The difference comes when someone is a forceful advocate for one club over another," Fay says. "Someone might pound the table and say, 'We've got to go to this golf course.'"

But Fay says it's not easy to break the bad news to other clubs that applied for — but did not receive — a U.S. Open.

"It's a tough message to deliver," he says. "Golfers are very passionate about their courses. As C.B. Macdonald said, 'When a man is given a choice about saying something derogatory about another man's wife or his golf course, the prudent man always picks on the wife.'"

"There's a lot to be said for that."

Scanning the Web

As a guy who nearly failed mechanical drawing, the idea of completing architectural plans for a golf course not only intimidates me, it frightens me. For those equally architecturally impaired, these sites give some insight into creating a golf course (all addresses start with <http://> unless otherwise noted):

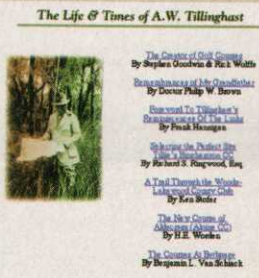
***** — **Bookmark it and return frequently; * — Look at only if absolutely necessary**

▶ ***** www.tillinghast.net - The Tillinghast Association wanted to create an elegant and charming site dedicated to architect A.W. Tillinghast. It succeeded. Not only does it list well-organized biographical informa-



tion on the architect and his courses, it includes his original sketches of some holes. Perhaps the most intriguing part of the site is a fabulous archive of golf photos, including one of Bobby Jones and his mother. It's a fascinating glimpse into the mind of a well-known golf course architect.

** www.golfclubatlas.com - It kills me not to rank this site higher (especially since a couple of Golfdom writers lurk there), but its occasional pomposity punctures its brush with greatness. It's a nice-looking site packed with information, but its two administrators, who admit they have "no knowledge of what is required to build a golf course,"



do nothing to alleviate golf's prevailing image as a snobbish sport. The site profiles 70 courses from around the world, with more being added daily. It also has an intelligent (though occasionally pretentious) discussion group.

INCOMPLETE www.traditionalgolf.com - This site, in its infancy, intrigues me. It consists of a collection of informal discussion groups, some of which are not terribly professional and have little to do with architecture. A couple of high-profile architects (and architectural critics) have posted notes, however, thereby elevating the entire site. The lack of postings leaves this site hard to evaluate, but its potential is endless.

Scanning the Web is compiled by Golfdom's associate editor Frank H. An-dorka Jr., who couldn't even draw a straight line with a T-square. Reach him at 440-891-2708 or fandorka@advanstar.com with future column ideas or sites you think he should visit.