

## St. Andrews seeks U.S. golfers

British businessman Frank Sheridan has invested \$20 million in a golf and country club development at St. Andrews, Scotland.

The investment will convert the world-famous Old Course Hotel into the Old Course Country Golf Club, sporting the latest in golf and relaxation activities.

Sheridan toured a number of clubs across the U.S. to determine what factors would be most appealing to American golfers.

The Old Course Country Golf Club is immediately adjacent to the 17th fairway of the Old Course and is surrounded by the New Course, The Jubilee and The Eden. Scotland, the birthplace of golf, has numerous courses and 12 that are in the immediate vicinity of the Old Course Country Golf Club facilities. Balconied, double rooms overlook the Old and New Courses, the sea, the Royal and Ancient historical building and the town of St. Andrews. Locker rooms, saunas, indoor swimming pool, jacuzzi, turkish room, massage, solarium, pro and gift shops and a variety of bars and restaurants are also planned.

Sheridan has named James Bannatyne, former general manager of the Glen Eagles golf hotel complex, Laurie Auchterlonie, honorary professional of The Royal and Ancient; and Keith Mackie, golf journalist and promoter, to the staff.

Three hundred corporate memberships have been reserved for the United States. There will also be a limited number of individual memberships. Charter members of the Old Course Country Golf Club are automatically accepted as members at La Manga in southern Spain, a 36-hole course.

Membership inquiries are being handled by the House of Roche, Inc. Hartford, CT (203) 247-2973.

## NCA forms political action committee

The Board of Directors of the National Club Association unanimously endorsed the formation of a political action committee for the private club industry, known as CLUBPAK.

At a recent meeting in Los Angeles, the Board determined that members of the private club industry must have a means to directly support legislators and candidates who are sensitive to the industry's needs and interests. Because there is no sign of anti-club pressures easing in the future, the private club industry feels it needs to develop more strength and support in the political arena.

A spokesman for the NCA said the purpose of CLUBPAC is to allow individual members of private clubs to pool their contributions to support their common goals. These combined resources will then be used to support the campaigns of candidates in tune with the rights and interests of the private club community.

The board of directors chosen to administer CLUBPAC includes NCA Executive Director Gerard F. Hurley, Chairman, NCA Vice President Joseph N. Noll, Treasurer; CLUBPAC directors - NCA President Harold B. Berman; Secretary John J. McEnerney; Treasurer E. Guenter Skole, CCM; Past President Herbert L. Emanuelson, Jr. and Past President and Special Counsel Milton E. Meyer Jr.

membership policy approved by the Executive Board during the meeting.

If regional associations vote to become "sponsoring associations" of ALCA, each member will receive all ALCA benefits. Many contractors are currently members of both ALCA and local associations. "This change in policy will save these contractors hundreds of dollars," says ALCA president Dave Pinkus.

Former ALCA president Ray Gustin said ALCA's current membership of 1,000 could grow to 4,000 if most major regional associations participate.

"A number of organizations have already agreed to the plan. All that remains is detail work like bylaws, to put the program in place," says Pinkus. "That is the reason for the Jan. 1, 1984 effective date."

"Much of the groundwork for this change was done by Bill Thorton and his Bylaw Committee," says Pinkus.

### Smith resigns

The ALCA Executive Board also accepted the resignation of Executive Director Allen Smith during the annual business meeting. Pinkus said this development was not related to the new membership policy. Gail Morgan will act as interim executive director while ALCA carries out "an extensive search" for a new director. Smith replaced John Shaw who resigned within the past year.

"Allen Smith got the ALCA staff organized and functioning effectively," said Pinkus. "No programs or services will be affected by the change."

### TREES

## Rubber mulch stimulates growth

A United States Department of Agriculture study has shown a three-foot diameter butyl rubber sheet placed on the ground around newly-planted trees increased tree height by 56 percent under dry land conditions and by 40 percent under drip conditions.

Deciduous trees, including ash, Chinese elm, hackberry and honey locust grew more than twice as fast with the rubber mulch than these same species without the mulch. Conifers, including Colorado blue spruce, Rocky Mountain juniper and ponderosa pine, showed a six percent growth advantage with the mulch. Shrubs, including plum, sand cherry and cotoneaster, grew nine percent faster with the rubber mulch.

The study was done by USDA agri-

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