

... WORLD EDITION ...

GOLF COURSE REPORT

April 2013

AS WE SEE IT / Donald Trump: A Reputation Blown Asunder

“Show me a hero,” F. Scott Fitzgerald once wrote, “and I will write you a tragedy.” These words came to mind as we meditated on the decline and fall of Donald Trump in Scotland. It’s a sad story, and we fear that it’ll have a cruel, graceless ending. Trump crossed the Atlantic with apparent good intentions, promising to build an impeccable golf course that would add to the treasures of his mother’s birthplace. By all accounts, he succeeded. But then, in a flash, glory turned to shame. As the people of Scotland laid plans to harvest the winds that blew across his seaside links, he ordered them to stop, contending that wind power was fool’s gold. When they ignored his mandate, he became aggrieved, then angry, then vengeful. You see, for Trump, wealth and fame and power are not enough. He must also be adored. This is his fatal flaw. He’s convinced himself that he’s doing more for Scotland than Scotland is doing for him, and it galls him that the nation isn’t grateful for his service. So today, like Don Quixote, he tilts at windmills. He picks fights he cannot win and creates enemies he cannot slay. Had Scotland not been committed to developing alternative sources of energy, this chapter of Trump’s life might have turned out differently. He might have been a hero. Instead, he’s a villain. And the tragedy is, it was his choice.

AUSTRALIA / Ocean Dunes Golf Course, Currie (Tasmania)

Disappointed that you didn’t invest in Barnbougle Dunes? Well, an Australian development group has a proposition that you may not be able to refuse.

The group, led by Bernie McMahon and Graeme Grant, wants to build yet another destination-worthy coastal links in Tasmania, this one on the windswept western coast of King Island, near the town of Currie. The partners have exercised an option to buy 285 acres that they believe rivals the Barnbougle Dunes property, and their golf course, they promise, will find its way onto lists of the world’s best.

“It is like Scottish and Irish links land, with a bit of Pebble Beach thrown in,” Grant said in a recent interview with *Turfmate*. “It’s unique, and if we are successful, I think a lot of other people will follow us down there.”

Those folks will need a map to get there, and multiple airline tickets. King Island lies midway between the main island of Tasmania and the southern coast of Victoria, and you can’t get there via ferry.

For now, though, transportation is a side issue. Money is the developers’ immediate problem.

McMahon and Grant hope to break ground on Ocean Dunes Golf Course later this year, presuming that they can add \$6 million to the \$3 million in financing that they’ve already secured. They’re looking

Golf Course Report, World Edition

AUSTRALIA, continued from page 1

for 15 investors willing to sink \$400,000 into their venture, which would give them enough to build the golf course, a clubhouse, and a small number of three- to four-star overnight accommodations.

“The vision,” the developers say on their website, “is to put Ocean Dunes on the list of ‘must-go’ golfing destinations and achieve a top-100 ranking.”

These are ambitious goals, but McMahon and Grant have well-established golf bona fides.

McMahon owns one of Australia’s best-known golf construction companies, McMahons Pty. Ltd. These days, the firm is building courses in Victoria (Thompson Perrett’s Mandalay Golf Course in suburban Melbourne) and New South Wales (Graham Marsh’s Bingara Gorge Golf Course in Wilton).

Grant, who’s been a superintendent at both Royal Melbourne and Kingston Heath, branched out into design more than a decade ago, originally with former golf pro Jack Newton. Now, as the head of his own firm (61-03-9583-7532), he “takes the principles of the Golden Age and adapts them to today’s courses.”

That’s what the architects who designed the courses at Barnbougle Dunes have done. And make no mistake, McMahon and Grant (along with a third partner, Peter Dawson) are using Barnbougle Dunes, which is located on Tasmania’s main island, as their development model.

“They developed [their property] very inexpensively, and we believe the return on investment there has been substantial,” Grant told *Turfmate*.

Today, the only other course on King Island is a modest nine-hole layout at King Island Golf Club. However, the Ocean Dunes property is just a short drive from Cape Wickham, where Turnpoint Group has enlisted Ross Perrett to create what it says will be a world-class links. (The *World Edition* profiled this project in October 2011.)

McMahon and Grant are promising a handsome 14 percent return to prospective investors. So the question becomes, Does King Island have what it takes to become a viable golf destination? And if you think it does, would you bet your own money on it?

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NEWS & NOTES FROM AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Talk about persistence: Just weeks ago, **a golf community that’s been winding its way through Queensland, Australia’s entitlement process for nearly two decades was approved** by local planners. It’s called Diamond Waters, and it’s located in Hervey Bay, a coastal city (it’s 180 miles north of Brisbane) formerly known mostly for its beaches and whale-watching opportunities. At build-out, Diamond Waters is expected to include up to 350 houses and an 18-hole, resort-style golf course that’s been designed by Phil Ryan of Pacific Coast Design. The course, which was approved in the mid 1990s, has been partially completed, according to a report in the *Fraser Coast Chronicle*. Ward Veitch of Hervey Bay-based Urban Planet Town Planning Consultants (0-7-4128-2888), the community’s master planner, told the newspaper that Diamond Waters is being developed by members of the group that developed an adjacent community, Eli Waters. Ryan, who’s based in Sandringham, Victoria (61-3-9521-6411), has designed courses in Australia, China, India, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam. His current to-do list includes a course in Brisbane, Cannon Hill Community Links, and a new course for Chirnside Park County Club in suburban Melbourne. *Golf-Designers.com*, *UrbanPlanet.com.au*.

It appears that **the first Aborigine to earn a spot on the PGA Tour wants to put his “signature” on the planned golf course at Ayers Rock Resort** in Yulara. The *Australian* reports that Scott Gardiner, who now lives in the United States (in Farmington, Arkansas), “has joined forces with some friends who are bidding to design a golf course near Uluru.” The *Gold Coast Bulletin* identifies one of the

Golf Course Report, World Edition

AUSTRALIA, continued from page 2

friends as Michael Clayton, the Victoria-based architect (61-3-9598-5555) who's probably best known for co-designing (with Tom Doak) the first course at Barnbougle Dunes in Tasmania. It's possible that Geoff Ogilvy, another Australian touring pro, could be part of the group, since he and Clayton formed a design partnership in 2010. Ayers Rock's owner, the government-sponsored Indigenous Land Corporation (Reg Foster, manager; 61-8-8100-7102), wants to build a "desert" course that will lure vacationers to Yulara, which serves as a gateway to Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park in the Northern Territory. The *World Edition* profiled this project in December 2011. *AyersRockResort.com*, *ILC.gov.au*, *OgilvyClayton.com*.

One of the top golf clubs in Australia is looking to add nine holes to its Greg Norman-designed golf course. Vintage Golf Club, in the Hunter Valley of New South Wales, opened its 18-hole course in 2003. On its current list of the nation's top 100 courses, *Golf Digest* ranks the track at number 50. It was created during Norman's original design era, when he operated out of an office in Australia that was led by Bob Harrison. Together, the partners produced some of the nation's most acclaimed golf properties, among them Ellerston Golf Club (#3 on *Golf Digest's* list), the Moonah course at National Golf Club (#7), Grand Golf Club (#43), and Glades Golf Course (#49). Harrison now has a firm of his own, and Norman, who's relocated to West Palm Beach, Florida (561-640-7000), hasn't delivered nearly as much top-rated work. His addition at the Vintage (Raymond Manulat, business development manager) will be designed to suit an expected parade of new home buyers in the accompanying community, which could someday have close to 800 single-family houses and nearly 650 apartments. The Vintage (61-2-4998-6789) is owned in part by Donald Panoz, who developed two U.S. golf properties, Chateau Elan in Braselton, Georgia and Diablo Grande in Patterson, California. *TheVintage.com.au*, *Shark.com*.

SAMOA / TBD by Chengdu Exhibition & Tourism Group, Upolu Island

A big Chinese tourism company wants to build a pair of large-scale vacation spots in the South Pacific, each of them offering resort-style golf.

Chengdu Exhibition & Tourism Group has agreed to build one of the resorts in Samoa, as part of a gambling destination that will include a casino and an 18-hole golf course. The other, part of a massive spread on Yap Island in Micronesia, could have more than a dozen golf courses.

Chengdu ETG has a promising leisure concession in Samoa, as it recently secured one of first two gaming licenses that the island nation has issued. The company plans to build its casino on Samoa's main island, Upolu Island, as part of a 500-acre vacation getaway that will include a 500-room hotel, shopping areas, and other attractions. In addition, the company aims to establish an air-charter service that will fly Chinese gamblers into and out of Faleolo International Airport, which is located on the island.

Deng Hong, the chairman of Chengdu ETG, is one of the richest people in the People's Republic. (The *Wall Street Journal*, citing Chinese sources, says he's worth \$870 million.) The son of a U.S. Air Force officer, he lived for a while in San Francisco, California but established his company in Sichuan Province in 1997. These days, Chengdu ETG annually stages more than 6,000 business meetings and 700 additional events. It owns a pair of convention halls in Chengdu, including the huge Century City New International Convention & Exhibition Center, as well as the Jiuzhai Paradise International Resort & Convention Center in Sichuan's Jiuzhaigou Valley.

Like many vacationers, however, Deng seems partial to empty beaches and tropical landscapes. Those are among the things that led him to Yap, one of the Caroline Islands.

Deng's development plans for Yap were created by HHCP Architects of Orlando, Florida (407-644-2656). They draw the plans he's made for Samoa – to our eyes, they amount to pie-in-the-sky dreams – and as a result they're undoubtedly less certain.

Golf Course Report, World Edition

SAMOA, continued from page 3

On Yap, Chengdu ETG aims to build another casino, several entertainment venues, as many as 10 hotels (a total of 4,000 rooms), meeting space, marinas, and, according to the *Kaselehlie Press*, “eight to 15 golf courses.” What’s more, if government officials approve his plans, he’s promised to pay each of the island’s 11,000 residents \$400 a year.

Frankly, the notion of building a Mission Hills-like golf complex in a place as remote as Yap doesn’t seem even remotely possible. But just last month, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that the United States is dramatically scaling back its foreign aid to Yap and that “a tide of Chinese money” is already washing up on the island’s shores. Yap’s government needs to find new ways to create jobs and generate income, and tourism may be an ideal way to do it.

Chengdu ETG will reportedly break ground on its resort in Samoa in two or three years. It’s planning the project with Samoa’s Gambling Control Authority (Robbie Kearney, consultant; 685-770-0460).

As far as the project on Yap goes, Deng is still waiting for the government’s verdict.

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NEWS & NOTES FROM CANADA

A British design team has been selected to overhaul one of the Toronto area’s premier tournament venues. Beginning this fall, **Tom Mackenzie and Martin Ebert will make over the South course at Angus Glen Golf Club**, the site of the Canadian Open in 2002. *Canadian Golfer* once described Angus Glen, whose North course hosted the Open in 2007, as “the preeminent corporate golf facility in Canada.” The club (Allan McDonnell, executive professional) and the community that accompanies it were developed largely by Gordon Stollery, who died in late 2011 while on holiday in the Caribbean. His heirs know the work of West Sussex, England-based Mackenzie & Ebert (44-0-1243-531-901) very well, for the firm designed their personal golf course in nearby Goodwood. At Angus Glen (905-887-0090), the architects will rebuild the South course’s greens and bunkers, recontour its fairways, and add several ponds to the 7,407-yard layout. The course, which opened in 1995, was designed by Doug Carrick, one of Canada’s best-known architects. Carrick had produced a renovation plan for the course and is reportedly “disappointed” that he didn’t get a chance to execute it. *AngusGlen.com, MackenzieAndEbert.co.uk*.

Doug Carrick may have missed out on the commission at Angus Glen, but he’s picked up one elsewhere in metropolitan Toronto. The Don Mills, Ontario-based architect (416-447-6295) has been hired to oversee **a redesign of the 7,061-yard, John Robinson-designed course at Whistle Bear Golf Club** (519-650-2327) in Cambridge. The specific nature of the work hasn’t been spelled out, but the club’s owners, a group led by Brad Duench, plan to unveil their proposal (including a new clubhouse) at a public event in mid April. Our guess is that the layout will be softened considerably, since the club itself acknowledges that its course is “demanding,” “challenging,” and “not for the faint of heart.” This task may be right up Carrick’s alley, for Darius Oliver of *Planet Golf* describes his work as “more geared toward the resort golfer than the architectural connoisseur.” These days Carrick has two new courses on his plate, at Friday Harbour in Innisfil, Ontario and at Westlin Farms in King City, Ontario. The *World Edition* profiled the former in July 2012, the latter in January 2013. *WhistleBear.ca, CarrickDesign.com*.

For the better part of the past decade, **Ian Andrew has been theorizing about the big issues that confront golf development**, in particular playability and sustainability. Over the next few years, a trio of Canadian clubs will give him a chance to put his theories into practice. Andrew, who’s based in

Golf Course Report, World Edition

CANADA, continued from page 4

Brantford, Ontario (519-752-8456), has recently created master plans for Hillsdale Golf & Country Club (450-435-6521) in suburban Montreal and Carleton Golf & Yacht Club (613-692-3531) in suburban Ottawa. At Hillsdale (Derek Jones, pro), Andrew will oversee a bunker renovation of the club's Laurentian course, the site of the Canadian Women's Open in 2009. At Carleton (Joel Trickey, superintendent), his work will involve improvements to bunkers, fairways, and cart paths. In addition, just weeks ago Andrew was signed to consult for North Halton Golf & Country Club (Ryan Scott, superintendent; 905-877-8784) in suburban Toronto, a commission that he expects will eventually lead to a bunker renovation for the property's nearly 100-year-old layout. Andrew has long argued that an architect's job is "to make the game interesting" by crafting "unique, distinctive, and thought-provoking creations that are fun to play." It appears that many golfers are coming around to his point of view. *AndrewGolf.com, HillsdaleGolf.com, CarletonGolf.com, NorthHaltonGolf.com.*

SCOTLAND / Ayrshire Golf Club, Irvine (Ayrshire)

Can the co-developer of Machrihanish Dunes create an equally enthralling links in Ayrshire?

That's the issue facing Brian Keating, who made a splash in 2009, when he opened David McLay Kidd's acclaimed neo-classic course on the Mull of Kintyre in Argyll, Scotland. Machrihanish Dunes was a smash from the moment of its debut, and it's since been cited by *Golfweek*, *Golf World*, and other publications as being among the finest courses in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Such success is difficult to duplicate. But by time Machrihanish Dunes opened, Keating was already planning to build a similar track on 195 acres in Irvine, a coastal city 35 miles southwest of Glasgow. Kidd was supposed to be the course's designer, and construction was supposed to begin in 2010.

In retrospect, it wasn't the best time to launch a golf venture. Today, however, it appears that Keating likes what he sees on the economic horizon. Last month, he officially filed development plans for Ayrshire Golf Club with the North Ayrshire Council.

The golf club and its ancillary development – 150 time-share condos, a boutique hotel, meeting space, a spa – have broad support in Irvine, as both government officials and local business interests expect the venture to spark much-needed economic growth.

Keating is working closely with the Irvine Bay Regeneration Company (Patrick Wiggins, CEO), which is overseeing a large-scale urban renewal project on the Ayrshire coast. Golf may be an idyllic sport, but Irvine isn't an idyllic place. The city and its environs were once heavily industrialized and still would be today, if their factories had been able to stay in business.

In fact, only two-thirds of Ayrshire's golf course will take shape on natural links land. The course's first six holes will be built on a landfill that must be reshaped and re-vegetated to resemble the surrounding land forms.

The land reclamation, not to mention the course design, has been assigned to Niall Glan and Paul Kimber, who were formerly associates in Kidd's design firm. When Kidd relocated to Bend, Oregon, they established their own firm in Stirling, Scotland (44-0-1334-800-240).

When it opens, Ayrshire Golf Club won't only be compared to Machrihanish Dunes. The course will have highly regarded neighbors, as it'll be located right next to Western Gailes Golf Club and within a short drive of several other world-class links, among them Turnberry, Royal Troon Golf Club, and Prestwick Golf Club.

The *World Edition* profiled this project in January 2010.

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Golf Course Report, World Edition

continued from page 5

NEWS & NOTES FROM GREAT BRITAIN

After nearly four years of trying, **White Horse Country Park has secured permission to build a bigger, better golf course.** Last month, the Westbury Town Council, in Wiltshire, England, finally endorsed a proposal to overhaul White Horse's nine-hole, 2,922-yard course and add nine holes to it. Derek Hulin and Shaun May, who paid \$2.28 million for the 300-acre park in June 2009, have already won approval to build a campground and a caravan park, and they've built a driving range that's expected to debut this month. Now they intend to focus on the golf course (44-0-1373-859-281), which May has described as being "very flat and not too challenging." The *World Edition* profiled this project in September 2009. WhiteHorseCountryPark.co.uk.

Donald Steel and Jonathan Gaunt have been enlisted to rescue the imperiled Whittington Heath Golf Club. The club (Trevor Morris, superintendent), in the northern suburbs of Birmingham, England, features an 18-hole, Harry Colt-designed course that will by 2016 or 2017 be sliced in half by a planned high-speed rail line. The effect on the club (44-0-1543-432-317), one of the nation's oldest (it was established in 1886), will be dramatic. The tracks will be laid directly across Whittington Heath's clubhouse, and Gaunt says via e-mail that he and Steel "could end up having to build at least nine new holes." It's also possible that some surviving holes will be redesigned. The 6,490-yard layout, which dates from 1927, isn't generally acknowledged to be one of Colt's best, but it's arguably a historic treasure that's worth preserving. Steel, who's now in his mid 70s, is intimately familiar with such "classic" British layouts, as he's reportedly consulted with every club that has ever hosted the Open Championship. He and Gaunt, who's based in Derbyshire (44-0-1629-815-423), have worked together previously, on a remake of the Farm track at Greensboro Country Club in North Carolina. The *World Edition* profiled this project in February 2012. WhittingtonHeathGC.co.uk, DonaldSteel.com, Gaunt-Golf-Design.com.

FRANCE / TBD by Groupe Eurotunnel, Sangatte Bleriot-Plage (Pas-de-Calais)

Last year, an estimated 18 million people traveled through the Channel Tunnel. By 2016, if all goes as planned, some of them will be able to squeeze a little golf into their itineraries.

The tunnel's operators have won a competition to build a golf community in Sangatte Bleriot-Plage, the French end of the undersea passageway. The centerpiece of the to-be-named, 400-acre community will be a tournament-worthy golf course designed by Kyle Phillips, one of golf architecture's rising stars. Richard Wax of Golf Surveys, Ltd. (00-33-1-4771-1425), one of Phillips' long-time collaborators and a consultant to the developers, believes the track will be "France's first authentic links course."

Groupe Eurotunnel, the publicly traded firm that has a concession on the tunnel through 2086, plans to flank the course with nearly 600 single-family houses and villas, 180 apartments, a spa, a shopping area, and other attractions.

Phillips, who apprenticed with Robert Trent Jones, Jr., has created two tracks ranked on *Golf Digest's* list of the best courses outside the United States: Yas Links in Abu Dhabi (#24) and Kingsbarns Golf Links in St. Andrews, Scotland (#34). The Granite Bay, California-based architect (916-797-2141) has also designed well-received courses in Italy, Sweden, and Morocco, and he recently opened South Cape Golf Club on Namhae Island in South Korea.

Phillips' course in France will take shape at the foot of Cap Blanc Nez, the departure point for the initial flight across the English Channel in 1909. Groupe Eurotunnel (Jacques Gounon, CEO) hopes to break ground on it next year.

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Golf Course Report, World Edition

continued from page 6

MONTENEGRO / TBD @ the Bay of Milos, Kavac

Montenegro's most ambitious golf developer has sold out to one of its minority partners.

Boka Group, a Bahamas-based firm led by John Gvozdenovic Kennedy and John James, has acquired the assets of LPGD Company LLC. LPGD, a Dutch entity, had hoped to build 27-hole golf complexes in Kavac, along the Bay of Kotor, and in Danilovgrad, a northwestern suburb of Podgorica, the nation's capital. The firm's biggest golf venture, however, was Luštica Golf & Leisure Resort in the town of Seljanovo. It was to have six golf courses.

The sale was announced last month. Boka Group, which also has an office (382-32-331-558) in Kotor, Montenegro, intends to undertake its golf activities as Boka Golf Developments.

Kennedy claims to have "extensive family connections throughout Montenegro." His investors include members of "famous European aristocratic families" – among them princes from Monaco and Russia – as well as "people from the world of business who want to invest money in Montenegro."

So far, Boka Group has revealed plans for just one golf course, the one in Kavac. (LPGD had named it Tivat National Golf Club.) Boka Group will use the design created by LPGD's architect, Derbyshire, England-based Steve Marnoch (44-0-1629-814-891).

The company aims to open the course in the summer of 2016. Depending on how quickly Orascom Development Holding proceeds with its Gary Player-designed course at the Luštica Bay resort community in nearby Tivat, it could be Montenegro's first golf property.

"This premier region has been crying out for a golf course," Kennedy said in a press release announcing his company's purchase of LPGD. Last fall, he described the forthcoming course as "a facility that will change the profile of the Kavac and Tivat areas forever."

The course will take shape on property that's been flattened and cleared for agricultural use, specifically to grow grapes for wine. In the press release, Marnoch said he intends "to reinstate the rich natural landscape" and "create a wonderful golf course for Montenegro."

The course can't help but boost the fortunes of Sea Breeze, an adjacent three-acre, 50-villa community that Boca Group began to develop a year ago. Sea Breeze is also just a short drive from Porto Montenegro, a super-exclusive marina-anchored community that Boca Group is also developing.

With the purchase of LPGD's assets, Boca Group hopes to capitalize on Montenegro's much-discussed emergence as a high-end vacation spot. Over the next decade, according to the World Travel & Tourism Council, the nation's tourism business will increase by nearly 10 percent annually. That's more than double the world's average.

If such growth actually occurs, Montenegro may need a few more of the golf properties that LPGD had hoped to build.

The *World Edition* profiled LPGD's projects in November 2012 and Orascom's in August 2012.

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Phone 1-242-322-5444 Website TheBocaGroup.com, GolfMarnoch.com, SeaBreeze.me, PortoMontenegro.com

NEWS & NOTES FROM EUROPE

This fall, **Leonhard Astl hopes to finally break ground on his 18-hole golf course in Walchsee, Austria.** Astl, the owner of the Moarhof Hotel (43-0-5374-5378) and a nine-hole course in Walchsee, a town 40 miles west of Salzburg, submitted his development plans to local officials at least four years ago. Now, with the end of the entitlement process in sight, construction plans for Moarhof Golf Club are being readied by the layout's co-designers, Anders Forsbrand and Scot Sherman. The course will take shape in a grassy valley surrounded by mountains, on property leased from farmers. Sherman, who's based in

Golf Course Report, World Edition

AUSTRIA, continued from page 7

Greenville, South Carolina (864-382-9062), has called the site “one of the most beautiful I have ever seen anywhere,” and he believes the course can be built without moving a lot of earth. “We are lucky to work with land where many golf holes are just there,” he noted in a press release. Forsbrand, a Swedish pro who began playing on the European Tour in the 1980s, has so far put his “signature” on just one other course, the Kings course at Kungsängen Golf Club in suburban Stockholm, Sweden. Astl, who aims to build a sustainable course that will enhance the environment, expects the construction to take several seasons. The *World Edition* profiled this project in February 2011. *Moarhof.at*.

INDIA / TBD by Surat Municipal Corporation, Surat (Gujarat)

One of the world’s fastest-growing cities is making golf news for the second time this year, as it’s decided to address the shortage of public golf facilities in India.

Government officials in Surat, the center of the nation’s diamond industry, have endorsed a proposal to build what will vie for the honor of being the city’s first 18-hole golf course. The daily-fee track will take shape in Khajod, one of Surat’s southwestern suburbs. A target date for its debut is in 2016.

To build the course, the Surat Municipal Corporation (J. M. Patel, deputy commissioner of planning and development) will collaborate with a private-sector partner. The city will provide the land, via a 45-year lease, and its partner will be responsible for everything else.

“Several private parties have evinced interest in the venture,” an SMC official told the *Times of India*.

The course is the second to be announced in Surat in recent months. Ravani Infrastructures plans to build an 18-hole, David Hemstock-designed layout at Surat’s recently approved Tourism Development Centre. The *World Edition* profiled this project in February 2013.

Surat Municipal Corporation / Muglisara, Main Road / Surat 395003 / Gujarat / India
Phone 91-261-242-3751, 91-261-242-2244 Website SuratMunicipal.org

SAUDI ARABIA / TBD by Jeddah Municipality, Jeddah (Makkah Province)

Saudi Arabia’s second-largest city is looking to build a new zoo, on property that’s also been master-planned for a golf course.

Earlier this year, Jeddah, the principal gateway to Mecca, dismantled its only zoo, a privately owned facility that had been closed for about a year. The municipality’s parks division (Ayad M. Abdullah, general manager) has identified a site for a replacement zoo in the eastern part of the city, on forested land that will accommodate an 18-hole golf course and other recreational amenities.

As best we can determine, the new course will be the city’s first. Jeddah’s Desert Lakes Golf Course, an 18-hole track with sand greens that was established in the late 1980s, closed several years ago.

However, the new course likely won’t be Jeddah’s last. Jeddah, the commercial and financial center of western Saudi Arabia, is growing rapidly, both with Saudis and foreign expatriates. In 2010, the city had a population of 3.2 million. Today, unofficial estimates say, the number exceeds 4 million, and by 2029 it’s expected to go well past 6 million.

As a result, houses are being built everywhere. In fact, the recently closed zoo in Jeddah will soon be a subdivision.

Jeddah (Hani Mohammad Abu Ras, mayor) hopes to start the development process for the new zoo next year, after it identifies private-sector partners to collaborate with. The municipality is willing to work with foreign companies.

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Phone 02-614-9999 Website Jeddah.gov.sa

Golf Course Report, World Edition

.... BONUS MATERIAL ...

NEWS & NOTES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Last month, Gil Hanse's construction crew finally began to clear the site of the golf venue for the 2016 Olympics. According to *Golfweek*, "with good weather, a disciplined work crew, and no more delays from local officials, the course could be ready within 18 months." One problem: As of press time, a permit for the actual golf construction hadn't been issued.

Golf clubs in Australia, like those in Great Britain and the United States, aren't nearly as crowded as they used to be. According to Golf Australia's 2011 census, the number of club members in the nation has fallen from 490,000 in 2000 to 412,000 in 2011, a decline of about 16 percent. As a result, the *Australian Financial Review* reports, "waiting lists at all but the most exclusive clubs around the country barely exist," initiation fees have "largely been abolished or halved," and properties from coast to coast are advertising aggressively to attract new members.

The pro at Caesarea Golf Club, the only 18-hole golf course in Israel, guesstimates that his nation has between 20,000 and 30,000 "true" golfers, which he defines as people who play at least twice a year.

GOLF COURSE OPENINGS

South Korea. Clothes make the man, and the man occasionally makes a golf course. These days, that's the formula on Namhae Island in South Gyeongsang Province, South Korea, where any day now a clothier figures to open his first golf course. His name is Jung Jae Bong, and his South Cape Golf Links will be the centerpiece of a small but upscale waterfront community that features a few villas and a 49-suite hotel. South Cape's 7,312-yard, daily-fee track, the island's third golf course, has been designed by Kyle Phillips, who tells us that Jung has given him "a dramatic site" along "a rocky, craggy coastline" that offers "fantastic views" of the mainland and other nearby islands. "Water is present on every hole," Phillips notes. "Every hole has a view of the sea." Jung (his name is sometimes written as "Chung") is the CEO of various entities, Handsome P&D Company and Fashion Exchange Corporation among them, that manufacture and sell a variety men's and women's apparel under at least a dozen brands. We don't know why he chose to build a golf course on Namhae, but we do know this: The island was the home of the South Korean character in "Lost." *KylePhillips.com*.

ONE FINAL NOTE

A date has been set for this year's Asia Pacific Golf Summit: November 5-7, 2013. The place: Jakarta, Indonesia. The event's keynote speaker will be Tony Fernandes, a Donald Trump wanna-be (he'll soon host "The Apprentice Asia," a spinoff of Trump's U.S. television show) who's described by the event's promoters as "the ultimate dreamer and adventurer in business." As best we can determine, Fernandes has no connection to golf. He owns an airline, a Formula One racing team, and a mobile phone company. We look forward to hearing how he applies his mantra – "Dream the impossible, believe the unbelievable, never take no for an answer" – to the golf business. For more information, go to *GolfConference.org*.

