

GCM

ation of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

One for the ages

A legend on and off the golf course throughout his storied career, Gary Player is GCSAA's 2020 Old Tom Morris Award recipient

PAGE 34

 **GCSAA**

Golf Course Management Magazine
www.gcsaa.org • December 2019

Adam Lawrence

adam.lawrence@golfcoursearchitecture.net

Editor's note: The Drawing Board is a quarterly feature that spotlights new golf course development and construction projects in both the United States and around the world worthy of note to superintendents. The feature is authored by Adam Lawrence, the editor of Golf Course Architecture magazine as well as By Design, the quarterly publication of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

Hillcrest Country Club Los Angeles

California-based architect Kyle Phillips has made a specialty of taking long-established courses and transforming them through redesign. His most spectacular success in this regard was at California Golf Club in San Francisco, but he did a similar job at Del Paso Country Club in Sacramento.

Now Phillips can add another storied name to his résumé — Hillcrest Country Club in Los Angeles. And this was no ordinary bunker-and-greens job. By integrating two areas that had previously been used as turf nurseries into the routing of the course, Phillips has been able to create six entirely new holes, as well as keeping, but changing, six and building six new-look designs within existing corridors. The new par-3 fourth, for example, enjoys a panoramic view of the Los Angeles skyline and the Hollywood Hills.

By bringing these areas into play and being more efficient with the routing in general, Phillips was able to convert the land previously occupied by the old netted driving range, the par-4 10th and a portion of the par-5 11th into the practice facilities the club was looking for. In turn, that freed up the site of the old driving range tees — in prime view from the dining area — for the new 18th green. Alongside that are tees for a completely new first hole, which runs parallel to the 18th.

"The new range is still convenient to the clubhouse and first tee," says Phillips. "Occupying nearly six acres, members can now hit shots over 300 yards without the need for safety netting. A five-hole, par-3 course — 'The Five' — has been laid out adjacent to the range and is focused on family play and fun."

Landscapes Unlimited was the general contractor, Brent Harvey designed the irrigation system, and planting design was by Ken Alperstein of Pinnacle Design Company.

The Saddle at GlenCove Cashiers, N.C.

Old Edwards Hospitality Group has opened a new 12-hole, par-3 course designed by Beau Welling, called The Saddle at GlenCove, as part of its new GlenCove community development near the small town of Cashiers, N.C., in the western corner of the state.

The drawing board

The architect was appointed following Old Edwards' acquisition of the 160-acre Burt farm property adjacent to its 18-hole, Tom Jackson-designed golf course, Old Edwards Club at Highlands Cove.

"Together, our intention was to create a new, innovative club that could be enjoyed by multiple generations for many years to come and built upon Old Edwards' world-class reputation as well as an impressive array of amenities around the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau," Welling says. "Old Edwards wanted a unique golf experience to be the heart of the development.

"The Saddle was designed with the spirit of community in mind. From the outset, the goal was to create a truly relaxed and fun short course that would be enjoyable for all ages and skill levels — a golf experience that would be enjoyable for the multi-generational nature of Old Edwards' members and guests. The result is an inviting and comfortable atmosphere for those new to the game as well as those skilled golfers who are looking to unwind in the stunning mountain setting."

Cutten Fields Guelph, Canada

The Cutten Fields club has voted overwhelmingly in favor of a project led by golf architect Jeff Mingay that involves rebuilding all 18 of its greens, principally to convert putting surfaces to bentgrass.

The existing *Poa annua* greens at Cutten Fields, which opened for play in 1931, have not fared well over the past several winters, resulting in significant turf loss and damage in the spring. GCSAA Class A superintendent Bill Green, an 18-year association member who has been at Cutten Fields since 2015, has selected 007 bentgrass to plant on the reconstructed green surfaces, which should significantly reduce, if not entirely eliminate, the turf issues.

While the main focus of the project is greens reconstruction — using the California green construction method and grassing to 007 bentgrass — it will also include a comprehensive bunker remodel, work on some tees and related tree removal.

Tree removal will be key to turf health on the planned new greens. Former USGA agronomist Dave Oatis has been working with Green as a consultant to the project, advising on tree removal and greens construction. Along with necessary tree removal, more than 200 indigenous species of trees are planned to be planted.

Construction on the new par-4 13th and 16th holes began the week of October 21. "We're hopeful to complete rough shaping of those two new holes over the next month, prior to winter and snowfall," Mingay says. "Those holes will be completed and planted in spring 2020, with a tar-

geted fall 2020 opening, when construction of the remaining greens, along with bunker and tee work, is scheduled to begin. The club has a plan to keep nine holes open for play next year while construction progresses."

The Ocean Course at Kiawah Island (S.C.)

Architect Scot Sherman has completed work on the Ocean Course at Kiawah Island in South Carolina in preparation for it hosting the 2021 PGA Championship.

"In advance of the tournament, the resort recognized the need to perform some necessary maintenance work to the Ocean Course while taking great care not to stray from Pete Dye's original design," says Sherman, who has previously worked with the Dye family and for longtime Dye associate Bobby Weed. "Because I had worked on another project with the resort's owner and have a history with the Dye family, they reached out for some assistance. My role has been to review every aspect of the course and recommend necessary maintenance, while ensuring Pete's masterpiece was not tampered with.

"Initially, we spent much time studying older aerial photos of the course along with photographs taken during original construction and throughout the playing of the 1991 Ryder Cup," Sherman says. "Because the Ocean Course was where I first met Pete and Alice in 1989, this was really a walk down memory lane for me, and the photos were helpful in making decisions about the work ahead of us."

On the Rocks Golf Course Buckeye, Ariz.

Construction will begin next year on a new 12-hole, par-3 course in Buckeye, Ariz., designed by Forrest Richardson.

The layout has a working title of On the Rocks and will be built as part of a luxury recreational vehicle development from RV Park and Campground Investors, which also includes an RV park with 800 spaces.

Richardson has routed the course to take advantage of foothills and a rocky mountain that border the northern boundary of the site. "Sloping land is unsuitable to maneuver and park motorhomes, which was part of my learning curve," Richardson says. "But for golf, we know that craggy rock outcroppings and desert terrain can be an incredible and dramatic adventure, especially for par-3 holes."

His aim is to create a fun course that has many of the hallmarks seen at highly ranked courses. The course design takes advantage of the natural desert terrain and will preserve boulders, native desert washes and giant saguaro cacti.