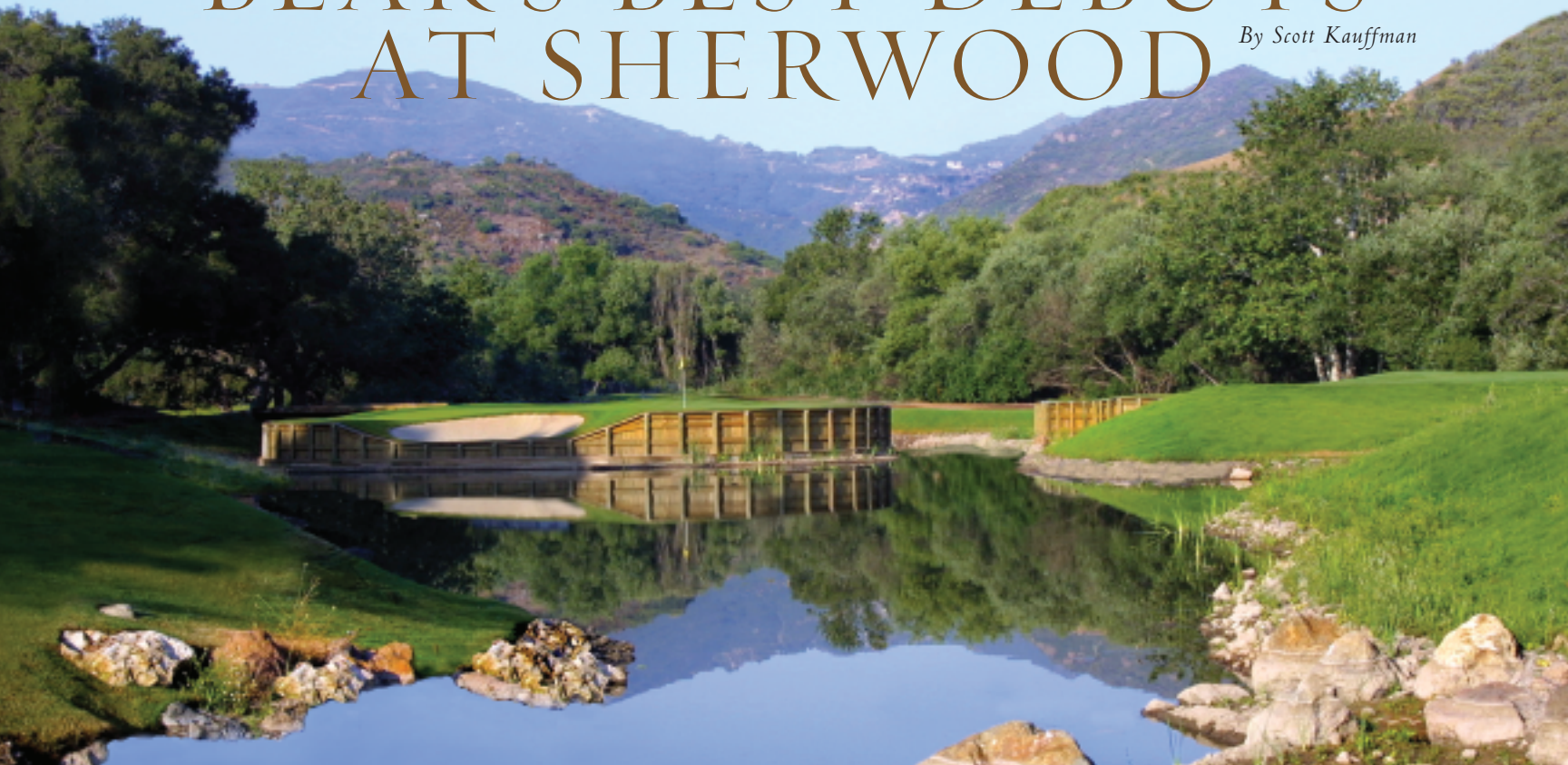


BEAR'S BEST DEBUTS AT SHERWOOD

By Scott Kauffman



EVER SINCE CALIFORNIA'S **SHERWOOD COUNTRY CLUB** opened its Jack Nicklaus Signature course, the par-72, 7,025-yard layout has been the lead venue for numerous high-profile golf events, including the recent Tiger Woods Target World Challenge. Now, 17 years after unveiling this Nicklaus gem, the exclusive gated Thousand Oaks community is about to add another distinctive amenity to its portfolio—Bear's Best, an 18-hole, par-3 course.

Like the famous par-3 courses at Augusta National Golf Club and the Olympic Club, Sherwood's new 2,021-yard layout will be a complementary alternative to the main championship layout, and its design will pay homage to some of Nicklaus' most notable par-3 holes.

For instance, the fifth hole at Bear's Best

was inspired by hole No. 12 at the Tournament Players Club of Michigan in Dearborn. Just 166 yards from the tips, golfers must navigate a strategically placed pond between the tee and the sloping, two-tier green. Other holes were influenced by par 3's at Pasadera Country Club in Monterey, Calif.; The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club and Spa in Jupiter, Fla.; and Nicklaus' treasured Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio.

"With three sets of tees, this course will appeal to all family members as well as golfers of different playing levels," says Alexandra Caulty, Sherwood's general manager. "Many of our business golfers will appreciate the ease of playing a round of golf on a tight schedule."

The course is actually part of Sherwood's newly created Sherwood Lake Club, and a key

element inside the 1,900-acre master-planned community, which is owned by David Murdock's Castle & Cooke empire.

This new "club within a club" will include an elegant 14,000-sq.-ft. clubhouse that mirrors the community's 54,000-sq.-ft. classic Georgian-style clubhouse and features a boardroom, bar and grill, pro shop, fitness center, men's and women's locker rooms with saunas, a pool and an outdoor spa. At the end of 2005, Sherwood had sold 451 of its planned 669 residences. Homes in the new Sherwood Lake Club area will start around \$3.5 million.

According to club officials, the Bear's Best course, nestled within a picturesque canyon adjacent to Lake Sherwood, should be open for play this spring. **805.496.3036**, **WWW.SHERWOODCC.COM**.



BIGHORN: THE BILLION- DOLLAR CLUB

It's no coincidence that "big" is included in the name of one of California's most affluent golf communities: It seems Palm Desert's **BIGHORN** just keeps growing. In fact, it recently reached a sizable milestone by surpassing the billion-dollar mark in real estate sales.

Located at the base of the Santa Rosa Mountains, the upscale 36-hole community reports that its real estate division sold \$310 million in property during 2005, putting it over \$1.3 billion in sales since its inception in 1990. Perhaps what's most impressive is the fact that Bighorn beat its 2004 sales total—of more than \$200 million—just five months into the year.

According to Bighorn Marketing Director Theresa Maggio, the community saw the resale market begin to heat up last year as members decided to upgrade and build new homes on the developer's last phase of half-acre and one-acre lots (\$2 to \$5 million each). "The real estate market as a whole has increased exponentially over the past few years," says R.D. Hubbard, chairman of Bighorn. "With only 18 custom homesites remaining, recent sales activity only confirms our success as a thriving, growing, world-class golf community." **888.551.5577, WWW.BIGHORNGOLF.COM.**

CALIFORNIA LINKS UP

Residents of California's Central Coast are the recent beneficiaries of a new golf course that opened in January, the first of what could be three new courses at a master-planned community called The Woodlands. Located on the southern end of San Luis Obispo County in Nipomo, **MONARCH DUNES GOLF CLUB** introduces links-style golf (characterized by sandy and treeless seaside land) to this scenic wine country.

Surrounded by windswept dunes, coastal vistas and amber hillsides, Monarch Dunes is the handiwork of El Dorado Hills, Calif.-based architect Damian V. Pascuzzo of Graves & Pascuzzo. PGA TOUR professional Steve Pate was a design consultant on the course. "The course is reminiscent of the links layouts found in Scotland and Ireland, making for a truly unique and unspoiled golf experience," says John Scardino, the project owner and developer.

The Woodlands is the largest real estate development planned in the Central Coast area, and at build-out, it will comprise some 1,320 homes, a shopping center, a business park and a full-service resort. Additionally, Monarch Dunes will have 45 holes of golf—including two upscale 18-hole layouts and a nine-hole executive course—as well as a clubhouse and a practice facility. **805.343.9459, WWW.MONARCHDUNESGOLF.COM.**