



## Ibis ~ a family affair

*"I think it's kind of special that the three of us designed golf courses in the same community. Each stands on its own."* — JACK NICKLAUS

WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA: The Club at Ibis is the only private community that can boast three Nicklaus-family designed golf courses: the Legend, the Heritage, and the Tradition, created by Jack Nicklaus Sr., Jack Nicklaus Jr., and Steve Nicklaus. Each has a slightly different feel. The Legend Course hosted the National Senior Club Professional Championship and the LPGA's Office Depot tournament. *Golfweek* named it one of the country's most distinctive courses, and *Golf for Women* rated the Heritage Course most women-friendly in America. Its practice facility is world class, with a 144,000 square foot tee box covered in seashore paspalum grass.

"To say our community is progressive with an eye to the future is an understatement," declared Matt Masemore, director of golf course maintenance. "The club just completed a three-year, \$37 million redevelopment of its Clubhouse and Sports Village when planning started for a multi-million renovation of our Legend Course.

"Putting greens, like any living organism, have a life cycle," explained Masemore. "The USGA estimates greens have a 15- to 20-year life expectancy. At top clubs, where the grass is mowed tighter, a green's age is closer to the 15-year mark. It was clear that our Legend Course

greens were getting long in the tooth. I was having trouble providing the consistent speed and smoothness expected by our members.

"With the course closing this summer for greens renovation, we decided to seize the opportunity to upgrade the *overall* design. Several significant enhancements are planned, including installing a new two-wire underground irrigation system and increasing the size of our tee boxes—particularly our most forward tees. We have a large ladies' contingent of golfers resulting in 52 percent of our rounds played from the front tee box.

"Our golf courses border the Grassy Waters Nature Preserve. Sandhill cranes, blue herons, roseate spoonbills, and, of course, ibis are common neighbors in the community," said Masemore. "Mr. Nicklaus is taking the unusual move of *reducing* 13 acres of sandy waste area to three. He wants to further enhance our park-like setting."

### PRIME SOUTH FLORIDA LOCATION

The Club at Ibis is almost a small town. Its 1,800 homes plus over 3,000 members (living in 33 distinct neighborhoods) have access to a Sports Village and Clubhouse complex, three Nicklaus courses, and 16 Har-Tru tennis courts

with sub-surface irrigation systems. It is located 20 minutes from every modern convenience. Palm Beach Airport (PBI) is to the south and the Gardens Mall, Kravis Center, and beaches of Singer Island are due east. The international equestrian communities of Wellington are just off to the west.

"Our eye-popping investments are overseen by the best in the business. One look at the interior design of our Clubhouse and restaurants will sell you," concluded Masemore. "We have the Golden Bear himself advising us on course redesign. He has been much more hands-on than I expected." ■

*For more information on membership opportunities at The Club at Ibis, visit [clubatibis.com](http://clubatibis.com), or please phone (800) 741-4500.*



## INTERESTING GOLF COURSE FACTS COURTESY OF THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

- ◆ The total landmass of golf courses in the United States equals about one-half the state of Connecticut.
  - ◆ A typical 18-hole golf course produces enough oxygen to support 4,000 to 7,000 people.
- ◆ A course produces a cooling effect. During the summer months, it can be 7-15 degrees cooler than an urban/downtown setting.
  - ◆ The stimpmeter was developed in the early 1900s to measure the uniformity of green speed from one hole to another. It is best used to compare greens on the same course, not to compare greens from one course to another.
- ◆ In the 1960s, putting green turf was typically cut at one-fourth inch. Today, in tournament competition, it is one-eighth inch or less.