



Mirage in the desert

By KENNY RICE

CAIRO, Egypt - Peter Harradine has just been commissioned to design an additional 9 holes to the prestigious Mirage City Golf Course which is only a 12 minutes drive from Heliopolis and Cairo airport. Construction is programmed to start in the spring of 2003 with a view to opening the facility during the summer of 2004.

Peter Harradine designed and supervised the construction of the previous 18 holes at Mirage City which is reputed to be the best golf course in Egypt as far as layout and standard of maintenance is concerned. As Harradine explained: "There are definitely some nicer golf course sites in Egypt and we all know that it is the site that mostly pre-determines a beautiful course. At Mirage we built the course in the middle of the desert on what was originally a refuse dump with garbage stacked eight metres high which presented quite a challenge to build. I am however extremely happy with the results and I definitely recommended the course to anyone going to Cairo."

The 18-hole championship course offers plush, tree-lined fairways, nine lakes, streams and waterfalls that have turned a once barren desert into one of the most challenging golf courses in the region.

Not to be missed is also the spectacular clubhouse, which offers an environment unique in Egypt and with a high social element on its agenda.

The course and the new luxury 5-star hotel is managed by JW Marriott. The hotel features 12 international and speciality restaurants and bars, a themed water park, and the world's second largest spa (covering 25,000 m²).