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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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St. Johnsbury Country Club Sold

St. Johnsbury, VT: A partnership from Florida with roots in New England purchased St. Johnsbury Country Club, allowing the club to avert a potential bankruptcy. Chris McClaren and Doreen Holl are the principals of the Firinn Golf Group. They presently operate Pine Lakes Golf Club in Palm Coast, Florida. Mark O'Neil of the Essex Golf Group managed the transaction for the member-owned country club.

"We know that concern about the stability and future of the club has had an impact on member renewals and the club's reputation in the area," according to Firinn. "We are committed to maintaining the quality of our core product - the golf course. Besides this commitment to maintenance, we will be looking for ways to enhance the natural beauty and aesthetics of the course while maintaining its playability."

Golf began in St. Johnsbury in 1923 when Willie Park, Jr., two-time winner of the British Open designed nine diverse, interesting and singular golf holes for the newly formed club. It would be the last of Park's 60 North American designs due to his ailing health. In 1992 famed architect Geoffrey Cornish cradled the original nine in the embrace of nine peripheral holes. While the older holes require finesse, the new nine demand power. Bring your best up-and-down skills to par the outward half, display precise placement and clear thinking on the way home. St."J" has a loyal membership and following and is considered one of the top courses in Vermont. It has been the host of numerous and state and regional tournaments with the most recent being the 2014 Women's Tri-state Championship.

The Board of Directors of St. Johnsbury Country Club retained the services of the **Essex Golf Group** to market the club to potential buyers. Essex Golf handles the marketing and brokerage of golf course properties throughout New England and the east coast. The company's "**Interim Management Service**" provides clients with the security and confidence that their assets are being managed professionally and cost effectively during the transition process. The timing of this transaction was less than four months from initial listing to closing.

For more information on the Essex Golf Group, contact Mark O'Neil, Sr. at 860-510-0655 or via e-mail at moneil@essexgolfgroup.com, or by visiting www.essexgolfgroup.com.

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