



96% Member Approval Enables Evergreen Partners to Acquire Sommerby Golf Club

Owner-Operator Commits to Preserving Legacy While Investing in the Club's Future

BYRON, MN (February 2026) – Evergreen Partners, an emerging owner-operator of private golf and country clubs, is pleased to announce its acquisition of **Sommerby Golf Club** in Byron, Minnesota. This strategic addition strengthens Evergreen's growing portfolio and reflects its long-term commitment to elevating exceptional clubs into enduring lifestyle destinations for members and their families.

Located just outside Rochester, Sommerby Golf Club is widely regarded as one of the Midwest's premier private clubs. The club features an acclaimed **18-hole championship golf course designed by Tom Lehman and John Fought**, consistently ranked by *Golf Digest* among the top courses in Minnesota. Sommerby has hosted numerous **MGA and USGA competitions**, reinforcing its reputation for championship-caliber golf and elite conditioning.



Preserving a Legacy

When Evergreen Partners was introduced to the original developer **Shawn Dahl, President at Ames Asset Management**, ownership was not actively pursuing a transaction.

“We built and operated Sommerby for decades and have significant residential development still ahead,” said Dahl. “**We were not interested in transitioning the golf operation to a group with short-term motivations.** We needed to know our people would be taken care of, some of them having been with us since the very beginning.”

He continued, “The importance of selecting the right long-term owner was heightened by the ongoing real estate development within the community. We know the club experience directly impacts real estate sales. With several million dollars in planned investment over the coming decade, Ames will remain deeply vested in ensuring Somerby’s future is guided by capable operators who share our long-term vision. **Evergreen distinguished itself through its patient capital, operational depth, and clear commitment to elevating both amenities and the overall member experience.**”

The members had a right of first refusal to acquire the property, but after a town hall meeting in December to meet the Evergreen team and hear the future vision of the property, **the membership voted 96% in favor of Evergreen becoming the next steward of the property.** In a message to club members, Dahl added, “Evergreen Partners has embraced Ames’ vision for Somerby and will continue to grow the club into one of the finest private club communities in the Midwest.”



A Distinctive Club Lifestyle

Somerby offers a thoughtfully curated lifestyle that extends well beyond the golf course. The club’s **35,000-square-foot clubhouse** serves as the social heart of the community, featuring refined dining experiences including **The Grille and Chophouse**, which cater to both relaxed gatherings and elevated culinary occasions.

Members enjoy a comprehensive suite of amenities designed for year-round engagement, including:

- **State-of-the-art golf simulator and instruction programs**, supporting year-round play and player development
- **Expansive practice facilities**, including a premier driving range, short-game areas, and one of Minnesota’s largest dedicated putting courses
- **Ice skating, resort-style aquatics**, along with **tennis and pickleball courts** supporting active, family-friendly recreation
- **Fitness and wellness facilities** designed to support holistic health and everyday leisure



A Vision for the Future

Matthew Hobbins, Founder and CEO of Evergreen Partners, shared:

“Somerset Golf Club reflects everything we value in private clubs...exceptional golf, strong amenities, and an engaged membership. We're excited about the Rochester market, which is experiencing durable growth driven by the \$5.0 billion expansion of the Mayo Clinic. Somerset is uniquely positioned to serve as the premier private club for this growing community. We're grateful to have been selected by Ames and look forward to investing thoughtfully in the club, preserving its traditions, and building on its strong legacy for generations to come.”

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About Evergreen Partners

Evergreen Partners specializes in acquiring and operating private golf and country clubs, focusing on elevating the member and employee experience through thoughtful investment and community engagement. Evergreen's people-first culture, unique model of broad employee ownership, and commitment to relentless hospitality have attracted significant investment capital and a team of passionate, high-quality operators.

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