## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

In re:

**CHAPTER 11** 

The Cliffs Club & Hospitality Group, Inc., et al., d/b/a The Cliffs Golf & Country Club,

Case No. 12-01220

**Jointly Administered** 

Debtors.

#### **DEBTORS' RESPONSE TO LETTER FROM MR. MARK BRODY**

COME NOW The Cliffs Club & Hospitality Group, Inc. and its affiliated debtors in the above-captioned Chapter 11 cases, as debtors and debtors-in-possession (collectively, the "Debtors"), by and through undersigned counsel, and hereby respond (this "Response") to a letter from Mr. Mark Brody ("Mr. Brody") to this Court, which letter was filed as Docket Entry No. 200 and styled as a motion for relief (the "Brody Motion"). This Court set a status conference on the Brody Motion at the April 10, 2012 omnibus hearing in these jointly administered cases. In support of this Response, the Debtors respectfully represent as follows:

The Debtors, followed by the last four digits of their respective taxpayer identification numbers and Chapter 11 case numbers, are as follows: The Cliffs Club & Hospitality Group, Inc. (6338) (12-01220); CCHG Holdings, Inc. (1356) (12-01223); The Cliffs at Mountain Park Golf & Country Club, LLC (2842) (12-01225); The Cliffs at Keowee Vineyards Golf & Country Club, LLC (5319) (12-01226); The Cliffs at Walnut Cove Golf & Country Club, LLC (9879) (12-01227); The Cliffs at Keowee Falls Golf & Country Club, LLC (3230) (12-01229); The Cliffs at Keowee Springs Golf & Country Club, LLC (2898) (12-01230); The Cliffs at High Carolina Golf & Country Club, LLC (4293) (12-01231); The Cliffs at Glassy Golf & Country Club, LLC (6559) (12-01234); The Cliffs Valley Golf & Country Club, LLC (6486) (12-01236); and Cliffs Club & Hospitality Service Company, LLC (9665) (12-01237).

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This Court has jurisdiction over this Response under 28 U.S.C. § 1334. Venue of this proceeding is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1409. This is a core proceeding within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2).

#### **BACKGROUND**

- 2. On February 28, 2012 (the "<u>Petition Date</u>"), the Debtors filed voluntary petitions for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 3. On March 12, 2012, the United States Trustee appointed the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the "Committee") in these Chapter 11 cases pursuant to that certain Fourth Amended Appointment of Committee of Unsecured Creditors [Docket Entry No. 141]. No trustee or examiner has been appointed in these Chapter 11 cases.
- 4. The Debtors are authorized to operate their businesses as debtors-in-possession pursuant to Sections 1107 and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 5. A description of the Debtors' businesses, the reasons for filing these Chapter 11 cases, and the relief sought from this Court to allow for a smooth transition into operations under Chapter 11 are set forth in the Declaration of Timothy P. Cherry in Support of First Day Motions (the "Cherry Declaration"), which has been filed with the Court [Docket Entry No. 44].

#### **RELIEF REQUESTED**

- 6. The Debtors submit this Response in aid of the status conference before this Court set for April 10, 2012. The Debtors reserve the right to assert any additional substantive responses to the Brody Motion in advance of any contested hearing on this matter.
- 7. At present, the Debtors do not contest Mr. Brody's assertion that certain non-debtor entities and Mr. James B. Anthony ("Mr. Anthony"), the principal equity holder in the Debtors' ultimate parent company (The Cliffs Communities, Inc., a non-debtor), entered into an

agreement with Mr. Brody whereby, among other things, Mr. Brody received rights to play a set number of rounds of golf per year at one or more of the Debtors' golf clubs. Prior to the Petition Date, the Debtors honored this agreement, and reflected in their books and records that Mr. Brody held an honorary social membership at the golf club owned by The Cliffs at Glassy Golf & Country Club, LLC ("Glassy"), a Debtor. Mr. Brody's honorary membership agreement (the "Agreement") is reflected on Schedule G of Glassy's schedules of assets and liabilities filed with this Court on March 30, 2012. A true and correct copy of the Agreement, along with certain related correspondence and documents, is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

- 8. Per the Brody Motion, Mr. Brody requests that this Court order that he retain his honorary social membership and his privileges thereunder. In the alternative, Mr. Brody requests that this Court order that he be paid the sum of \$274,560, his estimate of the current value of his honorary social membership privileges. Mr. Brody is not entitled to his requested relief.
- 9. At most, Mr. Brody is: (a) a counterparty to an executory contract with the Debtors, subject to the Debtors' decision (or the decision of an acquirer of the Debtors' assets) to assume or reject his contract; and (b) the holder of an unsecured, contingent, and unliquidated claim against the Debtors with respect to any rights related to his honorary social membership, including a potential rejection damages claim if his honorary social membership is rejected. The Debtors' books and records reflect no amounts owing to Mr. Brody with respect to his honorary social membership, excepting only a general unsecured claim for a member account balance in the amount of \$173.29.
- 10. Like all honorary members in the Debtors' clubs, until a decision is made at some point in the future to assume or reject Mr. Brody's membership, Mr. Brody, subject to the terms of the Agreement, will be entitled to continue using the Debtors' facilities according to the same

terms and privileges he enjoyed prior to the Petition Date. Mr. Brody, and all similarly situated honorary members, will be provided notice of any decision made to assume or reject honorary memberships.

- 11. Currently, the Debtors anticipate that all membership agreements with the Debtors' clubs (honorary or otherwise) will be rejected. The Debtors do not presently know precisely how any acquirer of the Debtors' assets intends to treat honorary memberships; however, any proposed treatment of honorary memberships will be addressed in the Debtors' proposed plan of reorganization, which proposed plan will be subject to objections and approval or rejection by persons entitled to vote thereon.
- 12. Because the treatment of Mr. Brody's executory contract rights and potential claims is presently unknown, Mr. Brody's requested relief is premature and not ripe for consideration. Mr. Brody will be afforded the opportunity to file a proof of claim in these cases, voice his objection to any proposed plan of reorganization, and vote any valid claim he may have, with the benefit of knowing his proposed treatment in these cases.
- 13. Accordingly, the Debtors request that the Brody Motion be denied at this time, without prejudice to Mr. Brody's rights to assert his positions at a future point in these cases.

#### **NOTICE OF THIS RESPONSE**

14. No trustee or examiner has been appointed in these Chapter 11 cases. Notice of this Response will be served pursuant to the Order Establishing Certain Notice, Case Management and Administrative Procedures [Docket Entry No. 121], and upon Mr. Brody. The Debtors submit that, under the circumstances, no other or further notice is required.

#### NO PRIOR REQUEST

15. No previous request for the relief sought in this Response has been made to this Court or any other court.

WHEREFORE, the Debtors respectfully request that the Brody Motion be denied and that this Court grant such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: April 5, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Däna Wilkinson

Däna Wilkinson
District Court I.D. No. 4663
LAW OFFICE OF DÄNA WILKINSON
365-C East Blackstock Road
Spartanburg, SC 29301
864.574.7944 (Telephone)
864.574.7531 (Facsimile)
danawilkinson@danawilkinsonlaw.com

-and-

/s/ J. Michael Levengood

Gary W. Marsh
Georgia Bar No. 471290
J. Michael Levengood
Georgia Bar No. 447934
Bryan E. Bates
Georgia Bar No. 140856
MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP
303 Peachtree Street, Suite 5300
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
404-527-4000 (phone)
404-527-4198 (fax)
gmarsh@mckennalong.com
mlevengood@mckennalong.com
bbates@mckennalong.com

Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

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Exhibit A

## THE CLIFFS GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUBS

### Honorary Social Membership Reservation Form

<i>I. We would be honored to be accepted as Honorary Social Members of The Cliffs Golf and Country Club: Yes No</i>
Please proceed with processing my. our membership: Yes No
I. We are not able to accept this invitation at the present time:YesNo
General Information
Name(s): Mark Broky Mailing Address: 212 Summit
Mailing Address: 212 Summit
City: Greenulle State: SC Zip code: 29609
City: Greeny le State: SC Zip code: 29609  Home telephone: 240-4289 Business telephone:
Favorite menu items:
Favorite desserts:
Favorite wines:
Signature: Mult Mosty Date: 1/8/00  Membership account: B181
Please return to:  Mimsy DeMars

200 Fire Pink Way Landrum, South Carolina 29356

# MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT FOR HONORARY MEMBERSHIP IN THE CLIFFS GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

I have received and reviewed the outline referring to the special Honorary Lifetime Membership agreement between Jim Anothony, representing Cliffs Communties, and myself. Hereto referred as page number one of this document and also signed by Mark Brody.

The Honorary Membership granted is *Honorary Social* and is provided on an agreement dated October 19, 1995. No membership fees or dues are applicable.

My rights and privileges as an Honary Lifetime Member shall only entitle Mark Brody to use the facilities at the Cliff Courses as per agreement stated above. Also the undersigned hereby acknowledges that the membership in the Cliffs Golf and Country Club or facilities provided at the Cliffs Golf and Country Club does not convey any equity or ownership interest or any other property interest in the Cliffs Golf and Country Club or the facilities provided at the Cliffs Golf and Country Club.

Membership only grants to the undersigned a non-exclusive lifetime license to use the facilities provided at the Cliffs Golf and Country Club. The specific membership privilege granted coincides with the particular agreement as stated above and is rolled into the honorary membership for accounting and bookkeeping purposes. The undersigned does not have the right to receive any of the Club's assets if dissolved.

I acknowledge and agree that as an Honorary Lifetime Member (complimentary status) and prior contractual agreement as stated above I have not paid an Initiation/ Membership Deposit or fees. In no event am I entitled to any refund of the Initiation/ membership deposit, Club Dues and Fees.

This Lifetime Membership Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of South Carolina without regard to the principles of conflicts of laws.

Date O

Patt M. Fero

Vice President of Membership

Mark Broo

November 15, 2000

Mr. Mark Brody 547 Rock Bottom Road Sunset, SC 29685

Dear Mark.

Pursuant to our recent meeting, I am writing to outline the special Honorary Membership agreement between you and Mr. Jim Anthony.

1. We have classified your membership as an Honorary Social Membership.

2. You have received a membership account that provides for you to charge your food, beverage and other purchases.

Through agreement dated October 19, 1995, you are provided the opportunity to play 16 times a year at the Cliffs Course (16 foursomes).
 When playing, your guests are charged cart fees only. You do not pay cart fees. There are no unescorted guest privileges provided with this membership.

5. When playing golf, you will present a VIP card. As we discussed, this seems to be the best way to accommodate your playing times, with no confusion in the golf shop or potential embarrasment to you. Enclosed are 4 VIP cards to start with. You indicated that was sufficient for the time being. Please call me when you need more cards.

Please sign and return the enclosed Honorary Membership Agreement form. Two copies are provided. Please retain one for your records. If you have any other questions, or if I have omitted anything pertinent to this agreement, please call me.

Singerely,

VP Membership

November 28,2000

MARK BRODY 212 Summit Drive Greenville,S.C. 29609 864-240-4289

Pat,

Thanks for sending the information on the Honorary Membership. I have read over it and for the most part agree with it but made a change to reflect the agreement written October 19, 1995. Please read over it to make sure I am correct in my change. I have the agreement in a lockbox and am making change by memory, but I am sure my memory serves me correct.

Thanks.

November 15, 2000 212 Summit Drive Greenville, S.C. 29609

#### Dear Mark,

Pursuant to our recent meeting, I am writing to outline the <u>special</u> Honorary Membership agreement between you and Mr. Jim Anothony, representing Cliffs Communities.

- 1. We have classified your membership as an Honorary Social Membership. This makes our bookkeeping and accounting simplified.
- 2. You have received a membership account that provides for you to charge your food, beverage and other purchases. Also you will receive a pass for your cars to enter the Cliffs Communities
- 3. Through agreement dated October 19, 1995, you are provided the opportunity to play 64 rounds per year or 16 foursomes.
- 4. When playing, your guest are charges cart fees only. You pay no fees associated with the golf match. There are no unescorted guest privileges provided with this membership.
- 5. When playing golf, you will present a VIP card. Enclosed are 4 VIP cards to start with. Please call when you need more.

Please sign and return the enclosed Honorary Membership Agreement.

Sincerely,

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NB 11.28.00

October 19, 1995

Start

WiPards

Mr. Mark Brody 547 Rock Bottom Road Sunset, SC 29685

Dear Mr. Brody,

At the request of Mr. Jim Anthony, I am writing to finalize your golf access agreement for playing privileges at The Cliffs. Mr. Anthony has confirmed with me the following:

\* You are granted 64 individual rounds per calendar year (16 foursomes)

\* When you play - you pay nothing; your guests pay cart fee only.

\* You must play with your guests at all times.

\* The agreement is renewable each year as long as the present ownership structure remains the same as it is today.

Also, I enclose a vehicle identification form that entitles you to receive a sticker for your car. Ben Graydon, Director of Public Safety, will personally issue you the sticker. Please mail or return the form in person to the front gate.

If I can be of further assistance, please telephone me.

Kind regards,

Patt Fero
Director of Club Services

ACCURED INTEREST OF FOR LOAN OF ORIGINAL PAYMENT.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )

COUNTY OF GREENVILLE )

WHEREAS, by prior Agreement dated January 11,1991, recorded November 6,1991, in Deed Book 1453 page 889 in the office of the RMC for Greenville County, South Carolina, Glassy Mountain Devolopment Company, Inc, and James B. Anothony, herein collectively "Developer", granted unto Mark Brody of 547 Rocky Bottom Road, Sunset, S.C. 29685, herein "Brody", certain rights to acquire property in the development known as the Cliffs At Glassy located in Greenville County, South Carolina.

And WHEREAS, the parties hereto have agreed to cancel said agreement and to substitute this agreement in lieu of the said prior agreement. NOW THEREFORE,

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that in consideration of the covenants herein and the further sum of One (1.00) Dollar, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree to the cancellation of "Memorandum of Agreement" recorded in Deed Book 1453, page 889, and Brody hereby releases all his rights therein unto Developer.

Developer agrees to pay unto Brody the total sum of Two
Hundred Fifteen Thousand (215,000.00) Dollars in installments
to be paid as follows: Fifty Five Thousand (55,000.00) Dollars on
JULY 11TH 1994: Eighty Thousand (80,000.00) Dollars on
January 15 1995: Eighty Thousand (80,000.00) Dollars on January
15,1996, together with interest from the January 1st 1994, at the
rate of ten (10) percent which said interest shall be
paid on January 15,1997, the final maturity date. The sum of
Thirty Three Thousand Two Hundred Fifteen & 65 cents (33,215.65)
Dollars.

Time is of the essence and in the event of default, Developer will be liable for court costs and a reasonable attorney's fee in event this obligation is placed in the hands of an attorney for collection.

Brody agrees that he will have no further interest in or lien upon the real estate of the Cliffs At Glassy except as follows: the parties agree that they will mutually designate some properties of the Developer to which Developer has, in the opinion of Brody's counsel, marketable fee simple title(this property may or may not be a part of the Cliffs At Glassy). Developer will, at Developer's expense, grant unto Brody a valid first mortage lien to secure payment of the sums set forth hereinabove. The parties further

membership in the golf course and club facilities at the Cliffs At This membership shall include the right to use said golf course for a total of 64 rounds or 16 forsomes at no cost: cart fees shall be paid for all players except to Brody's cart. There will be no monthly fee for Brody but a user fee or guest fee will be charged for any guest Brody may bring to use said other amenities. This membership shall be personal unto Brody only and not transferrable by him. AHYOR playing 7 this (program) players must accompany Brode This document is binding as of lots being picked and assigned not to exceed 45 days from date of signing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, WE have placed our hands and seals this day of // July ,1994.

WITNESS:

GLASSY MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

INC.

BY: JAMES B. ANOTHONY

B. ANOTHONY.

Case 12-01220-jw Doc 253 Filed 04/05/12 Entered 04/05/12 16:04:20 Desc Main Document Page 16 of 16 be a part of the Cliffs At Glassy). Developer will, at Developer's expense, grant unto Brody a valid first mortage lien to secure payment of the sums set forth hereinabove. The parties further agree that this mortgage will give Brody a secured position equal to at least Two Hundred Twenty Five (225) percent of the principal sum of the indebtedness hereunder.

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membership in the golf course and club facilities at the Cliffs At

Glassy. This membership shall include the right to use said golf

course for a total of 64 rounds or 16 forsomes at no cost: per year

cart fees shall be paid for all players except to Brody's cart.

There will be no monthly fee for Brody but a user fee or guest fee will be charged for any guest Brody may bring to use said other amenities. This membership shall be personal unto Brody only and

This document is binding as of lots being picked and assigned not to exceed 45 days from date of signing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, WE have placed our hands and seals this

day of // July ,1994.

WITNESS: MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
INC.

Carel F. Whalay

Y. JAMES B. ANOTHONY

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