Armchair designing for supers

By MARK LESLIE

Las Vegas — Superintendents will be the architects and Jack Nicklaus, Rees Jones and Arthur Hills the judges in a golf course design competition run by the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA).

The ASGCA Golden Anniversary Challenge was the brainchild of society President Denis Griffiths, who said: “We wanted to keep our presentation [at the International Golf Course Conference] fun, light and enjoyable. In the last few years so many of our presentations have gotten a bit heavy, dealing with problems and issues. We’ve overlooked the creativity and excitement that we as architects get.”

Saying that members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) daily manage existing golf courses and grow in the new ones, Griffiths asked: “But how often do they get to design one? Here’s their chance.”

There is a $100 entry fee for the

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Classic Challenge espouses approach friendly to seniors

LEESBURG, Fla. — Incorporating a concept dubbed “The Classic Challenge,” Pringle Development is building a golf course here designed for seniors as well as women and most “average” golfers.

The track, called The Monarch, is part of the Royal Highlands community between Leesburg and Clermont.

What the targeted golfers appreciate most in the concept is “our golfer-friendly approach to design,” said Len deBoer, course architect and president of Classic Golf Group of Winter Haven.

That approach entails “realistic fairway lengths, wider primary and secondary landing areas, larger greens, larger fringe areas for chipping, optional safe and strategic options to every hole and an absence of severe penal hazards that cost strokes even on good shots,” he added.

“We have studied what senior golfers want and we have listened to them,” deBoer said.

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