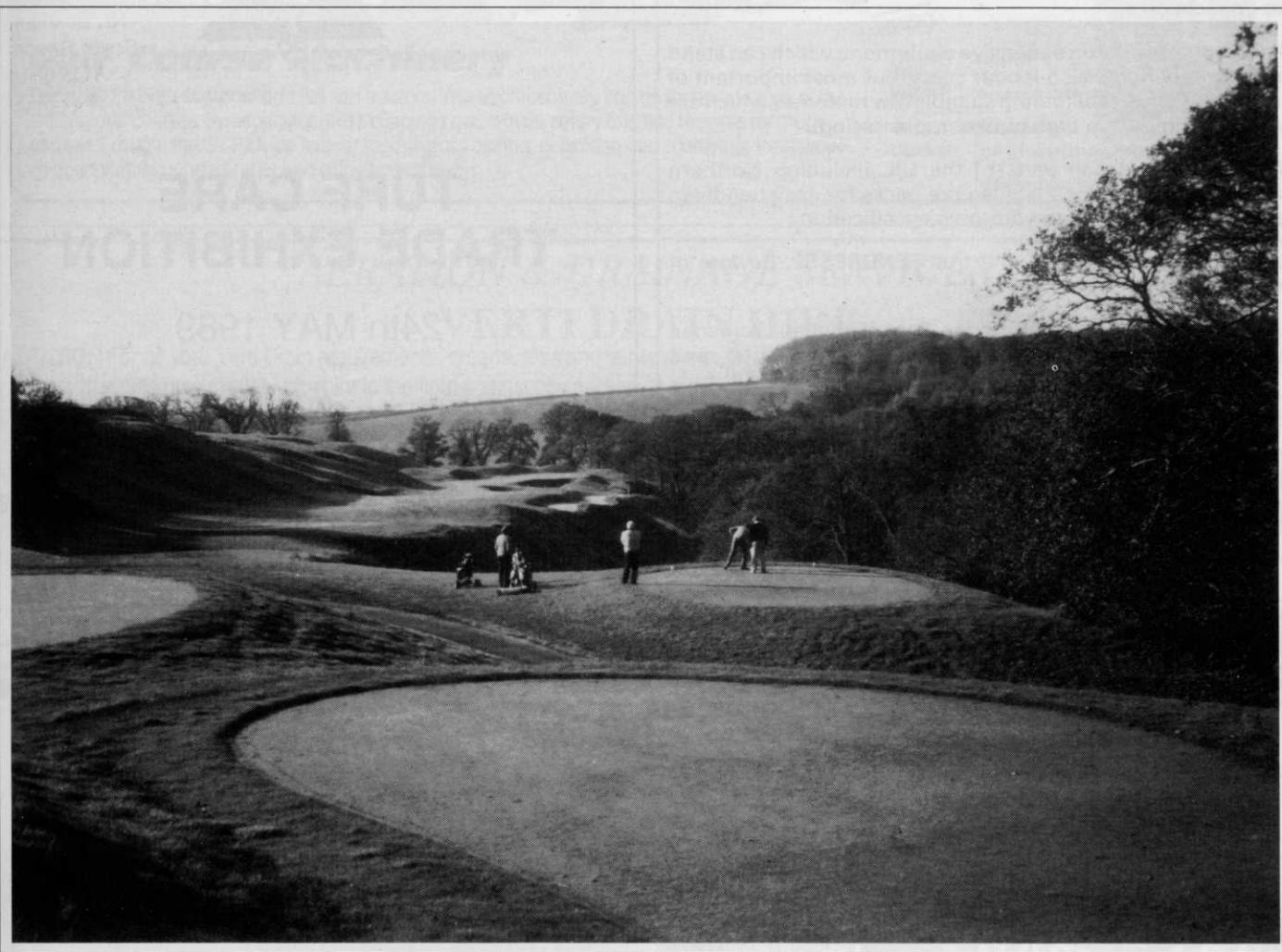


# Courses with top pedigrees

John Campbell reports on three new Golf projects using seed imported by BSH



*There is a good choice of tee positions at every hole on the Jack Nicklaus International Course.*

**H**aving heard and read much about the Nicklaus International Course at St. Mellion, Cornwall, it was interesting to visit the complex recently to tour the layout and facilities by courtesy of Herman Bond, co-owner of the club with his brother, Martin. When I arrived there the place was a seething hive of activity in the morning sunshine, the car park full, a golf school in progress on the practice ground and an enthusiastic group of society golfers preparing to go out on the course. On a pleasant hillside location overlooking the golf scene, earthmoving machinery was busy preparing a site for building luxury homes as part of the complex - it seemed a superb setting.

Commanding views of the surrounding countryside from the

clubhouse and parts of the course are a scenic feature. Although there is a fall of 200 feet from the clubhouse to the lowest point of the course, by dint of extensive earth movement most of the fairways have been constructed on the level. The course layout has been designed to accommodate special routes for golf buggies and other traffic flow, also with big events in mind there are many natural vantage points to present ideal viewing facilities for spectators.

While the course was specially designed to offer a challenging test for professionals and low handicap players it also caters for the ordinary golfer by a choice of tee positions at each hole. The contemporary style of green design gives the course a good degree of character, the

mounds and traps around the putting areas are well balanced to provide contrast, depth perception and blend well with the surroundings. Water is also an attractive feature and good use has been made of lakes and streams to enhance the playing strategy.

British Seed Houses supplied all the grass seed for the course construction. Their A12 fairway mixture - 35 per cent Frida/Checker chewings fescue, 45 per cent Boreal creeping red fescue, 10 per cent Julia smooth stalked meadowgrass, 10 per cent Highland browntop bent, is an ideal blend of species now well established on all the fairways to make a good playing surface. It allows the ball to sit up well and is a boost to the golfers confidence for the next shot to the

## ON THE COURSE



Water is an attractive feature of the course at St Mellion.



Good use has been made of water at the 18th hole of the Johnny Miller course at Collingtree Golf & Country Club.

green.

Penncross was used on the tees and the green where it has provided a smooth resilient surface for putting. I was also impressed by the colour and density of cover achieved. The remarkable vigour and strong stoloniferous habit of this bent grass seems to keep annual

meadow grass at bay and is extremely hard wearing. It has the advantage of rapid establishment and can cope with intensive play.

Because it has such vigorous growth it has to be carefully managed, frequent scarification or verticutting is needed to reduce thatch accumulation it also requires nitro-

gen at low rates every six weeks in the form of sulphate of ammonia. It will make excellent root growth on sand greens or those constructed on a soil peat and sand mixture. Penncross has been successfully used on as many as 50 golf courses in this country.

I have also seen the new Johnny Miller course at Collingtree Golf Village, Northampton owned by International Resort Holdings. Plans for the new complex include low density housing, 180 residences, private nursing clinic and retirement homes along the fringe of the playing areas.

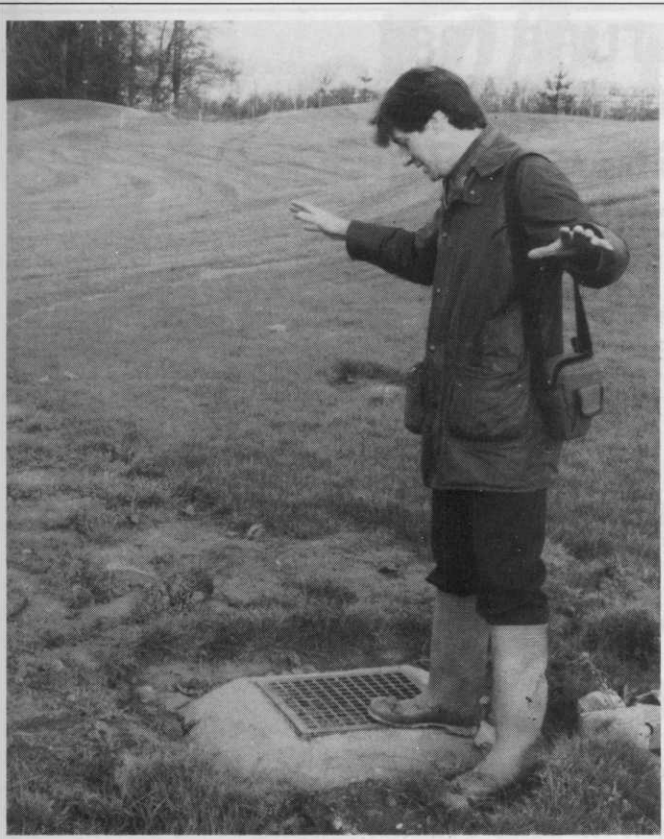
The original site for the course, a flat area of land has been skilfully transformed by earthmoving techniques to create a gently undulating landscape ideal for golf. Excavation work for lakes and swales has enabled thousands of cubic yards of soil to be moved around for the construction of mounds, greens, tees and bunkers that now look as though they had been there from time immemorial. The golf course architect has obviously considered ease and economy of course upkeep by thoughtfully providing gentle grades for machinery maintenance which will allow the work to proceed smoothly and quickly.

Peter Jones, course manager at Collingtree is full of enthusiasm for the project and working hard with his staff to get the course completed for the opening date in 1990. Their modern equipment building and staff quarters has all the facilities and is centrally situated for easy access to most parts of the course.

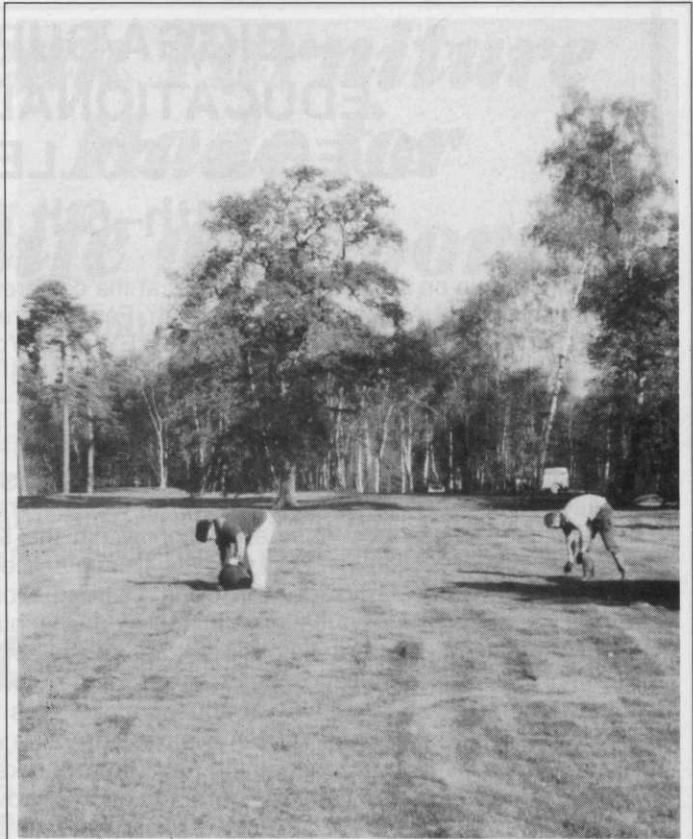
Stone paths to take golf buggies around the course are also being installed to absorb some of the wear and tear that results from this traffic movement. Storm water drains in catchment areas on the fairways are designed to discharge high volumes of water through a network of large bore pipes to adjacent lakes on the course which will also be used for irrigation.

British Seed Houses supplied all the grass seed for the 27 hole golf complex. The Penncross Bent chosen for the greens and tees has rapidly established within a short period and Peter Jones was pleased with the progress of these important surfaces. The fairway seed has also germinated satisfactorily at this stage and some fairways sown

## ON THE COURSE



Peter Jones, Course Manager at Collingtree Golf & Country Club explains how the storm water drains in the catchment areas are designed to work.



Stone picking on one of the fairways on the new South Course at Wentworth.

earlier look good enough for play already. The mixture - 20 per cent Frida chewings, 25 per cent Checker chewings, 20 per cent Boreal creeping red fescue, 10 per cent Logro slender creeping red fescue, 10 per cent Highland bent and 5 per cent Julia smooth stalked meadowgrass.

All the Surrey heathland courses are popular venues for golf enthusiasts, particularly Wentworth where the completion of the new South Course to add a third course to the complex is a significant landmark in the history of this famous Club.

This is no ordinary layout - par 72, 7,100 yards - it is planned to present a real test of championship golf amid heath, heather and tree lined surroundings - a golfer's dream. The construction work was undertaken by Golf Landscapes to a design specification by John Jacobs Associates. With the contractors work completed the important phase of grooming and getting the course ready for play is a priority for Michael Hunter, clerk of works and the greenkeeping staff who are looking forward to the task they have

ahead. It is anticipated the new course will be open for play in the spring of 1990.

The above average size greens have been laid with turf from Inturf Ltd on a sand base to a specification by the Sports Turf Research Institute. British Seed Houses A12 fairway mixture has been used on the fairways which along with the greens are already looking in good shape. The amount of growth and density of cover should provide an ideal playing surface to cope with all the wear and tear of play.

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