'It's a glimpse into the future'

ments on testing and analyses have already been, and will no doubt continue to be, aired in this publication. As for the much publicised use of creeping bent, the greens and tees on the Heritage course are sown with 100% Providence creeping bent, whilst the other course, the International, is using a more 'traditional' mixture. Again, may I state my own openminded approach to these 100% bent grass greens by saying that if the limitations of and the precise way to manage such surfaces are known; and the funds for their intensive upkeep are available, who is to say that it is wrong so to do? The base fact is that if the client specifically requires this type of surface, using this variety of seed is one of the tools to achieve such aims.

To illustrate by way of personal example, on a busy nine hole course with restricted teeing areas, especially on par 3 holes, I must use a Dwarf rye grass seed if I am to stand any chance of achieving year-round play in the context of my particular budget. I will also admit to having successfully revived some very flagging, compacted, Poa annua and Rye dominated greens by extensive turf maintenance work, plus overseeding with a 100% Egmont bent. Why? A specific job needed to be done



and Egmont was my tool to crowd out the undesirable species and restore good surfaces. With that achieved as stage one, I am now able to use a more traditional mix and see fescues returning to the sward.

I feel sure those who attended this visit, rather than being completely overawed, viewed some of the techniques employed as perhaps a glimpse into the future. Think of the following practices, common 15 to 20 years ago, and see how they now relate to your current thinking and maintenance policies. Slitting, scarifying, and top-dressing was once an annual operation, the mowing of greens just three times per week (even in the height of the season) was common, rough and bank mowing was a very occasional practice and 'presentation' was of secondary importance. Look also at some of the materials available. Back then we slogged over areas many times with little more than agricultural fertilizers, now a single pass with a coated, specialised, high nitrogen product will do the job for eight months.

To conclude, I would suggest that everybody retains an open mind; there is no expert who knows it all. Greenkeeping methods and practices have developed over the years through this type of exchange of ideas, although the



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'The quality and scale of the project is bound to create both national and international attention'

basic principles never change. Joe Paulin is eager to admit that this is still the case and perhaps we have as much to teach those who manage courses of the LGC type as they have to teach us.

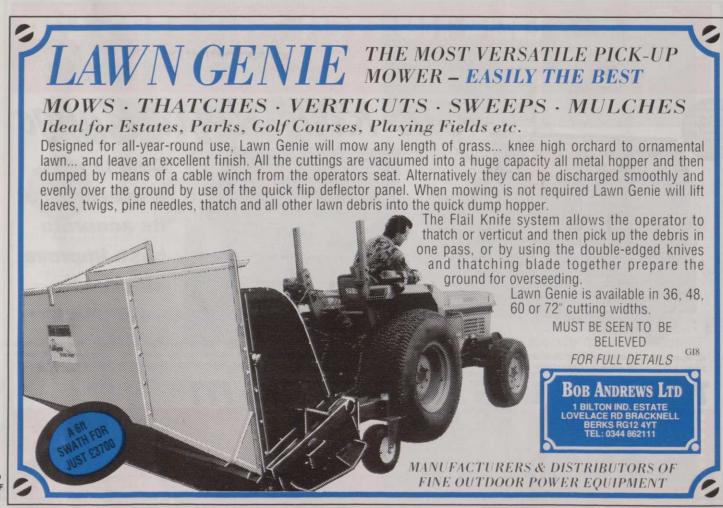
As financially successful businesses, some of the early multi-million pound projects had their fair share of problems, but the LGC has some simple advantages over its predecessors. Opening later this year, the recession hopefully will have passed. In addition, the course is much better sited and served by major road and air links than many others. In the ever shrinking world of golf, the quality and scale of the project is bound to create both national and international attention and the sheer challenge of the courses will be a major attraction for Tour events and 'championship' organisers. Many, no doubt, will comment airily that courses of this nature have in the past had their heads in the clouds, but I think the greenkeepers of Kent appreciate that in practice the management team at this project have their feet firmly placed on the ground.

Concise and clear cut objectives, coupled with the raising of practical and presentational standards applied to our own situations, are perhaps goals that we should all be striving for



in the near future. Take a look through Greenkeeper International and you will see the latest equipment and materials advertised. Being able to correctly use them in practice and to be allowed to do so by our 'clients' is perhaps the greatest challenge in greenkeeping, especially when we come under ever-increasing pressure to raise standards in the face of increased levels of play.

■ The author, Paul Copsey, is course manager at the Barnehurst Golf Course. He is also Kent's ace reporter for section news in Around The Green.



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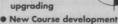
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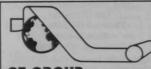
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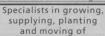
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Salary negotiable, according to experience and qualifications.

Applications in writing with full CV should be sent to: Mr John T Ross, Secretary, Brancepeth Castle Golf Club, Brancepeth, Durham DH7 8EA

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Applications are invited for the above post which becomes available in September.

Applicants should state date by which they would be available.

This is a recently opened 18 hole championship course, privately owned, where the Head Greenkeeper is responsible directly to the Course Director.

Salary according to age and experience.

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Managing Director
Mid-Yorkshire Golf Club
Havercroft Lane, Darrington
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Langley Park Golf Club

require a

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Our Head Greenkeeper retires in 1994 following 25 years service. We are seeking a replacement from 1st March 1994.

Applicants should have appropriate qualifications and experience in all aspects of Course Management including practical knowledge of modern greens machinery.

Ability to lead and motivate staff is essential.

Applications with full CV to:

The Chairman
Langley Park Golf Club
Barnfield Wood Road
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Mr K N Munt, Golf Course Manager, Buckinghamshire Golf Course, Denham Court, Denham, Bucks UB9 5BG

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AD REF



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to become Deputy Course Manager

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The Managing Secretary, The Richmond Golf Club, Sudbrook Park, Petersham, Richmond, Surrey TW10 7AS

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The Secretary, Effingham Golf Club, Guildford Road, Effingham, Surrey KT24 5PZ



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The Manager, SPNAC Pinsley Drive, Southwick, Fareham, Hants PO17 6EL

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