Are you wearing the RIGHT GEAR this summer?

By Arne van Amerongen

April 29, 1996 was a bad day for me in my career in the golf industry.

I had made a report on safety regulations for the golf course I was working on at the beginning of January. One particular part of these regulations was safety clothing. Costs are becoming a more important factor with the increased competition, especially on new courses which are owned by the members. In this case we are talking about only £30 for safety shoes which had to be saved, though on the other hand money is wasted on other things. For example, £150,000 was spent on pathways which only a few members and green fee players will use.

I will make my point now. Saving £30 caused a terrible accident. On April 29 I was inspecting the 4th hole on the course, when one of the foreign labourers came to me and said in broken German, "Accident happened, please come". I drove to the chiming green area and there I saw the green staff helping a young wounded employee. When I got nearer to the 19-year old boy, I saw that his left foot was bleeding. And as far as I could see he was missing two toes. He had previously been fly mowing on a slope, slipped and his left foot had come under the lyimo.

This young man was wearing trainers and no safety boots. He was working for £3 an hour. After I called the emergency number, a helicopter arrived within five minutes. He was transported to a hospital specializing in microsurgery.

Half an hour later I found his two toes, put them in a plastic bag and drove straight to the hospital. Unfortunately it is, not possible to sew toes back on.

The point of this story is, that if the job requires it, everybody must work with safety clothes, from head to toe and money does not play a role at that moment. The boy is slowly walking again, but it is still very painful for him. He will probably work again - two to three months after the accident. It could also have been worse.

For myself, as a consultant, after having written reports of what staff should wear, this accident has left a deep mark. From now on, when I write a report on safety and this is ignored, I will drop out as a consultant. I will not work for such clubs which only think in terms of money and not of human safety.

I hope that other consultants, Course Managers and anybody involved in work at golf courses will open their eyes and will, if necessary, lay down rules of safety regulations are ignored.

The point of this story is, that not only for hygiene reasons but it will also have a significant effect on the life of the equipment.

Jon Allbutt

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CHANGING ATTITUDES FOR THE BETTER

Among the advances taking place on the golf course is the attitude to greensstaff clothing. This has been brought about by a number of factors including the need to ensure: 1. Safe working practices, 2. Protection from the elements, 3. An eye to security where staff can be identified from casual intruders on the course and 4. An extension of the dress code applied to players to the club’s own staff, developing the professional image of the club.

As a result Course Care, which is already supplying a full range of consumables to the greenkeeper and Course Manager has undertaken a study and introduced the Course Wear range. Course Wear offers a wide range of clothing to meet all of the above needs. This ranges from Chain Saw trousers to foul weather trousers for machine work. It includes shirts and jackets with embroidered logos to identify the club and the wearer. Course Wear supplies fully water-