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OUT AND ABOUT

CHESHIRE FARMER'S £15 MILLION GOLF AND LEISURE COMPLEX

A £15 million, 180-acre golf and leisure complex to rival the best in Europe is being constructed at Portal, Tarporley, in the heart of Cheshire by farmer and developer, John Lilley.

Included in the project will be a new 150-bedroom luxury hotel, set amidst some of the most beautiful gardens in the country and complete with three restaurants, a swimming pool, sauna, squash, tennis, snooker, jogging facilities and trout pool.

The 18-hole championship course currently under construction by Brian Pierson organisation - one of Europe's leading golf course construction companies - has been designed by golf architect Donald Steel.

Although work on the course is expected to be completed this autumn, it is unlikely to be open for play until the summer of 1991. "Our aim is to allow the course to mature and really become established long before people play on it," says John Lilley. The entire playing area has been treated with Round-up and is to be reseeded to a high specification. Fairways and tees will be sown with a mixture based on Hunters of Chester's Sports Supreme mixture and containing Agram, Wintergreen and Lustre chewings fescues, Baron smooth stalked meadow grass and Highland Brown Top. Roughs will be sown with Sports Sovereign - Lustre/Wintergreen chewings fescues, Boreal, creeping red fescue, Baron SSMG and Highland Browntop. Greens will be turfed.

The course will be open to everyone on a pay-as-you-play basis and the new clubhouse will cater exclusively for golfers. A second course is already being planned and, when completed, it is likely that membership will be considered.

CALL FOR NEW GUIDE-LINES FOR PESTICIDE APPLICATION

Delegates attending a study workshop have called for an updating of the joint MAAC/NTC "Code of Practice" of approved pesticides in Amenity areas"

There was overwhelming concern at the lack of specific information, for risk assessment purposes, on the suitability of protective clothing, particularly coveralls and gloves. Delegates urged the Government representatives to bring together manufacturers of pesticides and protective clothing to exchange information and agree quality standards.

According to Terry Faull, a senior agricultural inspector on health and safety COSHH firmly places two responsibilities on employers. First they have to assess the health risks to employees who are working with substances hazardous to health and then to consider how to prevent or control their exposure to such risks. In addition to the application of pesticides in Agriculture and Commercial Horticulture and Amenity areas, the Regulations apply to many industrial processes in which substances such as Arsenic or Cadmium are used or to agricultural and manufacturing operations which release harmful dusts.

"Pesticides should only be used when there is no alternative method of controlling the pest or disease" he said.

"If substitution is not possible control of exposure should be achieved by technical methods such as remote operation of equipment, or by using closed systems for removing concentrate and washing containers". "Reliance upon personal protective equipment (PPE) alone should be regarded as the method of last resort", he added.

Andrew Bond Product Safety Manager at Rhone-Poulenc, suggested that technical controls, particularly when mixing and filling, provided the best means of reducing exposure. At this operational stage the use of granular or water soluble formulations should be considered. When a liquid was the only formulation available he advocated that the product chosen should be one packed in a wide necked container because, he believed, it is both easy to hold in gloved hands and causes considerably less dermal contamination during pouring.

He regretted that, apart from respiratory and eye protection equipment, MAFF does not recommend particular grades or types of protective clothing. This made it difficult

for employers to be sure that they were providing the right type of garments for their employees.

John Shildrick, the Secretary of NTC, agreed his organisation would start work on a revision of the code as soon as possible.

THOUSANDS OF GOLFERS ARE TAKING A SWING AT MOSS PLASTICS - AND SO WOULD MOST GREENKEEPERS!

Moss Plastic Parts, based at Kidlington near Oxford, produce the ubiquitous golfing accessory the golf tee. You name the colour, Yellow, Red, Blue, Orange or White, they will then produce it, in one of two lengths either 1 1/4" or 2".

Also available from Moss is another golfing aide, the small white marker. Both items are manufactured in tough and durable polythene.

Britain is one of the few golfing countries where so far, the plastic tee-peg is permitted. The USA use wooden pegs almost exclusively as it is a known fact that plastic pegs can damage grass cutting machinery. Cannot some-one invent a bio-degradable tee peg?



Various golfing accessories available from Moss Plastic Parts Ltd