

A guide to artificial tees

The approach of winter, with its resultant wear to tees, already suffering from thousands of rounds of golf during the season, prompts thoughts of how much more surface damage is likely to occur, before spring heralds a new growing season.

Although artificial surfaces and particularly mats are not liked by winter golfers, the research and development conducted in recent years is now making available, teeing areas more akin to natural grass as a playing surface.

Polypropylene fibre is the principle material used to construct the artificial tee-ground surfaces, some designed to be moved around to suit the site or weather conditions, others laid permanently on a sand or concrete base.

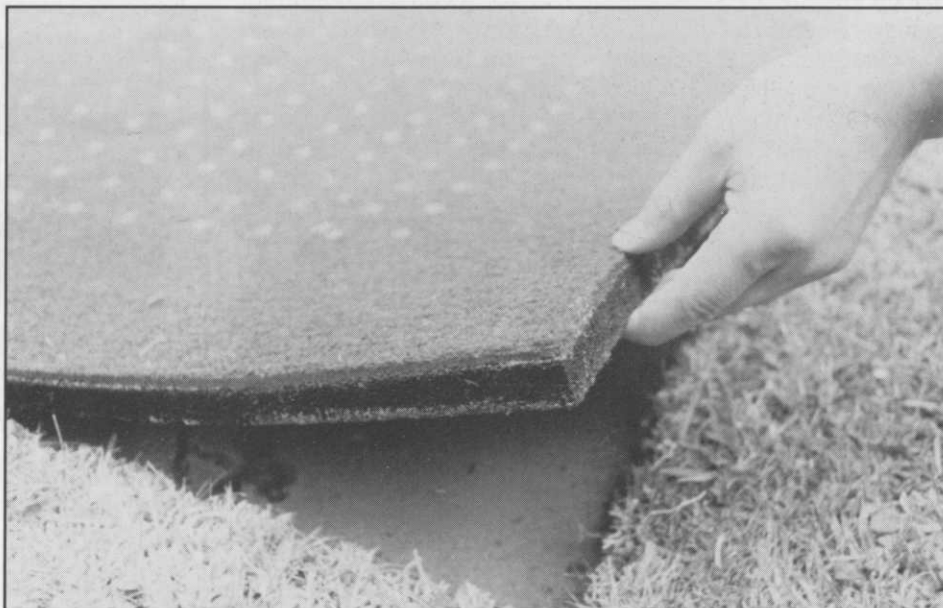
The advances made in the manufacture of artificial fibres give them not only a hard wearing characteristic, but they are considerably more comparable to a natural grass surface both to stand on, whilst playing a tee shot and to hit the ball.

A complaint in recent years has been the tendency for tee pegs, particularly the plastic variety, to break off in the holes specially provided, leaving the following golfers nowhere to place the peg. New mats on the market are now overcoming this problem.

Mud from the adjoining fairways can be brushed off these surfaces or they can be hosed down.

If an artificial surface is to be installed, ensure that the teeing area is large enough to accommodate the expected traffic. It is a false economy to put down a postage stamp tee, so the golfer not only feels cramped playing off the surface, but metal studs will wear the mat in the same place, creating holes, which can be potentially dangerous.

A list of companies supplying artificial tee surfaces is shown at the end of this feature. They all supply brochures with prices. It is up to the reader to choose the best to suit the need.



'T' Master is constructed of bonded polypropylene on a base tile of self draining crum rubber.

ARTIFICIAL TEE SUPPLIERS

CARPETITION LTD
6 Kaffir Road, Egerton, Huddersfield,
W Yorks HD2 2AN
0484 28777 John Ward

CHIPMAN LTD
The Goods Yard, Horsham, W Sussex
RH12 2NR
0403 60341 M R de Ath

CLUB SURFACES LTD
The Barn, Bisham Grange, Marlow,
Bucks SL7 1RS
06284 5969 K McGuinness

GASKELL & COMPANY (Bacup)
P.O. Box 10
Lee Mill, Bacup, Lancs OL3 0DJ
0706 878787 Sylvia Elsworth

'LEISURE K'
Ingleside, Church Road,
Mannings Heath, Horsham, Sussex
0403 68500 David Knight

NOTTS SPORTS LTD
Launde House, Harborough Road,
Oadby,
Leics LE2 4LE
0533 716027 Shaun Patrick

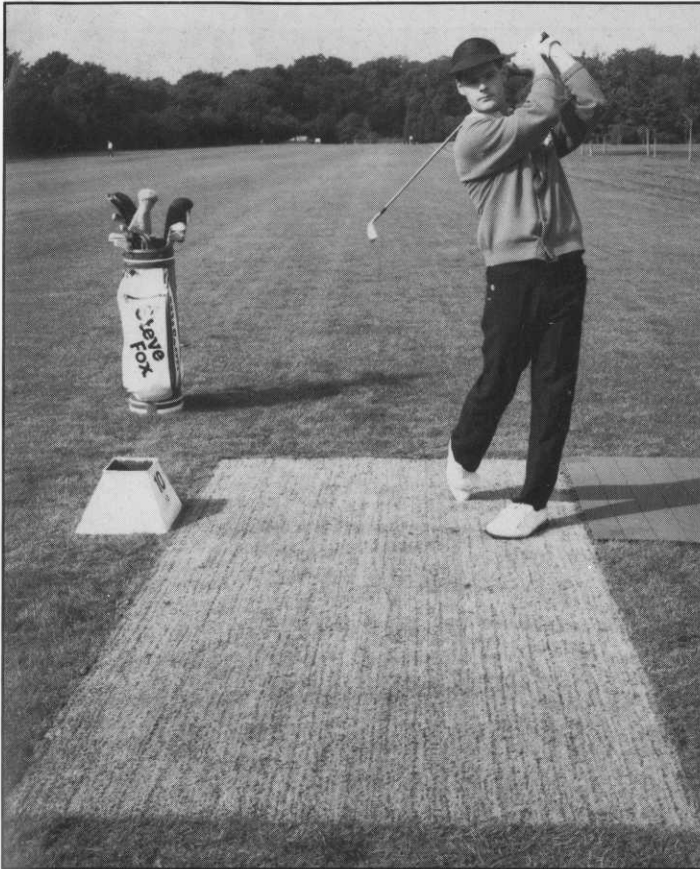
SAKER LEISURE LTD
Unit 42, Weston Industrial Estate,
Honeybourne,
Evesham, Worcs WR11 5QB
0386 841380 Stephanie Mitchell

A new synthetic golf tee mat, called 'T' Master has been developed by Gaskell & Company of Oswaldtwistle, Lancashire. The mat provides the ideal driving surface in all weather conditions, throughout the year, completely eliminating problems of divot scars left by earlier golfers and grass wear.

'T' Master can be loose laid onto almost any flat level surface, or inset flush with existing grass. Pre-drilled tee-peg holes are incorporated for both left- and right-handed players or, alternatively, players can drive directly from the carpet.

The mats are made of coarse denier polypropylene fibre, specially developed for use outdoors by F Drake (Fibres) of Huddersfield. Called Gymlene ODS, the fibre has inbuilt uv stabilisers to prevent it from breaking up in sunlight, or from losing colour. The fibre is totally impregnated with synthetic latex for strength and long life. The base tile is constructed of self draining crum rubber.

'T' Master is well suited to use on busy municipal golf courses, as winter tee areas or on driving ranges. Its attractive appearance makes it suitable for use at any golf club.



Saker Leisure supply the 'Mastertee'

Fibre manufacturers, F Drake (Fibres) are part of the Readicut International Group plc and are Britain's leading polypropylene fibre manufacturer.



A new type of golf mat has just landed on the market from P.N. Structures Ltd. of Piccadilly.

Already very popular on the continent, the Neolast Golf Mat claims to be both more comfortable and more durable than many of the older types of mat.

Approximately five feet square its coconut/polypropylene fibre with PU-coated woven backing is unaffected by decay, allows for the safe use of woods and is easy on the ankles and wrists.

P.N. Structures, who extended their expertise in the field of outdoor sports surfaces into golf by becoming the first company to provide a new club with all synthetic greens, is offering a special price on the Neolast Golf Mat



'Tee-path', an artificial surface for use on walkways to tees.

as part of its launching campaign.

A new company 'Leisure K' has been formed to market and distribute the golf tee products previously sold by Chipman of Horsham.

Former Chipman M.D., David Knight, set up 'LEISURE K' to handle 'Mastertee', 'Firsttee' and

proved to have a life of well over two years in use on golf courses and driving ranges in this country and Continental Europe.

'Firsttee' is a sand-filled polypropylene carpet, in use successfully at many clubs in the U.K. 'Leisure K' will however only be offering a heavy duty material which gives some resilience underfoot and has a longer trouble-free life than the normal artificial turf product.



Another product — 'Teepath' overcomes another problem.

The surrounds to many tees get trampled until they are muddy and quickly look unsightly throughout the winter. 'Teepath' is a specially designed plastic tiling supplied in sheets which keeps the approach to the tee clean and dry and will allow grass to grow through.

'Teepath' throughout the U.K. and Ireland.

'Mastertee' is a high quality artificial tee made from a mixture of coir (coconut) and polypropylene, woven into a dense pile carpet some 30mm thick. It can also be supplied with a resin backing to increase the strength.

'Mastertee' has been