

Golf Course

ACCESSORIES

This month's front cover features the highly attractive golf course signage by a new Lancashire based company, Woodblast Signs.

Some three years ago the Directors of Woodblast Signs visited a number of golf courses in the mid-west of America and were most impressed by the extensive use of wood signage around the courses. Wood in addition to its hard wearing qualities, blended well into the surrounds, providing all the information needed without being intrusive.

Cedar is chosen for several reasons. It reacts well to the sand blasting techniques, it is virtually rotproof because of the natural oils retained in the timber's cell structure and adapts perfectly to the special Scandinavian micro-porous paints which allow the wood to breathe, eliminating, peeling cracking or paint blistering.



Golf course timber can be used to build fences around the tees.

A complete tee set of three signs would cost around £170.00, but where the club might wish to offset some of the expense a sponsor's name can be added in similar material discreetly underneath the information panel.

No matter how good the golf course, it is always the finishing touches that golfers remember and these signs from Woodblast give a touch of class and distinction to make the round memorable.

Out on the course, in addition to the directional signs to guide visiting golfers around the eighteen holes, the course manager needs to consider the areas of turf he would prefer not to be trampled on.

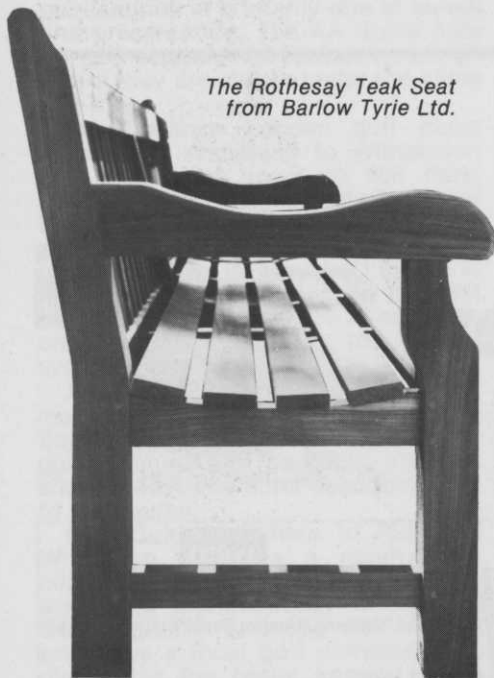
As well as being an expert in turf management he must also be an amateur psychologist. Why is it that despite all the informative signage that can be strategically placed golfers seem to consider that part of the game is to climb over any obstruction that is between them and the next tee?

Post and rails and posts and chains are of no deterrent value whatsoever, only if the golfer is pulling his clubs on a cart.

The secret is to keep the obstructions close to the ground and placed in a staggered pattern so if one of those 'less time on the course, more in the bar' golfers does decide to pick his way through, there is every likelihood of him tripping up.

Cheap plastic covered hoops pushed into the ground will suit the purpose ideally.

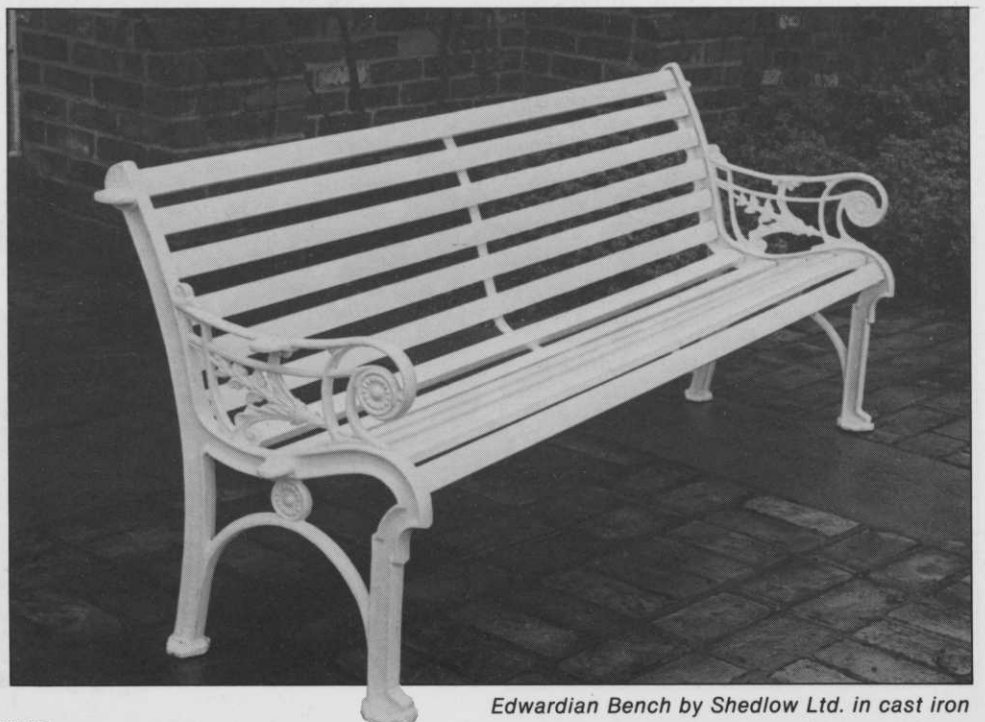
There is only one other way to keep the golfer off areas of turf subject to heavy wear and that is to accept that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line and build paths leading away from greens to the next tee as direct as the landscape will allow.



The Rothesay Teak Seat from Barlow Tyrie Ltd.

All the golf club signage manufactured by Woodblast Signs are individually designed. The course is visited to see at first hand the location, layout and setting within the surrounding countryside. Each hole is surveyed and a design drawn up for each of the holes to be featured on the tee marker. Where required club crests and logos can be incorporated into the overall design.

The timber posts are usually of oak, again because of the hard wearing weather resistant quality of the timber and fixed with coated steel brackets.



Edwardian Bench by Shedlow Ltd. in cast iron



Post and chains set off a feature of the course

Fencing around the tee does give that aesthetic feel to the overall pleasure from a round of golf, but it should also be functional. Not only will it define the teeing area but will act as a bar to trolleys on the tee and separate the golfer teeing off from those observing or yet to play.

As shown in the illustration many clubs have areas of woodland that can be utilised by cutting pieces of timber and building your own fencing. They look good, are easy to maintain or replace and if constructed with a little thought can also be used by the golfer to either sit on or rest a bag. A sitting area is particularly important at the par 3 holes as this is inevitably the holes where the greatest hold-up occur, but again apply the psychology and build the seat away from grass areas which could be subject to heavy wear or difficult maintenance.

For those who do not have either the time or the timber to build a seat a number of manufacturers produce an excellent hard wearing and weather-proof bench. One of the best known in the trade is Barlow Tyrie of Braintree, Essex, who use teak and timber without equal for the manufacture of outdoor furniture. Teak if left untouched will weather to a silvery grey, but can be maintained in its original colour by a regular application of light teak oil.

Cast iron benches will last a lifetime as long as the vandals are kept at bay and they are given an annual coat of paint, preferably anti-rust.



The new range of patio furniture from Bellinger Ltd.