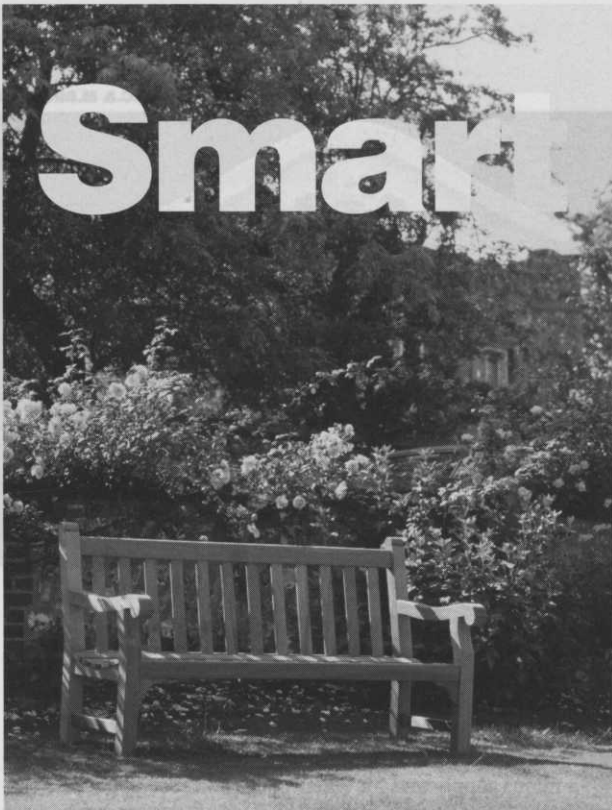


Smart moves to make...



The state of Golf Course furniture, equipment and signs, mirrors the image of the club... at least to the casual observer. Greenkeeper International suggests ways to give every club that certain something to make golfers keep on coming back



Pictured: left, the teak Mendip seat by Lister/Geebro. Above: vandal-resistant fountain by Maestro

Few things are more off-putting to members or visitors than the sight of totally clapped-out shoe brushing equipment, scruffy signs (or none at all) and tatty perimeter fences with broken chains. Taken further, a lack of seating, tee markers made from upturned buckets of concrete and shortage of litter bins are constant irritants. On the other hand, attractive premises demonstrate the professional image the modern greenkeeper seeks to project which, apart from impressing outsiders, help also to improve employee morale and performance.

Perhaps the most obvious and certainly the most useful memorial a Club might install when a well respected member 'shuffles off this mortal coil' is the bench seat. Speaking with Alan Bradley, Marketing Director of Lister by Geebro, he advises that if such a memorial is to be a lasting one there are certain criteria to be observed, with the most obvious being 'make sure it can't be stolen! Though teak made seats (the number one choice, being totally maintenance free) are very heavy, a determined gang of thieves might still man-handle them and the recommendation is that solid anchorages be used. Further points to insist upon are

rounded, substantial armrests, contoured seats that mirror the anatomy, sloping backrests, screws that are dowelled and, above all, units that are heavy in weight. The temptation to choose lightweight seating should be avoided, for solid teak – taken from state controlled plantations in Java – outlasts other timbers and will survive perfectly for more than 100 years. Inscriptions, either directly carved onto a backrest or engraved on brass plates, are available from most leading manufacturers.

There is no excuse for a lack of litter bins. These are comparatively inexpensive and in some cases, if on-course advertising is not anathema to a Club, may be paid for through local trade support. Personally, I'm all for the neat and uncluttered look and would plump for a well designed, solidly made job that blends sympathetically rather than distracting. The choice is wide and we should remember: far more litter is discarded indiscriminately when bins are not readily to hand.

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● Continued overleaf

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Derek Ganning, Course Manager at The Belfry, has recently had 12 shelters installed along with some benches and litter bins, and he says: "I'm absolutely delighted with the quality and durability of these Western Log Company products. Not only are they well-made but they are very pleasing aesthetically. I can certainly recommend them."

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GRP sculptured sign by A.C. & M. Birch Ltd



Signs to be seen

● From previous page
tapped into a mains supply and for water coolers – more applicable perhaps when major tournaments are staged. Manufacturers have made huge strides in producing vandal-proof units and though not cheap they offer a most welcome break that is always remembered.

Today's golf course signs really are excellent and are guaranteed to enhance any course. Choose from glass reinforced plastic, which is virtually maintenance free and strong and chip resistant, or pressed metal, wood or even granite, which is ideal in areas that experience high vandalism. There appears to be no limit to the multiplicity of designs, course data and logos that manufacturers now offer, with some prepared to give a tailor-made service that includes individual hole plans contoured in relief. The appearance of any course is instantly uplifted by such signs and most require little or no maintenance.

Neglect of obvious little items can mean instant irritation, so when installing shoe cleaning equipment make sure that replacement brushes are readily available, keep spares close to hand and replace them regularly before they begin to fall apart. Keep ball washers filled; and if you're still using those dreadful tin box and sliding brush affairs, take a close look at the foolproof rotary style cast metal ball cleaners or the many enterprising designs imported from the USA.

Neat direction indicators, maintenance free plastic coated chain fencing, putting green flags, water hazard ball retrievers, when in apple-pie order, (which means free from rust and not ready for the scrap-heap,) these will create an orderly appearance that will say to the visitor or member – here is a Club that is proud, stylish and orderly. The kudos will quite rightly belong to the greenkeeper.



Tree seat by Britannic Teak