

Time now for a little trumpet blowing.

In an international competition, Greenkeeper International has come second in the Best Magazine category for journals published ten or more times a year.

In a written appraisal, judges said: "This is an extremely lively and popular magazine which does a good job in informing a specialist readership about their business. A plethora of ads bring interest to the pages. This is a professionally produced publication which enjoys a lively letters page – always the classic sign of a well-read magazine."

The Editing for Industry Awards, organised by the British Association of Industrial Editors, is open to all corporate and in-house publications and receives entries from the UK, Europe, the United States and the Middle and Far East. It has a reputation for quality and sets particularly high standards.

Though our design and production editor, Tim Moat, is far too modest to take full credit, this is very much his triumph and we salute him.

Milestones in the world of inventions include the lead pencil (1812), the lawn mower (1832), the rubber band (1845) and the zipper (1891). Now a new invention that is set to make its inventor a millionaire is said to be taking the world by storm – advertising on the bottom of holes on golf greens! If you believe that only one good idea is necessary to make a mint, apparently Mr Ric Dark has hit the jackpot. As golfers bend to retrieve their Titleists, adverts implore from the depths of the cup – buy me, drink me, drive me. Dark's clients already include Cadillac and Coca Cola and talks are scheduled to take place soon between Dark and a Scottish group, with plans afoot to licence the introduction of golf hole advertising in the UK.

A simple but eye-catching fund raising idea using heart-shaped golf ball markers is being launched at golf clubs throughout the UK to raise money for heart research charity STRUTH. The heart-shaped ball markers, bearing the STRUTH logo, will be available in pro shops at all clubs supporting STRUTH's 'Heart of The Green Appeal', sponsored by Legal & General. Organisers of the Appeal are encouraging golfers to show their support for heart research by purchasing one of the ball markers and 'making a mark with their heart'. The suggested donation is 50p or three for £1.

Golf clubs are also being invited to organise simple competitions to support the Appeal anytime between 1 May and 30 September. The aim is to raise more than £150,000 for vital research into heart disease, the single most common cause of death in the UK today.

Building



A new tee at Tyrells Wood

DAVID BOOCOCK offers practical guidelines whether you're starting from scratch or just extending tee areas

With most jobs on a busy golf course, advance planning is essential to determine when, where and how the work is to be carried out and this is especially true of construction work. To decide your winter work in October is folly and unless you are fortunate in having a very free-draining course or excellent access and roads to the site, such action can be the first step towards a winter of frustration and discontent.

Unfortunately, most rebuilding or extension work on a golf course has to be timed for the end of the playing season. Where construction involves grading or machine handling fill material and topsoil, operations should commence in late September, early October at the latest. If that means altering arrangements for late played Medals, visiting parties etc., so be it, provided the planning steps were taken in time that presents no hardship.

Good access to the site is vital – there is no point hashing up tracks across fairway and rough, transporting materials and machinery, and then having to spend weeks on corrective work. If you do not have good access, consider getting the basic groundwork such as fill and topsoil spreading, completed during the summer when damage reaching the site can be minimised.

SIZE

Think big, especially for tees at par three holes where, on a busy course, you may well require at least 400m². Since short holes are often tight for space, particularly at the tee end, one large tee all at the same level is preferred. You cannot afford potentially usable area lost to internal banks. At par four's allow a good 150m² for medal tees and 100m² for the general teeing area on a members course where lots of competitive golf is played. Where the emphasis is on visitors and holiday makers these sizes may need reversing to cater for the heavier use on general tees. At these holes a ladies tee of around 80m² will suffice since there are usually fewer of them and almost invariably ladies are far kinder to tee surfaces than men.

Go for width rather than length, especially on medal tees where competitive rules restrict movement of tee markers. In any case wide tees provide more opportunities for spreading wear and tear and less of the available space is lost as unusable area at the edges.

POSITION

Siting tees within woodland or new plantations is a ploy quite often used by architects and beloved of green committees in their quest to lengthen and/or add interest at a golf hole. Because cutting down trees is such an emotive issue these days, regardless of the fact that trees, like grass, require planned management, the greatest failing is to remove too few of them to start with. Alternatively in a relatively new plantation, the happy planners completely fail to allow for the simple facts of life – trees grow!

When faced with this situation be bold, removing trees and saplings within at least 10m of the edge of the tee. Within plantations ensure that in front of the tee the cut back fans out either side to avoid in future years all damage occurring down the centre of the tee or close to one edge as golfers try to secure a good line out to the fairway.

SHAPE

Golfers are conservative by nature and most moderate handicap players like a nice parallel sided shape which allows them to line up comfortably with fairway landing areas. A tee shape based on the traditional rectangle, with rounded corners to facilitate mowing with triples and easily mown slopes to embankments, serves very well.

There is no need for excessively elevated tees either, that only means large areas of bank which for the sake of appearance need to be kept tidily mown.

If the intelligent golfer is given a view of obvious hazards, sufficient to plan his second shot, it is surely unnecessary to be able to see the bottom of the pin from the nether reaches of a par five.