

The Pro-Tee artificial tees are not only useful for protecting the natural grass out on the course, they can also be used on the practice ground with adjustable levelling devices to recreate uphill or downhill lies

Artificial tee mats are not everyone's kettle of fish but with the popularity of the game now reaching an all time high, the need to protect the playing surfaces on well-used courses leaves many Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers with few alternatives.

For their part manufacturers of the temporary tees are doing their best to use both the latest techniques and materials to ensure that the substitute tees both protect the natural grass and are user-friendly.

Links Leisure

Judging by the number that can be seen around golf courses in both this country and abroad the PRO-TEE produced by Shropshire firm, Links Leisure, seems to be one of the most popular with both greens staff and golfers alike.

Developed with the intention of creating the near perfect substitute for the grass tee the PRO-TEE mat has found favour with many greenkeepers because it not only protects the natural grass tees from damage during times when they are most vulnerable, but also because it is useful as a temporary measure during maintenance or reseeding operations.

The PRO-TEE is also being used on practice grounds again to insure against unnecessary wear and tear.

From the golfer's point of view the PRO-TEE is extremely stable and its surface is said to be totally user-friendly both in terms of footing and club protection.

It comes in two sizes two metres by one metre and one and a half metres by one and a half metres and consists of a durable glass enforced cement base and three replaceable artificial turf sections.

The base sits proud of the surface on eight integral feet to protect the natural grass below. At the same time drainage holes in the base prevent the tee from becoming waterlogged. The three artificial turf sections used for the playing surface are suitable for right and left handed players and the surface includes a tee-peg retention system which will not clog up with broken tees. It also comes with optional easy to adjust levelling devices which as well as being used on uneven ground can be used to recreate uphill or down hill lies on prac-



tice grounds.

Currently the PRO-TEEs are being used on courses all over Europe and are finding favour at both ends of the golfing spectrum.

They have been used on all 18 holes of Sherdley Park municipal course in Lancashire for the last three years where 2000 rounds a week are played.

"It is almost impossible to maintain and sustain good quality natural grass tees on a course that is played as frequently as Sherdley Park," said Brian Collins, Outdoor Facilities Manager for St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council.

At the other end of the scale the PRO-TEE is also used at the Wentworth Club on the practice ground which takes quite a bit of a pounding.

"I can fully understand the problems faced by many greenkeepers. At Wentworth for example the practice tees are almost in constant use - especially in the summer and natural grass cannot sustain that sort of treatment," explained Course Manager Chris Kennedy.

Easy Picker

More and more golf clubs are using winter mats for the first time due to the stress on grass tees over the last few years.

But what type of mat do you buy?

Easy Picker manufacturers the widest range of mat sizes using a spike resistant surface in different top cloths, including a three piece tee mat situated on a two metre by one metre concrete base, allowing each section to be replaced to reduce overall costs. Also available is the versatile winter tee mat measuring one and a half metres by one and a half metres on a galvanised steel frame, complete with adjustable legs. Easy Picker will also advise on what type of mat best suits the clients needs and budget. The company can also manufacture a mat to fit inside the base on an existing mat.

Reinforced tee holes cut down on the time taken to remove broken tees and will last longer than having slits in the mat.

For further information on Easy Picker Tel: 01367 860122 and ask for Jo Cholmondeley.

GMUK

GMUK is the designer and supplier of the renowned Dunlop All weather mat which is now in its sixth year having had three upgrades - each time improving the design by listening to customers comments and requirements.

"The success of the product is its adaptability and also that every part of the mat is replaceable with the heavy duty tee

inserts costing only £29.99," said Peter McDowell, Managing Director of GMUK. "The Dunlop base retains a part exchange value enabling the customer to upgrade even after years of use."

The mat can be sited permanently with or without adjustable legs but most take the Dunlop WTI complete with detachable handles so the mat can be resited avoiding wear in the tee surrounding areas.

This season there are two new surfaces for our customers to choose from - a shot hit tee surface and a long pile stance mat to reduce slipping on frosty days.

A circular mat has also been designed for awkward tees where alignment on an oblong mat is difficult.

THE BIGGEST MISTAKE I'VE EVER MADE AND WOULD ADMIT TO IS:



"Becoming North West Section Secretary"
Bert Cross, North West Section Secretary