

PHOTOCAST TEE SIGNS

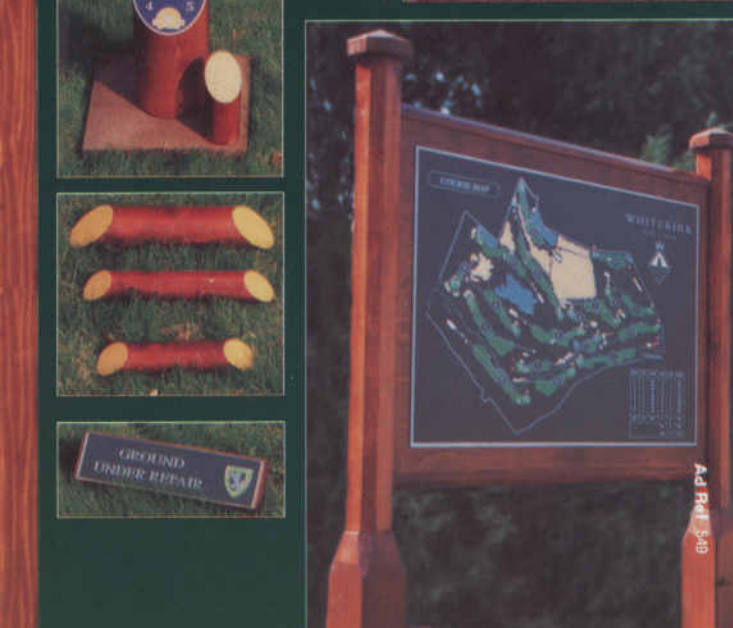


By

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Prime sta

World renowned golf course photographer and regular Greenkeeper International contributor, Brian Morgan, gets one of his real gripes of his chest and comes up with an idea which could make golf courses look a lot tidier...

I call it the "Augusta Rule" - If it stands still paint it green.

Many courses would look a lot better if they applied this rule and painted everything dark green. From the maintenance building to the rain shelter and from the bunker rakes to the hazard stakes.

Hazard Stakes? I hear you say, yes instead of long yellow or red stakes why not green with a red or yellow strip and Out of Bounds with a white strip.

As a golf course photographer I've lost count of the hours I've spent tidying up even very well groomed courses. Moving bunker rakes and hazard stakes. I photographed Augusta for 16 years, re-photographing each hole every year for their publications. Augusta has no hazard stakes, you are either in the hazard or not. Even during the Masters the only concession they make to the professionals is to paint a thin red or yellow line around the places where there may be a dispute.

Most golfers don't even know the rules concerning balls in hazards except to drop back under the penalty of one stroke.

For those of you who don't know, there are different options for relief, depending how it is marked. Even professional Tour players are often unsure of these options so the simpler we can keep it the better.

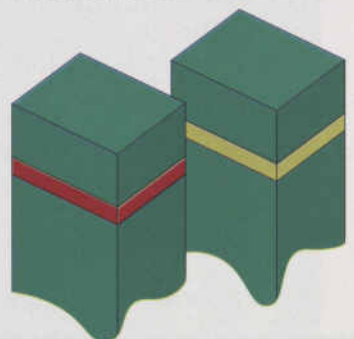
I don't see hazard stakes along the Swilcan Burn at St Andrews or Out of Bounds signs or stakes along the 16th by the old railway line or the 17th or the 18th. The out of bounds are only mentioned

on the scorecard. If the Swilcan Burn was on most courses I'm sure there would be dozens of red and yellow stakes. For the burn not only crosses the 1st and 18th holes it bends to run almost parallel at times.

If famous courses which host major tournaments can do without stakes why not your course? Golf's ruling bodies don't make any mention of the size or colour or ways to mark hazards. The European Tour has its own people who work with the greens staff to mark the tournament courses for GUR and paint lines along hazards which may be unclear.

Clubs should designate all Out of Bounds on the scorecard and if a hazard has to be marked do it as subtly as possible. My design for hazard stakes should be adopted and recommended by Golf's governing bodies so that we have a standardised system and the stakes can be made simply and cheaply.

Here is my Idea.
If stake is at junction of red and yellow - two lines



Like



The "Morgan" hazard stake is not exactly new. I'm sure I have seen it before but from an aesthetic viewpoint it certainly does the job. I am sure some golfers will say they have to see the hazard from a distance but there is nothing in the rules of golf which say you have to be able to see every hazard. In fact many courses have blind holes and to go back to the Old Course it is not easy to see the burn on the 1st or on Augusta to see where the pond starts when playing your second shot from the right side of the fairway on the 11th.

In a lot of cases the old adage applies "It's only blind the first time." So off you go and pick up all the stakes on the course, have a nice bonfire and think about not having to move them every time you mow!

See how long it is before anyone notices and see how few complain. Swat up on the rules concerning hazards and see how many of these "know it all" complainers can recite all the options for all the situations.

Restake the course with my type of markers but only if you have to!

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