

Hugh Tilley casts his eye over the items which can make such a difference on any golf course

Icing on the cake



The multitude of accessories and furniture such as hole cups, signs, markers, flags and the like are a necessity on any course and although they may appear trivial they are very important to the smooth and satisfactory operation of the course, furthermore they do add considerably to the cost.

While many courses do not use tee mats, nor have a driving range, these items also come within the description of accessories and for those clubs which use them they are important. Nor are most of these items inexpensive – and some areas find themselves with a considerable bill each year for

“IT’S NO GOOD ASKING A SEED COMPANY ABOUT TURF MANAGEMENT”



Maybe not the average seed company. But then, Oliver is no average seed company.

We combine seven decades of specialisation in grass mixtures with all the experience and resources of the Cebeco Group, one of Europe's leading plant breeders.

We offer seed blends of unrivalled purity and performance, plus the Cebeco Nutri range of fertilisers.

Oliver
Turf
Management

And we provide expert advice on every aspect of turf management. So the balls may be hooked, hacked, kicked or smashed - but with our seed and our know-how, the grass can't be beaten.

For your free copy of this season's Oliver Turf Management catalogue, phone or fax today - or just ask us to come and see you, on your own turf.

Icing on the cake

50

replacing vandalised and stolen items.

Simple things such as bunker rakes are more complex than perhaps appears at first sight, and not all rakes are equal. One greenkeeper told of the club which is being sued because a golfer got a splinter in his hand from a wooden handle. Needless to say that club has changed to glass reinforced plastic (grp) handles for their rakes. Another club found that each autumn several rakes got "borrowed" for someone's garden leaves, but there are models which are not suitable for raking leaves.

Tee mats, once mainly the prerogative of a driving range, are finding favour on an ever increasing number of courses, particularly to save the grass tee areas in winter. In addition players are favouring them because they provide a cleaner and more stable surface from which to drive. Winter tee mats are usually supplied complete with a base, steel with mesh bottom and adjustable legs, or perhaps wood. They can be

expected to cost several hundreds of pounds if bought as a complete ready made item, however, Course Manager, Paul Bishop, of Combe Manor near Bath, said they make their own in treated timber which they bed on sand and peg down – and this has proved to be much cheaper than buying proprietary units. He also commented that it has the advantage that they can trim the mat to fit exactly. Catalogues list a wide variety of mats, of differing materials and sizes, to suit differing needs and locations. Some allow the golfer to insert their own tee pegs, others require a flat based ball tee.

Many clubs have a practice bay or similar enclosure, Tildenet has been pre-eminent in this field although there are other well established net makers. Tildenet is able to supply the complete unit including poles, guy ropes and pegs. Like most of these items which tend to stay out all year round, in wind,



rain and sun, it is important that they are fully protected from these elements, or if not rot proofed, then they must be cheap and easy enough to replace regularly. Steel is usually painted, but may be better galvanised while timber is best tanalised to B.S. standard rather than just surface treated. Degradation occurs with most types of plastic, including glass reinforced plastic (grp) unless sufficient u.v. stabiliser is included in the compound. However, excess stabiliser can cause other life reducing effects such as brittleness and loss of plasticity. With the correct

stabilisation little more than surface discolouring should occur but such bleaching does detract from the visual appeal and visual appeal is important on many golf courses – so it may be more necessary to budget for regular replacement.

Hole cups come in various styles – each maker has his own form of lifter, and usually their own cutter, and there may be accessories such as covers, trimming scissors and cutting board to be considered. Flags and flag pins are integral to greens and the hole. The range of options allows for differing views of what is best. Fibreglass is now the most popular material for construction, and all suppliers offer a range of lengths and colours. The pin should be clearly visible, thus contrast with the background is important. It the background is entirely trees or grass, or even sky a single

WEED PROBLEM SOLVED!

CWC specialist spray contracting. Unique Scan-Seed hydro-seed system. The new Weed-It optic system, now available to hire. Developers of drift free Ecospray.

Whatever your weed problem, trust Complete Weed Control to have all the answers!

Employing the latest advances in application technology, such as the new Weed-It optic system and drift free Ecospray, CWC demonstrate continued commitment to bring to its customers the very best contracting service available today. Specialist local service centres are spread across the whole of the UK to give you on the spot service.

complete weed control

For answers to every weed problem

01608 644044

Complete Weed Control Ltd 7 Astley House, Cromwell Business Park, Banbury Road, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire OX7 5SR Tel: 01608 644044 Fax: 01608 644722

100 FREE GREENSPEED METERS – and no obligation!

If you've always wanted a stimpmeter but never got round to buying one, here's an opportunity you can't afford to miss!

Simply phone us **NOW** and we will send you a greenspeed meter **FREE**. No catch, no obligation, but **hurry** there are only 100 on offer!



Then if you find there's room for improvement in the speed and consistency of your greens you know who to contact don't you!

TRUE-SURFACE®



...makes true greens!™

THE UNIQUE ROLLERS THAT CAN MAKE CONSISTENT SPEEDS ON ALL YOUR GREENS!

Direct from the Exclusive European Distributor

GREENSWARD DIRECT

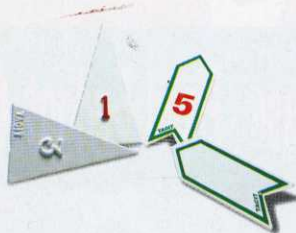
Manor Farm, Otley Road, Adel, Leeds LS16 7AL

0113 267 6000

colour pin may be acceptable, but if back-

grounds change according to the approach then two colour banded pins will be essential. On most courses each hole is different, but having differing types or colours of pins is likely to be unacceptable – and impractical. Pins are also now expected to stand upright, thus a well fitting wear resistant ferrule at the bottom extends the life of cup and pin, most flags now swivel at the top. Swivel top pins are more expensive, but can be expected to last longer. Bottom wear is exacerbated by the fact that sand and water forms a good grinding medium. Exceptionally exposed sites may need a flag pin with greater rigidity – there are available.

Vandalism on some courses is a major cause of loss, and the option some clubs have taken is to use inexpensive alternatives, such as a length of standard pvc. pipe. (Waste overflow pipe from B & Q etc). Greenkeepers talk about having their flag pins used as javelins and of having them thrown into a lake. Similar can occur to any easily movable course furniture – such as signs, seats and rakes. Perhaps



the feature of the Tacit Tufftex solid ball type tee marker will float is of vital importance to some greenkeepers.

While flags are freely available in various colours with numbers on them, there are other options, including having sponsors or club names on them. Nylon and polyester are the usual materials used, but these may be knitted or woven, with number or logo etc. either printed or sewn on. The important point in getting value for money is longevity – some styles will last longer and look smarter, the main flag 'killer' being wind, and nothing looks worse than a tattered flag. The chances are that expensive club and sponsor flags will be put out for specific gala days and then rapidly replaced with less expensive flags. For clubs with frequent match days perhaps the ability to change flags quickly and easily becomes important – this facility can be found.

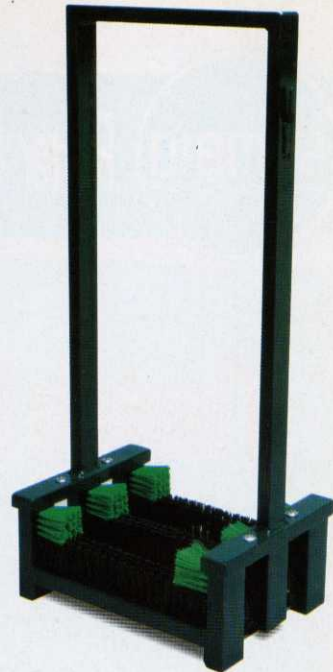
A wide variety of signs is available, from temporary usage signs such as



“Ground Under Repair” and “Spraying in Progress” to customised signs – you name it and it can be made. It looks better if all signs on the course are of the same format and type, and while most suppliers of course equipment offer both off the peg and customised signs it is also possible to use a local company/sign writer to produce them – and perhaps less expensively. The most preferred signage would appear to be of cast aluminium, however there are plastic or resin based alternatives which may be less expensive.

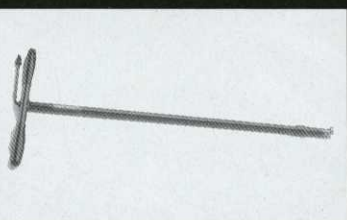
Another item increasingly being made available on courses is the ball cleaner, and naturally this must be frost resistant. Detergents and ‘anti-freeze’ are options but I suspect most clubs either empty or remove the unit for the winter. The brushes and paddles are considered to be wearing items, so the ease of replacement and cost needs considering.

Of course the range of accessories goes far beyond those items mentioned above, as do the suppliers. Seats and rubbish bins, divot boxes and boot cleaners, posts and chain,



and distance markers all fit within this category – and all are an integral part of the equipment the greenkeeper is expected to maintain. Furthermore adding up the cost on a normal 18 hole course probably equals several thousands of pounds – depending on how far up-market the club pitches itself. Nevertheless the appearance of these items is important to a club – and to the overall view of the club given to visitors.

IT'S HERE..... JAN - MARCH PROMOTIONS



Buy a Patisson Premier Hole Cutter with Reinforced Blades and receive a FREE Holecup Extractor and Rammer

UK SALES DESK
TEL: 01494 79 46 46
FAX: 01494 79 47 47

IT'S HERE..... JAN - MARCH PROMOTIONS



UK SALES DESK
TEL: 01494 79 46 46
FAX: 01494 79 47 47

Buy a Set of Flag Pins & Flags & receive a set of Patisson's New Bogey Holecup FREE!