

son.

A winter application of Kerb followed by a glyphosate application during the summer to treat subsequent broad leaved weed invasions is a useful programme to consider for broad leaved/conifer planting schemes.

Isoxaben (Flexidor 125 or Gallery 125). This is a pre-emergent liquid herbicide sprayed on bare soil to control broad leaved weeds. It is useful when applied mixed with kerb (ie liquid) when treating dense grass as the kerb kills the existing invading grass for three-six months and the Isoxaben prevents colonisation of the broad leaved weeds. Their action in the tank-mix is complementary leading to effective control of grasses and broad leaved weeds. Expensive, though Flexidor is cheaper than Gallery. It is also one of the few herbicides that control willowherb.

Atrazine has both foliar contact and residual soil action and is an old favourite among some foresters though its safety is under question. It is most useful on soft grasses but will give some control of broad leaved species and the coarse grasses. Its timing of application follows on after that of Kerb, from February and March up to May. Though all broadleaves are sensitive while in leaf and should only be treated before the start of bud burst in the spring.

#### Hedges

The control of weed in hedges is difficult and some of the following chemicals and regimes can work well.

Heavy grass sites - Prespray planting strip with glyphosate and post treat with Kerb granules or better still Kerb/Flexidor mix. A summer spray of glyphosate along the outside on each side will help keep back invading weeds but doesn't help much within the rows.

Bare - Ex arable sites - When planting into a bare soil site (either as a result of screening or ex arable), the use of Premier Granules is available. This is a mixture of

Trifluralin and Isoxaben and while not a very strong chemical, is quite useful, applied at the rate of 100kg/ha during February/March. Also useful as a top-up later in the year to Kerb treated hedges. A liquid alternative would be Atrazine and Stomp at the rate of three litres/five litres/ha respectively. Atrazine used as Stomp not good on all grasses. Alternatively Butisan could be used where cleavers not a problem.

After two growing seasons, the use of Casoron G granules is available at the rate of 100kg/ha. This chemical controls a very wide spectrum of grasses and broad leaved weeds including grasses, thistle, nettle, dock, willowherb and cleavers. The active ingredient is Dichlobenil, a soil acting residual herbicide best applied February/March.

One further chemical sometimes used is Cyanazine (eg Fortrol), which is a liquid applied soil and foliar acting herbicide for the control of annual dicotyledons and annual grasses in farm forestry and is often recommended as a tank mix with Atrazine.

#### Conclusion

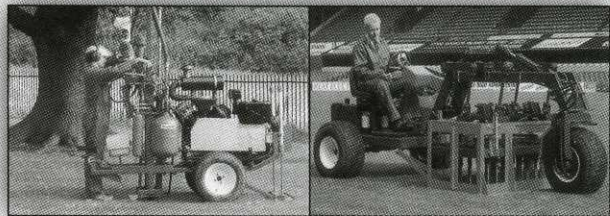
Successful tree establishment depends on the correct species choice, followed by good planning, planting, weeding and maintenance.

Chemical herbicides are a great aid to the woodland manager and their correct use is both an economical and effective means of ensuring that the trees we plant today will be the quality woods of tomorrow. However, on lowland sites the removal of grasses leaves ground open to colonisation by all sorts of unwanted weeds. Care must be taken to prevent the spread of ragwort and the like and to control voles where often the use of 300mm vole guards is the best protection.

Eamonn Wall can be contacted at Eamonn Wall Associates Tel: 01259 743212.



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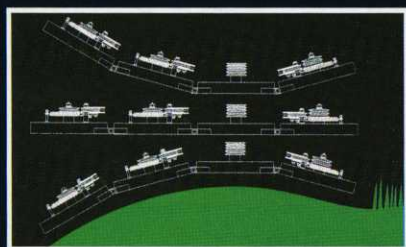
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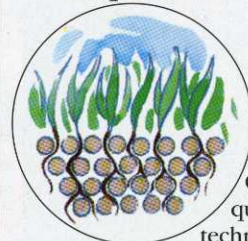
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Hugh Tilley casts his eye over the items which can make such a difference on any golf course

# 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

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# Icing on the cake

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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

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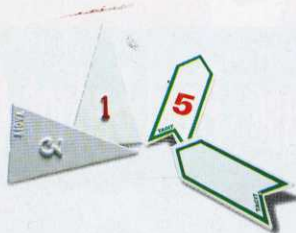
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colour pin may be acceptable, but if back-

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.

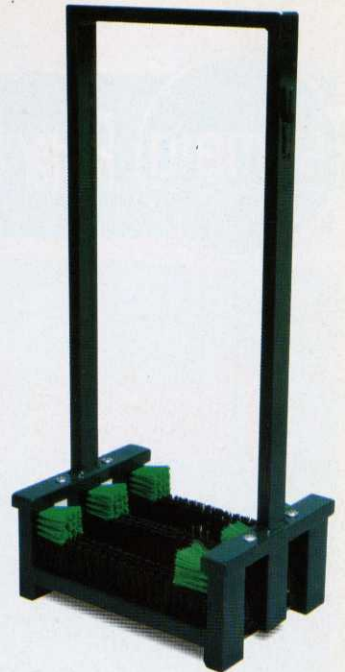
A wide variety of signs is available, from temporary usage signs such as



“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.

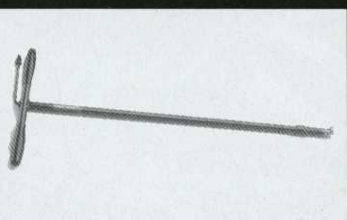
Of course the range of accessories goes far beyond those items mentioned above, as do the suppliers. Seats and rubbish bins, divot boxes and boot cleaners, posts and chain,



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.

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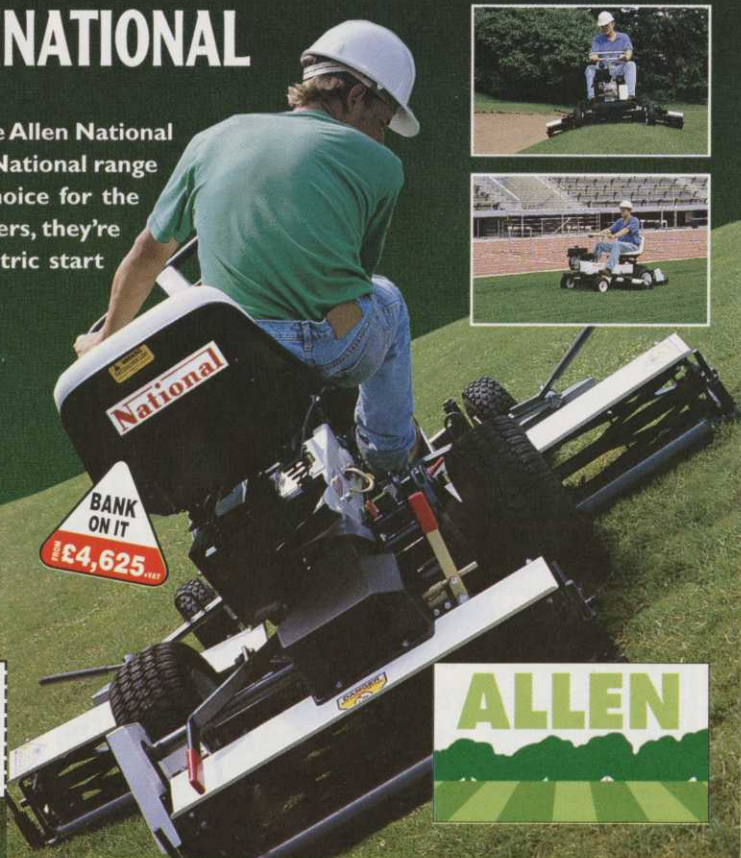
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Sales and Marketing Manager, James McEvoy, reports on his first visit to the GCSAA Conference and Show, and his first visit to the States.

# California dreaming



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# California dreaming

Neil Thomas, Jim Fry, Ian McMillan,  
Gordon Child, James McEvoy and Marion Child

Having spent a year heavily involved in organising and marketing BTME '98, when Neil Thomas suggested that I travel with the BIGGA party to Anaheim, California, (home of Disneyland and Mickey Mouse) for the GCSAA's annual show, I was delighted to accept.

However, trying to explain to my partner, Julie, that the trip was purely business proved the most arduous task and with only a week between the two shows, it was also a hectic programme. But this provided an opportunity I found difficult to resist, and I would spend a great deal of my time comparing and contrasting the two very different, yet equally successful approaches.

Los Angeles, where the sun always shines, California dreams and all that. Well before we go any further let me tell you, we saw very little sun thanks to the unfriendly weather caused by the infamous El Nino.

Rain, and lots of it, along with storms. No chance of getting my legs tanned in the shorts I'd optimistically packed (I hope Julie doesn't read this). It could have been worse though, it could have snowed at the BTME. I had foolishly assumed that unlike our show which always has one eye on the weather, theirs would be guaranteed clear blue skies. Having said that, it was amusing to watch the CNN weather reports. Oh, how the Americans have a habit of overstating things.

LA is a sprawl, extending for miles in all directions and Anaheim is just one of its many suburbs. With no obvious centre, the area is dominated by Disneyland, and the Disneyland Hotel provides accommodation for visitors to the Magic Kingdom. This was where the BIGGA party stayed for the next eight nights and in fact was one of the designated hotels for the GCSAA's show. Many of the 1000



bedrooms in the hotel were occupied by show attendees. Buses relayed visitors to and from the show on a ten minute rota at peak times. Considering the "awesome" weather (gotta use the lingo), the buses were a major blessing. The charm of Harrogate and the peace of North Yorkshire in comparison seemed more than a million miles away.

The Anaheim Hilton Hotel, just a few minutes walk from the exhibition centre, was the official exhibition hotel and was used for all the

Gala evenings and celebration dinners that were held over the week. The Americans are big on speeches and love to present every last family detail on video in their own inimitable style. Small wonder Jeremy Beadle is in possession of so much hilarious material!

Harrogate, by comparison, is a Conference town. All the hotels are within walking distance; the Majestic Hotel, which is the nerve centre for the BTME, has 156 rooms and is one the largest hotels in Harrogate. Little more than a

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