

# Marking time with bag-in-the-box system

**WHEREVER** line marking products are used, from our finest stadiums to local park pitches, the choice between tradition and technology has never been more stark.

Transfer wheel markers, when used with the right liquids will put down a superb line but, for this to be achieved, they have to be used under almost ideal conditions on a flat surface with good grass cover.

When using a transfer wheel marker, more often than not the pitch will need marking at least twice, once in each direction. This fact is due to the way the transfer wheel operates as it only coats the leaf blade on one side, in the direction the machine is being pushed. i.e. marking one-way coats the leaf on one side, marking the other way coats the other side. This may be OK for pro clubs with a groundsman who has the time to lay the perfect line that shows up well on SKY but, for others, it can be a messy, time-consuming operation.

When used under adverse ground conditions, as in the winter months, it

can be difficult to even push a transfer wheel marker through a muddy half way line full of paint that is slopping around, never mind putting down a white line that is of an acceptable quality. The same situation in reverse is at the end of the season when the operator could be marking on bare dry soil on which dust would be picked up by the paint coated transfer wheel, clogging it up and laying an inferior line.

The paint used in a transfer wheel marker can vary widely from cheap chalk that will lay a line that is easily washed out to a concentrate such as Duraljne Supreme used by many professional clubs with very little dilution. In respect of all paints, it is not just the price of the actual material that needs to be taken into consideration, but the actual amount used per pitch, the cost of labour in the application and the frequency that the lines require to be over-marked.

Though transfer wheel markers have their place when marking a



**A simple transfer wheel line marker**

single pitch with good grass cover, things are totally different where the multiple marking of pitches is concerned, be it training pitches, local authority sports grounds or contractor use. In such instances the cost per pitch and the time taken to apply are everything.

The clubs and organisations working at every level of the various games played on pitches that require marking have become more aware of the benefits open to them in respect of spray marking machines.

Whichever way you look at, the benefits of spraying a line down with the appropriate paint is that you are spraying the paint down through the grass without any point of contact on the surface; the grass leaf blade is not pressed down and, as both sides of the leaf are coated, it is only necessary to mark the pitch in one direction and yes, the line can be applied to a pitch in any condition.

It is true that users of spray markers may need to consider a higher specification paint concentrate but that does not mean the cost of marking a pitch will be higher, in fact it can be the total opposite.

The introduction of the Impact bag-in-the-box system set the height of the bar by which all spray markers are now judged. With the launch of

Impact Gold at last years SALTEX. The industry now has a superior paint and application system that not only provides a bright, long lasting line but can over-mark a pitch using from just 1 litre of ready to use paint without the addition of any water, and with packaging that is either totally recyclable or is just disposed of as normal household waste. In such instances an operator can undertake the over-marking of up to 20 pitches without having to measure, mix, pour or add water throughout the whole operation.

There is little doubt that the industry has moved on from the days of hauling around sacks of chalk and heavy packs of paint that require to be mixed up in buckets and poured into a machine, a practice that would need repeating for every two pitches marked. Personal hygiene, packaging disposal, cost per pitch and the most contentious, water wastage, must all now be considered when deciding on which line marking system to use.

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**Rigby Taylor Ltd is proud to announce that its paint manufacturer Linemark UK has been awarded the Queens Award for Innovation for the Impact Gold linemarking system of which they are the UK's exclusive distributor.**



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