

Belgium

50 years old and not a wrinkle

Henri Cochet, Björn Borg, André Agassi... For 50 years, the world's tennis stars have trained at the Tennis Club de Belgique on their way through Brussels. As well as hosting major events like the World Professional Tennis Championships and the Davis Cup, this covered tennis court has another particularity: "We still use the original court surface", club director Gilbert Elseneer, told Wave. "The Solvay PVC tiles we laid in 1954 are still in impeccable condition and we reckon they will last another 20 years! In this way we hope to enter the record book: right now we are checking that our covered tennis



The PVC tiles at the Tennis Club de Belgique, dating from 1954, are still in perfect quality.

surface is the oldest in the world to have been in continuous use without renovation." No mean event, with the court being perched on the 5th floor of a city centre building. There is a little secret

to the court's stability and longevity: the PVC tiles are separated from the concrete screed by a shock-absorbent layer of stabilising sand, and by a fine layer of cement.

Belgium

Jemeppe takes home 2003 Responsible Care prize



The Federation of Belgian Chemical Industries (Fedichem's) Responsible Care prize has gone this year to SolVin's Jemeppe-sur-Sambre site, where SolVin PVC production is the main activity. The prize, awarded unanimously by a panel of specialists from the academic world, honours a several month communication campaign aimed at the plant's neighbours. Organised in co-operation with the public authorities and the emergency services, the campaign served to inform neighbours of the risks attached to the site's

activities (which is in the Seveso category, owing mainly to the storage of VCM, the raw material for PVC), of measures taken to reduce these risks and of good reflexes in the event of an alert. The communication supports included a mini-CD with the different alert signals and their meanings, a brochure explaining what to do in the event of an alert, a credit-card size summary of these instructions which can be kept in a wallet, and for the children, a pencil case illustrated with simple safety instructions.

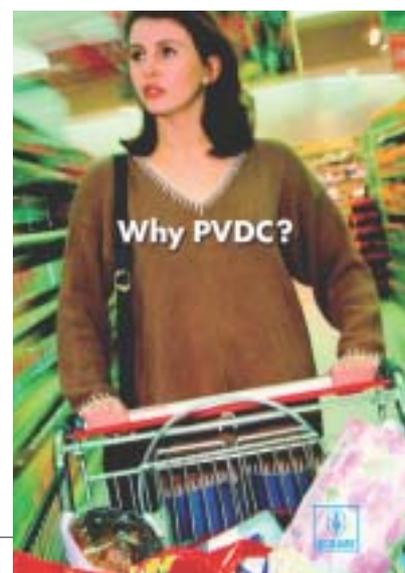
The "paper" supports for the information campaign were, of course, printed on PVC.

PVDC

A mouth-watering brochure

SolvIn has just published a brochure focusing on the benefits of PVDC and illustrating its many applications in packaging. Available in English, French and German, it is aimed in particular at marketing managers in pharmaceuticals, food and retailing.

Order your copy from diego.lancksweert@solvay.com.



Innovation

Get ready to take part in the 2nd "SolVin Awards for PVC Innovation"!



SolVin is launching a new challenge to everyone in the PVC world. Processor, additive producer, researcher, machinery manufacturer, recycler or... you will shortly be invited to present your innovations and possibly carry off one of the SolVin Innovation Awards! The selection criteria? As in the 1st edi-

tion of this competition in 2001, award-winning innovations, either at the development stage or already on the market, must offer a "plus" in terms of the environment, competitiveness or new applications. In short, they must contribute to promoting PVC as a reliable, profitable and pro-environmental product, which

evolves with the times and contributes to user well-being.

Practical information for taking part will be sent to you shortly, and will also be accessible on the www.solvinpvc.com site.



Last June the Pretzel caused a sensation at Saint-Cloud in the Paris region! Visitors, among them many children, climbed up on to it in small groups to observe the treetops and gain a birds' eye view of the park.

France - Panama

En route for new adventures

The Solvin PVC Pretzel (or "Canopy Raft") departs for a new expedition in late September-early October 2003. 100% financed by SolVin and Solvay (including Solvay Indupa), this expedition will enable a team of scientists to explore the canopy of the Panamanian tropical forest. In preparation for this new adventure, the Pretzel came out of storage last June for the national "Arts of Gardening" show in a park close to

Paris. An opportunity to re-flate it, to check its state of repair and to test transporting it by helicopter. For the trip to Panama the SolVin Pretzel will be simply deflated and folded. There it will be re-flated, and carried to its new forest site by helicopter and not by balloon as on previous expeditions.

Survey

Do you like Wave?

The answer is a clear "yes"! Almost 90% of the 156 readers who responded to our survey said that Wave kept them well informed about SolVin and a majority of them learn a lot about PVC by reading it (indeed, for most of them it is their only source of information about PVC). Wave is not only read - either from cover to cover (33%) or in large part (54%) - but is also kept as a reference document. Many readers also take it home to show their families. The suggestions received are being studied for upcoming issues. One initial response already: a thematic index of contents from all past editions of Wave and Mini Wave (the supplement for SolVin staff) has been produced and will be updated for every publication.

A big thank you to all participants for

their messages of encouragement. A special SolVin gift has gone... to each of them.

The Wave team

The complete survey results, all the Wave issues (in English) and the Wave index of contents are available on www.solvinpvc.com. Wave and Mini Wave (in 6 languages) and their index of contents are available for SolVin staff on the R&T SBU Vinyls intranet.

Surprise... did you know that you can read Wave in a physiotherapist's waiting room in Namur and in Enkenbach police station ?