Ball Valve Assembly

Abstract

A ball valve assembly comprises:

a pipe section having an axial bore for enabling fluid flow therethrough in use;

a valve ball having an internal conduit, the valve ball being mounted within the pipe section and for rotation with respect to the pipe section between an open position in which fluid within the bore may flow through the conduit and a closed position in which the conduit is inaccessible to fluid within the bore;

drive means for rotating the valve ball, said drive means being located radially outside the bore; and

an encapsulation, said encapsulation being positioned to receive the valve ball and having portions located radially between the pipe bore and the drive means, such that the encapsulation prevents fluid within the bore from accessing the drive means.

Fig. 1