

HELSBY GOLF CLUB

GREEN POLICY DOCUMENT

TITLE	POND MANAGEMENT
REFERENCE	8.1 version 2
DATE	NOVEMBER 2012
OWNERS	COG/HG
PURPOSE	The overall policy regarding the ponds will be to ensure that we have healthy ponds with a diverse contribution to the ecological environment of the golf course. This means that all ponds will have a specific ecological purpose, ie. some will be shallow, some will be deep, some will have plants, some will be clear of vegetation, all will be able to maintain an ecological environment of a diverse nature and all will be maintained in line with this policy on a regular basis
BACKGROUND	The ponds on the course form an integral part of the design of the relevant holes forming a hazard and determining the strategy adopted in the play of the hole. They also provide an attractive feature and are important refuges for wildlife. The ponds were originally marl pits dug by farmers mainly for drainage – they are not natural drainage ponds ie. they do not form the outlet for the ditches
CURRENT SITUATION	The ponds have had an inconsistent maintenance programme over many years and as a consequence they have not been seen as a feature of the course and have been hidden away. They have assumed a dark and dismal appearance. The Ecologist suggested allowing more light to pond surface and regular maintenance in line with the pond policy.
PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally all ponds will have some light and some shade. The southern and western boundaries of the ponds will, where feasible be unrestricted by trees and bushes • Some ponds will have sloping edges some will have steeper banks. All ponds will be mainly shallow but some may be deeper in places. Some ponds will have leaf litter. • We will assume that the great crested newt is present in some of the ponds rather than pay for a survey in the region of £1000. • Members will be required not to introduce ‘foreign’ fish and/or plants to any of the ponds • Grass cuttings must not be dumped in pond areas or under trees – the hedgerow is acceptable • All ponds will be included in the management policy for their maintenance and development – SEE LIST BELOW. • Do not feed ducks or fish – result is cloudy unhealthy pond • Members must not plant surplus pond plants from their gardens

	<p><u>POND 1 (7th Tee)</u></p> <p>Prune/Remove yearly tree/bush screen to south and west to let light into pond Provide sloping edge for animal access Remove yearly ‘whips’ from bushes which will stay around the pond (north and east) Carefully remove some leaf mould at the edge of pond annually</p> <p><u>POND 2 (6TH Tee)</u></p> <p>This pond will permit leaf litter on its surface Remove yearly some overhanging branches on 2nd fairway edge Maintain long term protection from tee shots from 2nd tee Leave log pile in corner of hazard</p> <p><u>POND 3 (7th Fairway)</u></p> <p>Provide a sloping bank Hand clear yearly the ditch that connects the two ponds Pile of logs on island</p> <p><u>POND 4 (2nd Fairway)</u></p> <p>This pond will has none, or very little, shade Possibly too deep No action</p> <p><u>POND 5 (Practice ground – behind tee)</u></p> <p>Remove all shrubs on bank to encourage vegetation through improved light – there is no vegetation at the moment</p> <p><u>POND 6 (Practice ground)</u></p> <p>Clear area of golf balls Leave pond to become ‘non great newt friendly’ Put up substantial fence to stop balls from entering and fence around pond for safety purposes. Reduce boundary of pond to facilitate practice ground</p> <p><u>POND 7 (10th Fairway)</u></p> <p>This pond will have some light and some shade and will be allowed leaf litter Evidence of badgers Clear yearly edge of shrubs and tidy up broken branches etc. Oak trees even if they die are not to be removed – good source of insects for birds Before removing hedge ensure a replacement is planted in its place – valuable route to ponds for amphibians Leave rough area at edge of practice ground and underneath hedge</p> <p><u>POND 8 (13th Fairway)</u></p> <p>This will be a ‘bullrush’ and ‘yellow iris’ pond Clear every 3 years 20 metres of bullrushes on east bank and provide slope – let rest grow Remove every 3 years bushes and small willows Remove sycamore on east bank</p>
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	<p><u>POND 9 (14th Fairway)</u></p> <p>This will be an area to support wildlife and pond plants (pads) and should be maintained every 3 years to ensure that it remains healthy</p> <p>Evidence of badgers</p> <p>Trim yearly lower branches of oak trees</p> <p>Remove bushes on fairway side yearly</p> <p>Pile of logs</p> <p><u>POND 10 (15th Fairway)</u></p> <p>Low level and dark</p> <p>Open south and west banks to allow light to penetrate</p> <p>Leave north and east banks to provide dark area</p>
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