



Tynemouth Golf Course is located on one of the smallest piece of real estate capable of containing a full and challenging 18 Holes of golf and there is very little “spare” land. However, in keeping with the modern trends of green keeping we were determined to allocate space to create biodiversity within the course.

This was achieved by identifying areas of the course which could loosely be described as “non playing areas” even though some golfers make a determined effort to play in places which can be politely described as slightly off target.

In consultation with the Department of Environment, North Tyneside Parks Department and The Sports Turf Research Institute we identified 5 areas which over the next three years we will manage in a sympathetic way to create a “Nature Corridor” which will also compliment extensive work being done to improve the habitat for wildlife in nearby Northumberland Park.

The areas are to the right of the 12th hole, the rear of the 4th tee, the rear of the 13th green and two areas within the valley (the Dene) between the 2nd and 10th fairway. These areas have been allowed to grow untended but will have the vegetation cut and harvested for the next 3years. They will then be seeded with meadow wild flowers which over time will self-pollinate a total area of approximately 2500 sq.m. to attract a wide variety of bees, butterflies, moths and small birds. We are also arranging to plant a large number of indigenous trees and varied bushes mainly to screen from view the parked cars and buildings on the approaches to the 18th and 9th greens.

Over the longer term this will bring a number of benefits to both the club and golfers by way of savings of man hours, machinery use and fuel costs as well as enhancing the playing experience for golfers.

The greens staff have also obtained a Moisture Meter which very accurately measures the water content within each area of the greens. This practice allows them to target specific areas of need to maintain constant moisture levels which then creates stronger and healthier greens thereby reducing the possibility of diseases encroaching and the need for chemical intervention. It also allows them to manage the use of the sprinkler system more efficiently.

The recent purchase of a Turf-Iron has not only improved the playing characteristics of the greens but has also reduced the need to cut the greens as often thereby reducing stress levels within the growth on the greens. There is also less need of the more expensive, fuel thirsty Triplex Mower which will extend its working life by some 25%

To further reduce Tynemouth Golf Club's “carbon footprint” we are, with the co-operation of The English Golf Union and The Ethical Energy Group, carrying out a detailed survey of all of our fuel use within the club and where practical and economically viable investing in the latest techniques to reduce the cost of heating, lighting and fuel consumption for the long term future.

Hopefully when all the above develop successfully we can look forward to a more enjoyable future for both members and visitors to Tynemouth Golf Club as we move towards our second century.