



Auchterarder GC: Pond Creation

INTRODUCTION: Auchterarder Golf Club is a parkland course and has spectacular views towards Glendevon. The PGA Centenary Course at Gleneagles, venue for the 2014 Ryder Cup, also runs alongside it. An easy walking course of 5775 yards it has a variety of holes with 6 challenging par 3s.

THE ISSUE

Auchterarder is a heathland/woodland course set in a largely upland/rural landscape. The section of the course that is more wooded in character is also wetter. Over a number of years a large part of this area suffered from worsening flooding and water logging during periods of heavy or prolonged rainfall.

THE SOLUTION

It was recognised that a review and upgrade of the drainage system of that part of the course was required. Within the worst section of waterlogging there was a large 'out of play' area that was unused and unmanaged. It was felt that a wetland could be incorporated as a golfing feature and to assist in the creation of a sustainable drainage system incorporating conservation value, community involvement and primary water treatment.

The area for wetland development was roughly triangular in shape, bounded by two fairways and one green. It came into play from all three holes. The project aim was to create a variety of aquatic habitats and an attractive golfing feature that contributed to the sustainable drainage of the course. A consultant was employed to design a project that met those aims.

Following consultation of the draft plans with Auchterarder Golf Club Committee and confirmation of funding, a final design was agreed. The project then went to tender and a private contractor appointed.

The final designs proposed the creation of a large pool with varying depths (40m by 24m, with depths varying from 0.2m to 0.75m). Sloping edges were incorporated into the design, and an island was created to provide additional habitat.

AT A GLANCE...

>> Auchterarder Golf Club had an out of play area of the course that suffered from worsening flooding during heavy rainfall.

>> In 2004, as part of a sustainable drainage system, a new pond was constructed and improved with aquatic planting.

>> The pond not only solved a drainage problem, it provided a valuable new wildlife habitat and is an attractive feature of the golf course.



The margins were planted with a variety of wetland plants and floating species such as water lilies were planted into the open water.

Inflow and outflow ditches were also created to link in with existing drainage systems. The surrounding area was seeded with an appropriate wild flower and grassland mix. Site construction commenced in mid-September and was completed by late October, to be finally available to the public in the following June.

The project took a partnership approach. The initial consultation with Scottish Golf Environment Group led to involvement from SEPA's Habitat Enhancement Initiative, Scottish Natural Heritage, Fresh Futures and Perth and Kinross Council, Environment Services. The project was co-funded by these partners and Auchterarder Golf Club provided volunteer labour for the soft landscaping.

OUTCOMES

- Creation of superb pond and wetland habitat – including a large pond with island, new ditches and concrete spillway. A follow up wetland creation project was also implemented to solve flooding on the 9th green.
- Creation of associated grassland habitat
- Creation of attractive and challenging golfing features.
- Together with a well-designed conventional drainage system this pond creation project provides a successful sustainable drainage solution that helps maintain the course in optimum playing condition throughout the year.
- A system that provides primary water treatment and retention
- Wildlife has begun to colonise – waterfowl and Mute swans have used the pond, and a variety of freshwater invertebrates and amphibian larvae have already been observed in the first spring. The project strongly supports the P&K Council Environment Policy & Action Plan.
- Regular, on-going monitoring of species present
- Provision of an educational and recreational resource
- Increased promotional opportunities for Auchterarder Golf Club - positive press and news articles.



Aug 2002 Pre-construction



May 2004 – Post Construction

FIND OUT MORE

If your club would like to promote its business success story or require support in this area, please contact your Club Development Officer or Environment Manager Carolyn Hedley: c.hedley@scottishgolf.org

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