



Innerleithen GC: Alternative drinking water supply

INTRODUCTION: Innerleithen Golf Club, opened in 1886, is a 9-hole golf course located in the Scottish Borders, 32 miles south of Edinburgh and 6 miles from Peebles. Set in the Leithen Valley, the river forms an integral part of this mostly flat inland course.

THE ISSUE

As this is a small club, with 260 members and 500 visitors per year, the clubhouse is appropriately sized with a small bar and changing rooms. To keep operational costs down and to keep giving members and visitors value for money, the club management has looked at ways to become more efficient.

THE SOLUTION

Potable water supply is one such area that the club has addressed. Due to costs of mains water supply and the remote location of the golf club, a suitable raw water supply from the streams of the adjacent hillside was investigated. Within the forestry commission owned land, the club has been given permission to abstract water from one of the streams.

The club worked with Balmoral Tanks of Aberdeen with financial assistance from Scottish Borders Council. Water entering the first small tank, allows for solids to settle. This overflows into a further tank where any remaining sediment settles out also by gravity. Water is then piped by gravity again down the hillside approx. 200 metres to the clubhouse.

After entering the building, the water then passes through a series of 10" polywound water filters to remove the smallest of micro particles. The water finally passes through a metre long tube that is surrounded by ultraviolet (UV) light. This UV light kills off any bacteria and pathogens so that the water is at a high enough standard to be consumed.

AT A GLANCE...

- >> To reduce operational costs, Innerleithen GC abstracts and treats its own drinking water.
- >> Water is pumped from an adjacent hillside stream, filtered and treated by ultraviolet (UV) light.
- >> The club has ensured they have a sustainable supply that is not dependent on mains water alone. It has proved to be a cost effective way of supplying potable water and keeps ongoing operational costs down.

OUTCOMES

In Scotland, any business that abstracts water from surface or groundwater sources requires to register with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) under the Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR) Scotland 2011. Innerleithen Golf Club has registered with SEPA and keeps records of amounts of water abstracted.

Drinking water standards are very stringent and SEPA test the drinking water produced periodically to ensure it is at the required safe standard.

It is estimated on average the club abstracts and treats 200m³ water per year for potable use.

On average mains water costs £0.77 / m³ (SW Business Stream 2011) therefore the club are saving an estimated £154 in volumetric water costs per year.

They are making further savings by not paying fixed (standing charges) which depending on meter size would have been a further £136 minimum. Wastewater goes to the clubs septic tank.

Therefore it is estimated using their own supply is potentially saving the club at least £290 per year compared to mains water.

The ongoing cost of replacement filters etc is approx. £100 per year.

The abstraction unit, pipework and UV treatment kit cost £2,000 with a grant of £1,000 from Scottish Borders Council.

The payback period of the club investment is therefore approx. 5 years.

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



Raw water abstraction point on the hillside



Filter and UV Treatment system

This case study was produced with support

