

# Water, water everywhere?

It has often been said, and is again later in this issue, that water will shortly become our most valuable asset. The repercussions for golf when this happens will be great.

I was interested, therefore, to stumble across the latest issue of Environment Action, the official publication of the Environment Agency, which devoted its centre spread to the subject of water and water conservation. It made some interesting reading and, while not directly mentioning golf, offered up some information that may be of interest to more than a few of you.

Apparently there are 48,000 licensed river and underground abstractions in England and Wales alone but there are changes proposed in the licensing system to help ensure that authorisations contribute to the sustainable management of water resources. Included in these proposed changes are that all new authorisations will be time-limited and existing licences will be converted to time-limited status while in cases where abstractions are shown to be causing environmental damage the licence could be revoked.

Another proposal is that from July 1, 2012, the right to compensation will be ended for losses arising from the revocation of an abstraction licence.

Obviously that is more than 10 years down the line but the message is clear. A licenced borehole may not be the indefinite answer to all your irrigation prayers and, with probable strict monitoring of water use, sensible policies will have to be in place to keep the water police at bay.

But that starts with domestic use and the same Environment Action feature lists some interesting facts about water wastage and how we can all help.

For example, if everyone in the UK took a shower instead of a bath we would collectively save as much water as it would take to fill Wembley 10 times over; also if everyone in the UK turned off the tap when they brushed their teeth we would save as much water in a week as it would take the fill the Millennium Dome and the fact that a third of all water used in the home is flushed down the toilet.

Other, more obscure information, includes, the fact, and I'm sure the Environment Agency is not advocating that we try, that a person can survive without food for more than 30 days but less than a week without water, while a camel can do without water for up to 17 days and an astronaut needs only 2.9 litres of water a day.

I'm indebted to Environment Action for this information as it highlights what we can all do to help the situation while also sounding the alarm bells for the future of our industry.

We must find a way of using less water to maintain our golf courses before restrictions are imposed on us not after.

Golf is an easy target and if it is a choice of holding greens or a hot, deep bubble bath I'm pretty sure I know what would win the nation's vote.



**Editor:**  
Scott MacCallum

# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

## Features

- 23 Pastures New**  
Graham and Robert Pain have turned Cleobury Mortimer into a fine 27 hole complex as Scott MacCallum found out
- 27 Lessons Learned**  
Joe Bedford and Dean Cleaver, of FEGGA, put forward the Federation's views on Committed to Green
- 33 On Course for Change**  
John Lelean reports from the R&A Conference
- 39 A Fine Crop**  
Scott MacCallum visits Avoncrop, BIGGA's latest Golden Key Supporter
- 50 Finishing touches**  
Roland Taylor looks at the latest trends in golf course furniture
- 55 Valderrama Adventure**  
Jason Taylor, of the London Club, reports on his experiences working at Valderrama during the recent World Championship event
- 60 BIGGA Essay Competition**  
The winning entry of the over 25 Category Essay Competition
- 67 A Close Shave**  
Noel MacKenzie of the STRI discusses the intricacies of cutting your turf to the correct height
- 71 Welcome to Westurf**  
Paul Jenkins gets everyone ready for next month's Westurf Exhibition



**33** On Course for Change  
This month's cover features a stunning aerial photograph illustrating the scale of coastal erosion at Brancaster GC



**67** A Close Shave



**50** Finishing Touches