

## TOP TIPS...

### ADVICE...

In 2003 Laleham Golf Club experienced the worst drought they had ever suffered. Course Manager, John Ross explains and offers five top tips in the fight against drought.

"In 2003 Laleham Golf Club had zero rainfall from March until October, 113 mm fell locally in that time but it felt like we were inside some form of protective dome. The water licence at Laleham allows only 1.84 cubic metres of water per hour to be applied through the irrigation system and Laleham is laid out on gravel exacerbating the problems."

### TIPS FOR COPING WITH DROUGHT

#### 1. Plan for it

If it does not happen you have lost nothing, planning is done in the winter and spring, every winter and spring! Aeration is key, No aeration no drought resistance.

#### 2. Learn to read the early signs of plant stress

Leaf wilt, uneven dew formation.

#### 3. Irrigation without infiltration and percolation is wasted

When we water we target plant roots not foliage.

#### 4. Turn negatives into positives

Use a drought as a means of constructing arguments for investment in irrigation, drainage and aeration (yes drainage! drought tolerance starts with good drainage).

#### 5. Do not abuse your irrigation system

Hand water hot spots if that is what is needed, no point saturating a large area to get a small area.

### FLOODING ADVICE

Immingham Golf Club, Humberston, suffered greatly from flooding in 2007. Course Manager, Steven Beverly, offers some advice and explains: "When 500mm fell in two months, including over eight inches in one day, we ended up with several areas that were only passable by boat!"

### TOP TIPS FOR COPING WITH FLOODING...

1. If you identify poorly draining areas then they need to be addressed before any flooding occurs.

2. Ensure you are properly equipped to deal with the problems, i.e. have pumping equipment on site, know where drains are to pump into, ensure these drains work.

3. Any damage done by flooding needs to be cleared away promptly, i.e. any debris left on the course needs to be removed, washed out bunkers repaired.

4. Have course policies in place, if flooding causes the cancellation of major competitions or closes holes for prolonged periods of time.

5. **DON'T PANIC!** The flooding wasn't caused by greenkeepers or bad greenkeeping practices; it is an act of god and cannot be prevented, only dealt with as smoothly and quickly as possible.

# CLAIM SOME RECOGNITION

## 2008 BIGGA GOLF ENVIRONMENT COMPETITION



The opportunity for the golfing community to show, and indeed be recognised for, its commitment to promoting a sustainable environment has returned.

The competition is in place to acknowledge the positive work being carried out at golf clubs and to highlight to other clubs the ways in which they may become more sustainable. The focus is not limited to elite clubs who have been developing environmental projects over many years but is also on those who are in need of support and backing to justify the works they are already undertaking.

For more information and an application form contact Sami Collins, Head of Learning and Development, on tel: 01347 833800 or: sami@bigga.co.uk The deadline for applications is June 20, 2008.



Last year's BIGGA Golf Environment winners, Notts (Hollinwell) Golf Club

### FURTHER ADVICE

For further advice on climate change contact:

The Met Office: 0870 9000100

Email: enquiries@metoffice.gov.uk

DEFRA: 08459 33 55 77

Email: helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Environment Agency: 08708 506 506

Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

GES Consulting, Alan Hopkins BSc, MPhil, CEnv, MIEEM

Email: environment.hopkins@virgin.net

[www.water.org.uk](http://www.water.org.uk)

[www.ofgem.gov.uk](http://www.ofgem.gov.uk) - Regulators of electricity and gas markets in Great Britain