

Water restrictions

Water, H2O, wasser, agua, l'eau, call it what you will it has been the main topic of conversation for greenkeepers for the last few weeks and months.

We either have too much of it dropping from the skies – some of the rainfall statistics for the West of Scotland amongst other areas are eye watering (excuse the pun) – or far too little, resulting in Temporary Use Bans/Hosepipe Bans and potentially Drought Orders.

Meanwhile, courses are closed due to flooding, but we're assured

that even if it rains all summer, and let's hope it doesn't, that won't be enough to make up for two very dry winters.

As ever, BIGGA members will adapt to the varying challenges and continue to strive to produce the best course conditions possible. Many have already taken steps to harvest, store or abstract water, reduce usage and recycle, but there are still golf clubs out there that face the possibility of a long-term ban on irrigation.

Water shortages are clearly a serious issue and it ill behoves the

golf industry to try and claim that it's need is more important than many other deserving areas. But, it is clear that if irrigation is banned then those clubs affected will almost certainly suffer significantly as a result, and jobs are very much at stake, not just those of greenkeepers but across the golf employment sector and beyond.

Later in these pages we feature some examples of good practice and forward thinking that have taken place but the problem is one that the golf industry needs to address in a united way.

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