

HOSEPIPE BAN FOR MILLIONS

By Tamara Cohen
Science Reporter

TWENTY million people will be hit with hosepipe bans tomorrow to cope with the worsening drought, the Daily Mail can reveal.

Water companies in the South and East of England, where rainfall has been too low for nearly two years, will announce restrictions affecting one in three homes in the UK. Other areas could soon follow.

The move follows months of concern about the arid conditions, which have seen rivers run dry and reservoirs at record low levels.

In some areas, this has been the driest winter since records began a century or more ago, and weeks of sustained rainfall would be needed to get levels back to normal.

Source: Daily Mail 12th March 2012



IMAGES show the drought of 2006, in that year's Open at Royal Liverpool. Courtesy of Alan C. Birch



BIGGA along with the Golf Club Managers Association is supporting England Golf in its strong attempts to put forward a coherent case for golf clubs to be considered for exemptions. Paul Keeling, England Golf Club Services Manager, explains their position...

Temporary Bans are not a new thing. Back in 2006 (the last time bans and drought orders were in affect) England Golf ran water management workshops in the Midlands and South, at which experts such as Dr Jerry Knox from Cranfield University and the Environment Agency, all presented historical data that this has happened every five or six years, even before global warming was considered. At the workshops, advice on measures clubs should implement to protect themselves for the future were disseminated.

But here we are in 2012, so what are England Golf doing?

In anticipation of temporary bans, England Golf has made representation to the seven water companies with bans in place, advising of the damage the restrictions will have to golf club BUSINESSES, highlighting that an inability to maintain the biggest business asset (the greens) to a usable standard could result in repair and replacement costs of

tens of thousands of pounds alongside a significant loss of income for clubs. This will naturally have a knock on effect to secondary spend within clubhouses and professional's shops, ancillary supplier businesses could also be severely affected and employment will be jeopardised.

At the date of writing this article only one water company, Veolia, has provided a response.

What does England Golf suggest?

We would encourage each club affected by the ban to make individual representation to their water company, and to back up our representation.

I would congratulate Patrick Dawson, General Manager at Burnham Beeches Golf Club, who has also asked the question of the Thames Water Public Consultation Department and received the following reply; an irrigation system is not classed as a hosepipe.

Plus collate supporting information to strengthen your case;

Visitor Income - calculate the income to the Club and the impact

We Need You!

If your facility is affected by the Temporary Use Bans and you have either received an exemption or have had no joy so far please email us at info@bigga.co.uk with your details and the potential impact on your course to enable us to build a clearer picture of the overall effect on the golf industry.

it would have on the business if this dropped off due to poor greens conditions.

Justification of Water Use - It is important to show that current water use is efficient (evapotranspiration replacement) and necessary to maintain the playing surfaces and that water is not being wasted through carrying out the following:-

·Irrigation System Audit - the efficiency and adequacy of your system / water storage measures.

·Reductions made to Current Demands- Records on reductions made to irrigation inputs e.g. watering greens only.

·Agronomic Advice - Specialist advice to help strengthen your case in proving what water use is essential to keeping your turf alive and showing the Club are taking all possible measures to take to reduce drought susceptibility. Also, budget costs associated with remedial work in the event of loss of grass cover.

England Golf working with the Associations, BIGGA, GCMA, PGA etc, will continue to represent golf and support our affiliate clubs in securing access to the ever more valuable resource...WATER.