

# plan of action



Two or three water features are to be created utilising the existing ditch. These will be constructed to benefit wildlife and golfer by their gently contouring, strategic positioning and natural characteristics.

greenstaff at no extra cost. The environmental benefit of such steps will be, considerable.

These environmental improvements have been integrated into a wider general plan for all aspects of the course. This will ensure that whatever the Club's vision for the course, stewardship of the environment will remain an integral component.

"The club are delighted to work in partnership at a local level with the Edinburgh Greenbelt Trust and to participate in this national initiative," said Roddy MacGregor, member of the Green Committee and a driving force behind the Torphin Hill Management Plan.

Balnagask, a municipal course maintained by Aberdeen City Council is very different from Torphin Hill. However, although their management objectives are unique to the requirements of the course, the process of environmental planning is the same. By

assessing and evaluating the environmental qualities that currently exist the Council and the Club can appreciate what the best management would be for the site. Environmental Planning is all about making informed judgments.

The plan came about through discussions between the Council, the associated Club, Scottish Wildlife Trust and Golf Course Wildlife Adviser. An assessment of the landscape characteristics of the area and a habitat survey indicated the environmental qualities which could be conserved or enhanced. Much of this focuses on maintaining areas of highly valuable coastal heathland and grassland which also contribute so much to the golfing quality and challenge of the course.

The greenkeeper is Stuart McBain, winner of the second prize in last year's BIGGA Greenkeeping Awards. He will under-

take the works under the supervision of David Grant of the Council's Arts and Leisure Department. The open-mindedness of the club has done much to enable these golf related environmental improvements to take place.

It is hoped that the Council will apply the management planning process established at Balnagask to the other municipal courses under their control.

"The achievements of Torphin Hill and Balnagask demonstrate that golf courses can significantly enhance the environment through sensitive management," said Jonathan Smith, Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Adviser.

"Environmental improvements on a course create opportunities to add further interest, challenge and naturalness. Features which enhance the course for the golfer can also become valuable wildlife habitat and create a more natural landscape character," he added.

'The achievements of Torphin Hill and Balnagask demonstrate that golf courses can significantly enhance the environment through sensitive management'



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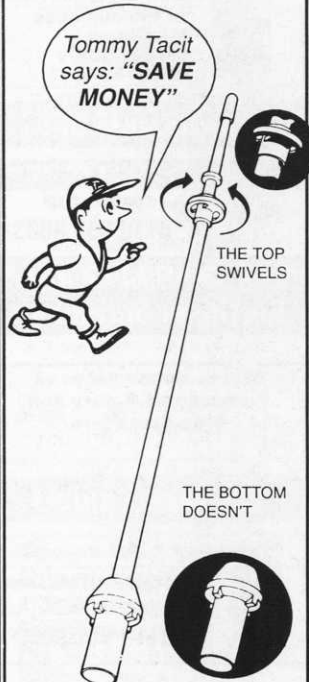
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