BIO-DIVERSITY REVIEW 2024/5

Members will be aware that we have undertaken some measures to improve the course and to enable access to funds from local charities and commercial bodies. In 2024 we have benefitted from:

* Recognition of the Schools Eco Projects by becoming finalists for the Golf Environment Awards 2024 and England Golf Awards 2025.
* Renovation of 2 hedges by Liverpool University. This is particularly important to improve sight lines from the tees, across the pathway.
* Renovation of the pond on 8th. Liverpool University established that this was a pond which historically was home to Great Crested Newts. They are keen to ensure the pond is kept clear and will monitor it in the hope we can encourage the Great Crested newt back again.
* Established hedgehog houses, bird houses and a home for the Woodpeckers.
* Built 2 Bug Hotels
* Partnered with local group to allow Bat walks to monitor activity across the course
* Established a wildflower area
* Planted bluebells along the fence line by the 3rd fairway
* Planted wildflower bulbs around the practice ground and various wooded areas, across the course.
* Delivered bee keeping course to people to develop social skills, on behalf of G4S.
* We undertook a further bid to Veolia, this time for solar panels. Whilst they supported the bid in principle, they felt we should have bid for batteries as well. Unfortunately, this would have put the amount required outside our budget. We were, however, fortunate in receiving funding via The Innovatory and Liverpool City regions funding. Solar panels have been installed on the Locker Room roof and will provide sufficient power for our needs and to allow a percentage to be sold back to the grid. Apart from reducing our carbon footprint the panels should save between £6k-£8k per annum.

Our mature Black poplar and one of the Manchester poplars by the putting green were in danger of damaging the roof of the Club House and potentially falling in high winds. A local company have cut these back and thankfully the work was undertaken in a timely fashion prior to the early New Years storms. Unfortunately, we have not been able to undertake some of the scheduled planned maintenance of trees on the 4th and 6th fairways. These will be programmed as soon as possible.

Through working with the Environment Agency, United Utilities and Wirral Council we have established the owners of the area causing flooding across the 3rd, 4th and 5th fairways and we are working with the various agencies to agree a mutually acceptable solution.

We have also established contact with the Forestry Commission to request work is undertaken in Pride Park on a regular planned programme. The reeds, brambles and pond have had limited maintenance over the past 10 years and having established responsibilities we will continue to ensure the areas are properly maintained.

Various groups are continuing to monitor plants, trees and wildlife and if there are further interesting developments, we can keep you informed.

For the forthcoming months we will be:

* Working with schools to continue their access to open spaces and to develop golf with the pupils
* Working with G4S to provide for people who have been out of work for some time and lack social skills, and confidence. We are hoping to renovate the 14th and 15th tee areas with their support.
* Bring bees onto the course (they will be well hidden from golfers) but will allow us to sell our own honey in late summer.

Should anyone wish to help with the above please contact Gill Broadhurst for further information.