

Leicestershire & Rutland Greener Golf Group Winter Conference 2023

10 Take Home Messages from Keith Duff

1. Identify any Club members with an interest in wildlife, with the aim of involving them in recording wildlife on the property (habitats and species), and also encourage them to try and interest fellow Club members.
2. Communicate with Members (verbally and via notices/pictures) to let them know what wildlife they can see on the course, where and when.
3. Identify what broad habitat types you have on site, and record this on a map. Any specific locations for species is also a good idea.
4. Make sure your course management plan includes management for the habitats and species on the property.
5. Engage with local naturalists to seek their help in surveying and recording habitats and species; they can probably also advise on appropriate management activities.
6. Encourage pollinating insects by managing nectar-rich meadow areas in the roughs, or sowing appropriate grassland seed mixes.
7. Save money by cutting the roughs less frequently, which will also encourage wildlife through increasing naturalisation.
8. Plan for climate change in the way you manage your golf course – consider likely future patterns of rainfall and temperature, possible future restrictions in availability of irrigation water, and possible future restrictions in availability of pesticides and fungicides.
9. Make use of the environmental services provided by various golf industry bodies – The R&A, Golf Environment Organisation, BIGGA, England Golf
10. Explore the R&A Golf Course 2030 programme via www.randa.org/golf-course-2030-projects, and via www.golfcourse2030water.com

Dr Keith Duff
keithduff21@hotmail.co.uk