

GC2030

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Golf and Biodiversity Seminar

A ffgolf and Golf Course 2030 Event

16-17 April 2024



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Foreword.

Paris, April 2024

We are pleased to share with you this summary booklet from the 2024 Golf and Biodiversity Seminar, hosted in Paris, France.

This event was held as part of the ffgolf programme **Studies into Golf and Biodiversity**, a project supported by The R&A's Golf Course 2030 and the European Union and delivered with collaboration from a range of golf and non-golf organisations.

The seminar aimed to inspire continued leadership within the golf sector in environmental management, biodiversity and nature conservation.

Bringing together a diverse range of attendees from golf federations, industry bodies, practitioners and expert consultants, it provided a valuable opportunity to share the work already being done by golf and discuss the opportunities that lie ahead.

Nature and biodiversity are a great opportunity for golfing landscapes to contribute to a global issue, and support society's priority of reversing biodiversity loss.

This booklet presents short abstracts of the presentations given at the symposium. It shares insights into golf's continued careful custodianship of the landscapes our golf courses are so closely linked to, and the identified opportunities for golf to continue its work in this area.



John Kemp
Project Manager –
Golf Course 2030,
The R&A



Sylvianne Villaudière
Vice-president for
Sustainability,
ffgolf

Tuesday 16 April



Seminar Day 1: Programmes and Projects Advancing Golf and Biodiversity

Day One Itinerary

Welcome to European Seminar Golf and Biodiversity

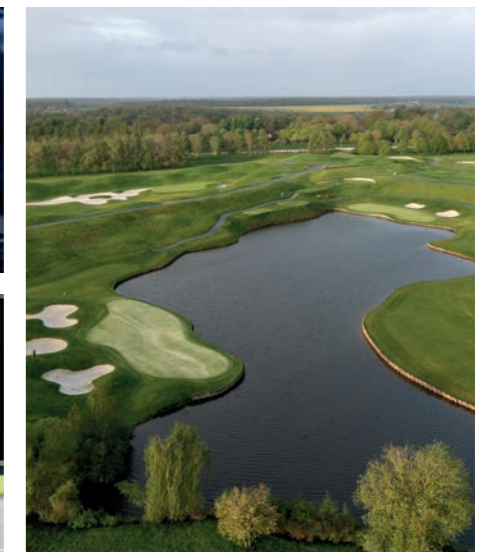
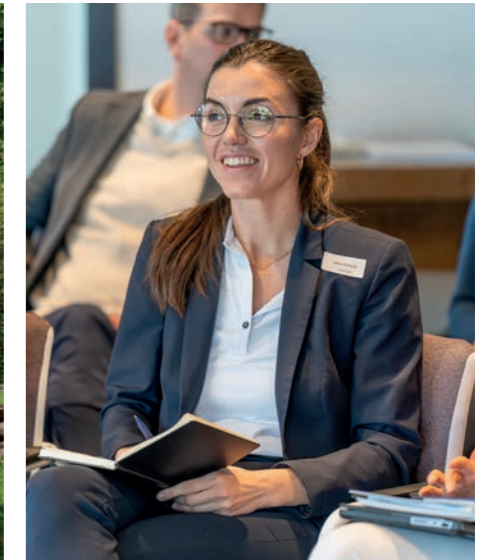
John Kemp, Richard Windows, The R&A
Sylvianne Villaudière, ffgolf

Presentation of European Federation Initiatives on Biodiversity:

- **Golf & Nature Project** – Sophie Olejnik, The R&A
- **Research on Biodiversity and Golf** – Maria Strandberg, STERF
- **Biodiversity in the Golf Course Landscape** – Peter Edman, Swedish Golf Federation
- **Latest Updates on Biodiversity Projects** – Louise Bienfait, Netherland Golf Federation
- **Golf and Much More: a Guide to the Natural and Cultural Heritage of Italian Golf Clubs** – Alessandro de Luca, Marta Visentin, Stefano Boni, Italian Golf Federation
- **Let's Swing for Biodiversity** – Samuel Silberer, Andrea Loreface, Swiss Golf
- **Biodiversity and Carbon Sequestration on Golf Courses** – Jari Koivusalo, Finnish Golf Union

Field Walk at Le Golf National – Arthur Lecomte, Le Golf National

Venue for 2024 Olympic Golf and 2018 Ryder Cup, showcasing practical work in protecting and advancing biodiversity.





Claire Pignon joined ffgolf in July 2023 as the Golf for Biodiversity programme and certification became more robust and attracted an increasing number of golf clubs. She now coordinates the programme and organises events as part of the Golf Course 2030 project and thanks the European Commission for its support.

The Golf for Biodiversity Programme and Certification

Claire Pignon, ffgolf

Conscious of the fact that France's golf courses possess a biodiversity rich in potential but about which little is known, the French Golf Federation (ffgolf) has decided to take its conservation actions to the next level by joining forces with the country's National Museum of Natural History (MNHN). The ambitious partnership they have embarked on has led to the creation of a ground-breaking club initiative called the Golf for Biodiversity Programme (PGB), which has the support of all organisations representing the French and European golf sector.

By taking part in the programme, golf clubs will gain better insight into the biodiversity of their golf course and be able to monitor its development over time, adapt their management practices and share their experience with other facilities. As a result of undertaking an environmental diagnosis by a natural science organisation, the golf club will be able to better conserve and enhance their natural heritage. The data collected is then shared with the National Natural Heritage Inventory (INPN).

Golf for Biodiversity certification recognises and highlights biodiversity work carried out by clubs within the framework of the PGB. Founded on three principles: *I acquire knowledge, I act, I raise awareness*, it seeks to improve awareness among golfers of the biodiversity of the courses they play and the actions undertaken by courses to preserve it. There are three levels of certification: Bronze, Silver and Gold, awarded in line with increasingly stringent requirements.

The certification is based on a voluntary approach to continuous improvement, with three different levels of engagement where methodology and expectations have been mapped out with the museum's scientific and technical support. The work undertaken enables the participating club to promote their biodiversity actions to the golfing community, local nature stakeholders and organisations, the media and the general public.



For more information about the programme download the information booklet here: <https://www.golfpoulabiodiversite.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/golf-for-biodiversity-english.pdf>



Jari Koivusalo has a MSc in Sports Sciences and MSc in Golf Course Architecture. His work at the Finnish Golf Union as Golf Course Specialist includes taking care and giving guidance on sustainability and safety issues, golf course construction and reconstruction, greenkeeping and the education of greenkeepers. He is a member of EIGCA, PGA, FGA, FGMA and GCSAA.

Biodiversity and Carbon Sequestration on Golf Courses

Jari Koivusalo, Finnish Golf Union

Although golf courses are intensively managed by humans, they contain various natural environments, ranging from managed open turfgrass areas to more natural, shaded forestry and aquatic habitats. Different habitat types often occur in close proximity on golf courses, creating transitional zones or ecotones that can provide habitats for species requiring such diverse environments.

The literature review concentrates on the potential of golf courses to maintain and promote biodiversity, which encompasses a variety of natural habitat types and species diversity. Additionally, possibilities to address climate change and carbon sequestration on golf courses are briefly explored. Separate sections provide guidance to golf courses for enhancing biodiversity and adopting climate-friendly course management practices.



The beauty and biodiversity of nature on a Finnish golf course on a summer evening.



Alessandro De Luca graduated in Agricultural Sciences, University of Bologna; Master in Turfgrass Science, Texas A&M University, and has worked in the turf industry since 1989. Technical Consultant with the Italian Golf Federation, currently Coordinator of the Green Section. Author of manuals and publications, provides consultancy services including to private companies and collaborates with universities.



Marta Visentin graduated in Natural Sciences, La Sapienza University, Rome, having written her thesis on the role of golf courses in the conservation of avifauna. She has been an Environmental Consultant with the Italian Golf Federation since 2000 and GEO verifier since 2009. Author of books on environmental issues and several scientific studies on the importance of Italian golf in safeguarding nature and the cultural heritage.



Stefano Boni graduated in Agronomy, University of Pisa, and has been involved in turf management in the golf industry since 1996. He received Superintendent Diploma in 2008 and General Manager diploma in 2015 and is a Technical Consultant with the Italian Golf Federation. A member of the GEO oncourse working group and the supervisor and coordinator of the greenkeeper volunteers at the Italian Open, he has been General Manager of Albarella Golf Links since 2020.



Massimo Mocioni graduated in Agricultural Sciences and PhD, University of Turin, and has worked in the turf industry since 1992. He was been a Technical Consultant with the Italian Golf Federation since 1996 and also provides training, research and experimentation on behalf of universities and private companies.



Environmental Issues and Biodiversity Inside Italian Golf Courses

Alessandro De Luca, Marta Visentin, Stefano Boni, Italian Golf Federation

The distribution of golf courses in Italy is not at all homogeneous. Although most are located in the north of Italy, some are situated in the central part, mainly in the major cities. There are a few golf courses in the southern part and on the Islands.

One of the main obstacles to the spread of golf in the past has been the high cost of access to clubs, often caused by the elevated maintenance costs of the golf courses. These costs are frequently attributed to incorrect construction techniques and sometimes to an irrational approach to maintenance methods.

This has led public opinion to perceive golf as an elite sport, as well as being harmful to the environment and posing risk to both humans and animals.

It is well known that proper construction of a golf course, combined with appropriate maintenance guided by specialised technicians, allows for cost savings, a better environmental impact and an enhanced quality of play. Based on these premises, in 1988, the Italian Golf Federation established the Green Section.

As technicians of FIG's (Italian Golf Federation) Green Section, we have been involved in training technicians and professionals working in the field for several years.

In addition, we conduct scientific research and provide technical assistance related to turf and environmental issues.

In pursuit of this, we have visited and continue to visit golf facilities throughout Italy. This has given us the opportunity to become acquainted with some of the most interesting and diverse realities. It has also allowed us to document their various characteristics, not limited solely to golf-related aspects.

For instance, in many cases, the presence of a golf course has enabled the preservation and utilization of historical buildings. Additionally, there are facilities located within protected areas that enhance their value and biodiversity. These areas are home to representative fauna species, showcasing the biological

diversity that characterises Italy. Furthermore, numerous golf courses host and protect valuable trees within their grounds.

Let's not forget about those clubs that, in addition to their regular activities, engage in agricultural pursuits, producing olive oil, wine, honey and more. We believe it is essential to share all of this, not only because we love golf but also because we want everyone to know that a golf course, especially in Italy, is about more than just golf. A golf course is a space where the traditions and culture typical of the region are rediscovered and safeguarded and the biodiversity is preserved.

This collection serves as a direct testament to that fact.





After studying Ecology and Conservation, Louise Bienfait was introduced to golf in 2020. Her quick-growing love for the sport also gave her new insight into work opportunities by combining her hobby and passion for nature conservation. In 2022, she joined the sustainability team of the Royal Netherlands Golf Federation (NGF).

Biodiversity and Golf in the Netherlands

Louise Bienfait, Royal Netherlands Golf Federation

Biodiversity is one of the main focus points of the sustainability team at the NGF. Golf has the unique position to combine sport and nature, which is also one of the main reasons that people choose golf as a hobby. With good management, golf courses can have a significant impact on fighting biodiversity loss by increasing the number of habitats, creating space for natural processes and decreasing the use of chemicals.

To achieve this, the NGF supports golf courses and clubs through personal visits, assisting at obtaining GEO-certification, running various workshops and producing publications.



Sophie Olejnik is an Ecologist working in the golf industry, highlighting the importance of existing golf courses for wildlife and championing the excellent work being undertaken by greenkeepers across the UK and beyond. Sophie is keen to promote biodiversity within golf, assisting golf clubs with nature-friendly management plans that also benefit the enjoyment of golf. She is in the third year of this project with The R&A and hopes to continue developing new ways of measuring golf's contribution to conservation in the future.

The R&A Golf Course Biodiversity Project

Sophie Olejnik, The R&A

How do we measure the biodiversity value of a golf course? Metrics help us place a number on the value of many things, yet nature is hard to quantify given its dynamism. This Project aims to quantitatively assess a series of 27 golf courses in the UK and Ireland using the Biodiversity Metric, a tool developed by Natural England and Defra to measure biodiversity, using habitats as a proxy. The metric takes into account habitat type, distinctiveness, condition and strategic significance to build a baseline biodiversity unit score of any given site. It is hoped that with this tool, we can not only place a value on nature on golf courses but also monitor and track change, re-assessing in a few years' time to see if any gains have been achieved through changes in habitat management or the creation of new, more distinctive habitats.

In addition to habitats, the Project also includes surveys to assess and monitor breeding birds and butterflies – both groups being

good indicators of biodiversity and sensitive to change. Other ad-hoc surveys for bats, dragonflies and damselflies and moths have also been undertaken thus far, building up species' data for each of the golf courses and allowing more targeted habitat management recommendations to be made based on the results. So far, over 1,600 different species have been identified, of which hundreds are notable due to their conservation status.

The final results of this five-year project will hopefully allow us to show the contribution that golf courses can, and do, make to biodiversity. With biodiversity loss at the forefront of global goals, we want to be able to be part of the conversation and prove that golf courses can positively contribute to reversing and halting declines.





Maria Strandberg is Director of Scandinavian Turfgrass and Environment Research Foundation, STERF. She has more than 20 years of experience in working with golf and sustainability and is actively involved in scientific issues regarding all aspects of the high quality environmental and economic sustainability of golf facilities. Maria was the President of International Turfgrass Society between 2017-2022. She is actively involved in creating and supporting international turfgrass research collaboration. Maria has received an award from the King of Sweden for her national and international work on integrating golf and environment and in 2011, also received a GEO Environmental Award for her significant contribution to sustainable golf.



Peter Edman has been an Agronomist at the Swedish Golf Association since 2006. He works with general research issues within the course with a special focus on environmental and nature. Previously, Peter worked with environmental issues in the agricultural sector and as an Ecologist at a municipality in south western Sweden. Today, he also runs a small farm and forestry where biodiversity plays an important role in the business.

Ecosystem consequences due to the loss of biodiversity is a crucial global threat affecting golf and other turf sports that use land and nature as sport arenas. To meet current challenges and create a sustainable future, the aim of Scandinavian Turfgrass and Environment Research Foundation's (STERF) research programme and projects related to biodiversity is to contribute to robust and resilient ecosystems.

Multifunctional golf courses are currently an underutilised resource. If golf courses were to be used to meet several functions, this would provide a range of important services that are in demand by society. In addition to offering a high-quality arena for golf, STERF's research programme within multifunctional golf courses and ecosystem services aims to highlight how golf facilities could also contribute to, for example, improving biological diversity, conserving natural and cultural environments and providing recreation areas that are open to the public and for other outdoor activities.



Biodiversity in the Golf Course Landscape – Research Programme and Project Results

Maria Strandberg, STERF – Peter Edman, Swedish Golf Association

The core ideas of the research programme are that golf courses are arenas for:

- **Sport, recreation and outdoor activities**
- **Robust and resilient ecosystems**
- **Education and information about nature, biodiversity, and sustainability.**

The programme is structured to deliver on golf's priorities and is also closely aligned with wider frameworks and platforms, including:

- **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**
- **EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030**
- **Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, COP15**
- **The Paris Climate Agreement**
- **Swedish environmental quality objectives and national recreation and outdoor goals.**

STERF has identified four central research and development areas for the programme:

1. **The everyday landscape and periurban nature**
2. **Nature and culture**
3. **Dialogue and cooperation**
4. **Business promotion.**

Project: Practical measures to increase biodiversity on golf courses

Three core ideas, of which this project is an example. The project is initiated by two municipalities, five golf courses, Swedish Golf Federation and STERF with many local and regional stakeholders involved in the project.

The objectives of the project are to:

- **Create a model for local partnership**
- **Study how improved maintenance routines can improve biodiversity and evaluate the effects on pollinating insects**
- **Spread knowledge and experience to golf clubs, municipalities and other organisations, nationally and internationally.**

Individual management plans were created for five golf courses in the municipalities of Falkenberg and Varberg. The following measures are included in the management plans:

- **Flower-rich rough through cutting with removal of cut material,**

- **spring burning and seeding with target species**
- **Flowering shrubs and trees. Species typical of the region are used**
- **Heaps of sand in hot locations where they do not interfere with the game**
- **Dead wood left as habitats for insects where they do not interfere with the game.**

The measures and maintenance strategies can be adapted to golf courses anywhere, with communication of practical advice and recommendations important aspects of the project.

More information about STERF's programmes and projects can be found at www.sterf.org



Andreas Wahlberg, Stockholm GC



Samuel Silberer obtained a Bachelor's degree in Nature Management from the University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland (HESSO), and joined Swiss Golf in October 2023. He is responsible for biodiversity projects. As a former enthusiastic member of the Junior Swiss Golf Team and someone concerned about environmental issues, Samuel is delighted to be able to contribute to restoring the image of golf as a nature-friendly sport, thereby enhancing its reputation among the general public.



Andrea Lorefice studied Environmental Engineering with specialisation in Nature Management at ZHAW University, Zurich and has an interest in ornithology. Since October 2023 he has worked for Swiss Golf and is responsible for biodiversity projects on golf courses. In addition, Andrea supports golf clubs and greenkeepers in the German and Italian speak areas of Switzerland with questions regarding biodiversity.

Since 2018, sustainability has been one of the strategic priorities of Swiss Golf. With this in mind, the federation commissioned a specialist consultancy to carry out a study on six Swiss golf courses. The results show that promoting biodiversity is one of the main ecosystem services provided by golf courses. They also show that the positive impact of golf courses on their environment can be considerably improved by implementing various measures to promote biodiversity. Given this background, Swiss Golf has set itself the objective of investing more in this area.

In collaboration with IP-Suisse and the Swiss Ornithological Institute, Swiss Golf has undertaken a project to assess and optimise the biodiversity of golf courses. The assessment method developed specifically for golf courses focuses on habitats. First, a map of the habitats is drawn up, and a points system is then used to assign a score to each golf course. Five indicators are used to generate points:

- The proportion of habitats
- The proportion of habitats of high ecological value
- The structure density
- The proportion of undisturbed areas
- The specific measures for threatened/priority habitats and species

Let's Swing for Biodiversity: An Innovative Approach to Assessing the Biodiversity of Golf Courses

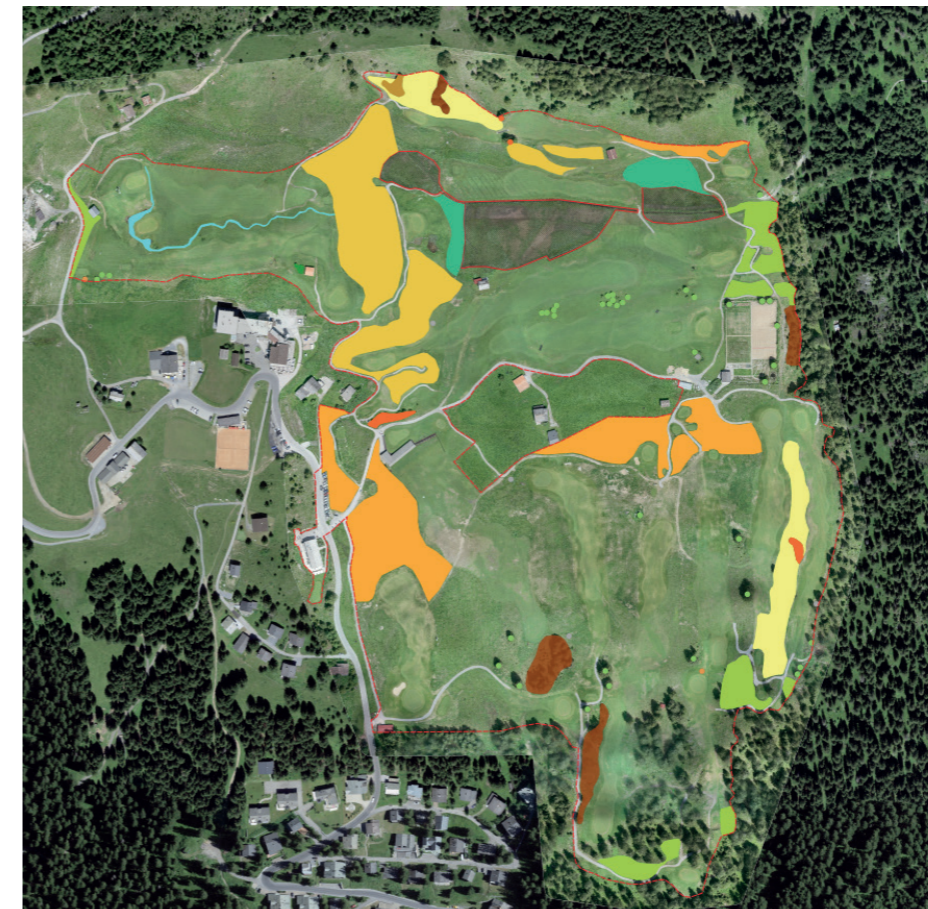
Samuel Silberer and Andrea Lorefice, Swiss Golf

During 2023, the method was tested at selected golf courses in Switzerland. These tests enabled innovative optimisation methods to be identified. Thanks to the use of high-resolution orthophotos and the help of greenkeepers, habitat mapping could be carried out without a site visit. To facilitate communication with the greenkeepers, an IT tool is currently being programmed. This will enable the assessment of habitats which could not be identified by

orthophotography and for which additional information is needed. For this purpose, greenkeepers receive the localisation of the uncertain areas from which they can make pictures. Those pictures will then be directly visible and georeferenced on the mapping software and used to identify the habitats.

The results obtained by the assessment make it possible to establish the initial biodiversity

status of the golf courses and to compare them with each other. Following this analysis, the ecological strengths and weaknesses of the golf courses will be known. General measures to promote biodiversity can then be recommended to the golf courses. In addition, this method requires few resources and allows golf course operators to invest more in implementing measures to promote biodiversity.



Wednesday 17 April



Seminar Day 2: Collaboration and Workshops on Golf and Biodiversity

Day Two Itinerary

Workshop on Golf and Biodiversity

Discussion led by John Kemp, The R&A and Claire Pignon, ffgolf

What are the main issues facing golf and biodiversity nationally and internationally?

Focusing on common topics, the participants met in smaller groups to discuss issues and practical examples.

What solutions and ideas can golf adopt for these main issues?

Each participant was asked to think about solutions and/or ideas to the issues raised as part of a dynamic discussion.

How Can we Work Together to Advance Golf and Biodiversity?

Discussion led by John Kemp, The R&A and Claire Pignon, ffgolf

Concluding the seminar, a group discussion on how golf's leading bodies and federations can work together to promote and advance golf and biodiversity.

Field Walks on Golf de Saint Cloud – Guillaume Grall, Golf de Saint Cloud

A golf club involved in protecting biodiversity and experimenting with new technology to address sustainability issues.



Opportunities for Golf and Biodiversity

Collaboration and Discussion with Golf's Leading Bodies

As part of group and individual discourse, leaders from Golf Federations and industry bodies were encouraged to discuss the opportunities for continued work to advance golf and biodiversity. These priorities form the basis for future collaboration and engagement across Europe and globally.

Data

- Establishing a common set of biodiversity metrics for golf to demonstrate its value.
- Collating international data from the range of golf and biodiversity programmes currently underway globally to establish a credible inventory of species and positive impact.

Practical Action

- Supporting the practical implementation of actions and initiatives that benefit golf and biodiversity.
- Identification of the resources needed and ways to measure how work in golf courses benefits biodiversity.

Education

- Raising the profile and importance of biodiversity in golf for all stakeholders, from greenkeepers, club leaders and golfers, to international sharing of research and best practice in the management of golf courses to benefit the restoration and conservation of nature.

Communication

- How to communicate biodiversity as golf's greatest opportunity to contribute to global issues and the benefits of the game itself.
- Establishing a strategy to communicate globally to a range of audiences in and outside golf and support golf courses to speak with greater confidence and pride.

External Engagement

- Exploring the opportunities for golf to engage with external audiences and collaborators.
- Communicating to change the outside perception of golf and engage with non-golf bodies to create partnerships to benefit biodiversity and nature.



External
Perception
Data
Education
Communication
Practical
Action

Leaders of Golf and Biodiversity.

The Role of Industry Professionals in Advancing Golf and Biodiversity



The Role of Greenkeepers in Golf and Biodiversity

Greenkeepers play a central role when it comes to fulfilling golf's great potential for improving our biodiversity. But it is not a role that the greenkeepers shy away from.

On average, around half of the area that a golf course occupies is extensively managed. This creates a golden opportunity for golf courses to play an important part in improving our ailing biodiversity.

You will not find anybody in golf more willing to work for a richer and more varied biodiversity on a golf course than the greenkeepers. Greenkeepers are skilled professionals with great experience in land management borne of scientific education and practical experience. It is true that on a day-to-day basis their focus is on the intensively managed areas of turf, but all greenkeepers feel an obligation to take care of the whole area that the golf course occupies. They are the stewards of the land and will always try their best to improve the quality of the land in whatever shape it comes.

Pairing greenkeepers with interested club members and aiding the process of enhancing the biodiversity with local experts, and in a very short time span you will see how nature is rebounding and how the different species of flora and fauna that are native to that particular piece of land are flourishing again. An added benefit will be a balanced biodiversity which makes sure that there are no excess of pests such as chafergrubs or oak procession caterpillars.

But you must make a plan, both for the long and the short term and communicate to everybody inside and outside of golf what and why you are doing it.

The question is not if we should make an effort to create a more biodiverse environment. As caretakers of this amount of green space, we are obliged to work for better biodiversity using every opportunity we get.

Martin Nilsson,
Vice President of FEGGA



The Role of Club Managers in Golf and Biodiversity

The Club Managers Association of Europe is instrumental in elevating the standards of club management across the continent. Through our comprehensive educational programmes, networking opportunities and advocacy efforts, CMAE empowers club managers to excel in their roles, drive innovation and uphold the values of excellence and professionalism in the club industry.

Golf cannot be disconnected from its environment. As club managers, our role is more important than ever to help promote this concept and ensure that golf and nature complement each other. This starts within the club by knowing best the biodiversity that resides, benefits and transmits through the property.

Inventory, research and quantifying the biodiversity found on golf courses is the foundation to promote and communicate to club members, golfers, their families and our wider communities. Knowing

more about that biodiversity creates opportunities for best practices, new ideas about course management and long-term environmental and economic sustainability, which are critical considerations for modern club managers.

Through better understanding of golf and biodiversity, club management professionals can enhance the club experience, support and empower their staff and promote the value of golf clubs and facilities to wider communities and the planet.

*Craig Cotterill,
Commercial Director,
CMAE*



CLUB MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION
OF EUROPE

The Role of Golf Course Architects in Golf and Biodiversity

Golf course architecture is increasingly focused on environmental sustainability and biodiversity conservation, spurred by initiatives such as the Sustainable Leader in Golf Course Architecture certification, jointly developed by the European Institute of Golf Course Architects (EIGCA) and GEO Foundation.

As golf course architects, we strive to incorporate ecological principles into our designs. Instead of imposing our plans on the natural landscape, we carefully evaluate existing ecological features like wetlands, forests and water bodies. By doing so, we aim to minimise disruption to sensitive habitats and establish corridors and buffer zones that connect fragmented landscapes. This approach allows us to preserve existing ecosystems while integrating native vegetation that supports diverse flora and fauna. Additionally, sustainable landscaping and habitat restoration efforts further enhance biodiversity.

Working with existing clubs, architects help to identify areas where traditional turf grasses can be replaced with native vegetation and hence golf clubs can manage the course with fewer resources and help support local wildlife. Through our expertise in land management,

conservation, and landscape architecture, we aim to transform golf courses into habitats for wildlife and corridors for ecosystems, while also demonstrating models for sustainable development. However, it is crucial that the selection of these areas aligns with the golf game, so players view them as positive additions to the course that enhance the golfing experience.

Water management is a critical aspect of golf course design and biodiversity conservation. We collaborate with irrigation specialists to prioritise water conservation and reduce runoff, thereby lessening impacts on local watersheds and aquatic ecosystems. Integration of natural water features such as ponds, streams and wetlands not only enhance course aesthetics but also provide habitats for various species. Sometimes it can be as simple as changing a slope on the edge of a pond, allowing several types of habitats to form.

Golf course architects can engage with communities to raise awareness and promote stewardship of natural resources. Collaborating with conservation organisations, educational institutions and government agencies, architects can help implement habitat restoration projects and conduct biodiversity surveys together with environmental

specialists, fostering ecological responsibility and inspiring conservation efforts.

We play a pivotal role in shaping landscapes to benefit both golfers and wildlife. Through adherence to ecological principles, water management, sustainable landscaping and community engagement, we help create courses that serve as examples of environmental stewardship and biodiversity conservation.

Designing courses with a rich natural setting makes them more interesting for players while increasing overall biodiversity.

*Caspar Grauballe,
President, European Institute
of Golf Course Architects (EIGCA)*



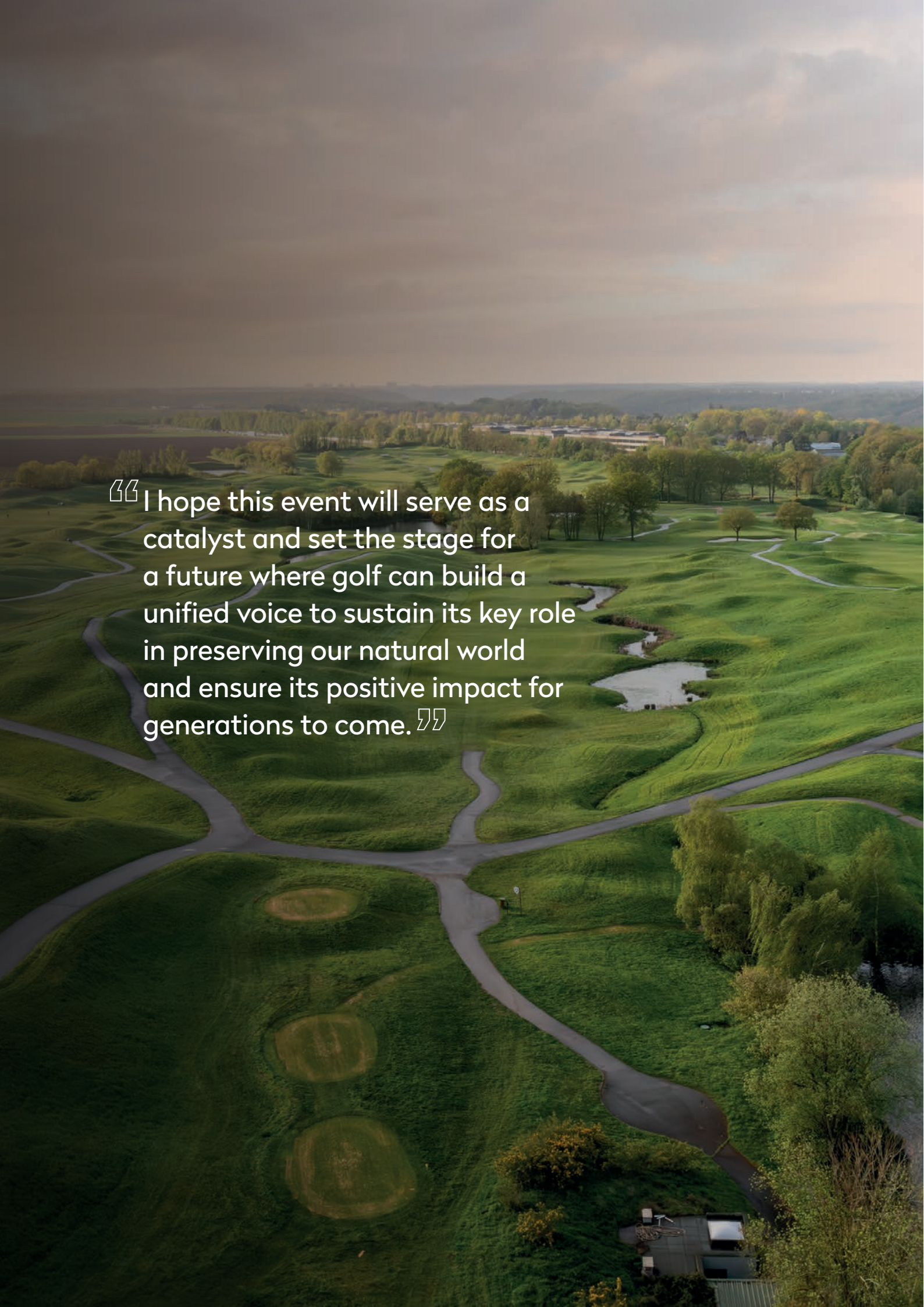
EIGCA

Golf and Biodiversity Seminar, 16-17 April 2024

List of Attendees

First Name	Surname	Organisation
Alexandra	Almeida	Portuguese Golf Federation
Marie	Athorn	RSPB and The R&A Partnership
Mohammed	Attallah	Egyptian Golf Federation
Andrew	Baptie	Scottish Golf
Marc	Beiber	German Golf Federation
Hajar	Benlouali	Fédération Royale Marocaine de Golf
Louise	Bienfait	Netherlands Golf Federation
Stefano	Boni	Italian Golf Federation
Craig	Cotterill	Club Management Association of Europe
Ann	Courtney	Golf Ireland
Jim	Croxton	British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association
Alessandro	De Luca	Italian Golf Federation
Peter	Edman	Swedish Golf Federation
Valentine	Godin	AFGolf
David	Gomez Aguera	Real Federacion Española de Golf
Caspar	Grauballe	European Institute of Golf Course Architects
Owen	James	England Golf
John	Kemp	The R&A
Nina	King-Gillies	Muséum National d'histoire Naturelle
Jari	Koivusalo	Finnish Golf Union
Maximilien	Lambert	ffgolf
Imane	Laroussi	Fédération Royale Marocaine de Golf
Romain	Le Pemp	AirCoop (ffgolf)
Janne	Lehto	Finnish Greenkeepers Association
Daniel	Lightfoot	The R&A
Andrea	Lorefice	Swiss Golf
Alicia	Moulin	Swiss Golf
Christophe	Muniesa	ffgolf
Martin	Nilsson	Federation of European Golf Greenkeeper Associations
Sophie	Olejnik	The R&A
Claire	Pignon	ffgolf
Gérard	Rougier	ffgolf
Samuel	Silberer	Swiss Golf
Maria	Strandberg	Scandinavian Turfgrass and Environmental Research Foundation
Sylvianne	Villaudière	ffgolf
Marta	Visentin	Italian Golf Federation
Richard	Windows	The R&A





“I hope this event will serve as a catalyst and set the stage for a future where golf can build a unified voice to sustain its key role in preserving our natural world and ensure its positive impact for generations to come.”

“Sustainability for golf courses in Egypt is a priority, whether in the context of economic or environmental sustainability. Egypt is in a unique position; it has a deep history in golf but is also extremely young. The biggest challenge, as with most developing golf countries, is to balance economic growth with sustainable environmental and agronomic operations, whilst increasing participation in golf. This event has been invaluable to learn about and share work and discuss these topics.”

Mohammed Attallah CCM,
Board Member,
Egyptian Golf Federation

“Bringing together golf stakeholders from across Europe and beyond, the seminar provided an important platform for knowledge exchange and partnership building, marking an essential first step towards collective action in environmental stewardship within the golfing community.

Through open dialogue and shared insights at the heart of inspiring golf courses, we embarked on a journey to explore, question and harness golf’s pivotal role in environmental stewardship.

As we collectively explore new avenues, share current knowledge and reinforce partnerships, I hope this event will serve as a catalyst and set the stage for a future where golf can build a unified voice and strategy to sustain its key role in preserving our natural world and ensure its positive impact for generations to come.”

Valentine Godin,
Sustainability Officer,
AFGolf

“The history of golf is deep-rooted in nature, yet at some point we lost focus on that. European nations coming together to discuss our joint challenges and solutions has given me renewed hope that the future of golf is one which values the natural environment as highly as we do scorecards. The time for action is now and thanks to this crucial seminar, I have ideas as to how, and with whom, we need to work.”

Owen James,
Sustainability Manager,
England Golf



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