

Golf Group report

Authors

Dominik Senn, Dario Raffi and Remo Vogelsang

Introduction

Our topic is golf courses in Bournemouth

We did our project about the Queenspark golf course

For our research we mostly used the website of Queenspark golf course and sometimes wikipedia for information about golfing in general. We wanted to find out if the golf course was positive for the environment in Bournemouth.

We and most people think that golf courses have a negative impact on the environment because of deforestation and the water used for maintenance, but just how bad is it or might it even have a positive impact on the environment.

Our expectation is that the negatives and positives somewhat balance itself out with the Queenspark golfcourse because it is also combined with a big public park with lots of trees.

Methods

We did half of our survey on the golfcourse and the other half in the city.

We asked 23 people various questions regarding golfing and the environment.

Our results were later on analysed with the help of an excel diagramm.

Results

To summarise our results most people think golfing is bad for the environment but only about half think that it has a significant impact as golf courses are not around every corner.

Essay about our visit on the Queenspark golfcourse

We visited the golfcourse on Tuesday the 2nd October. We were given time to visit the park so we went straight from the BEET school to the golfcourse after our lunchbreak. The golfpark was just about 12 minutes away from our school by foot so it was not a very long way to get there. In front of the park there was a pretty big playground with slides wooden houses and tabletennis tables which is ideal for children. Right behind the playground there is the clubhouse with the reception a lovely small cafe and the golfing shop in case you need any golfing supplies like clothing, shoes and golf clubs. You can also rent golfcarts they come in two types with one and with four seats. The shop is also where we met Dave the headgreenkeeper and our interview partner. After the interview we explored the park on our own and asked other people in the park questions regarding our survey. The park has very lush green grass and is generally very well kept but if you go further in to the park you will notice some yellow and brown patches of grass which is understandable because this year was a record breaking year it was very hot in England and there was only little rain. Towards the middle of the park there was a beautiful little pond where we sat down on a bench and watched the ducks. In conclusion we think that the Queenspark golfcourse is a great park and if it is good weather and you like nature you should definitely visit the park and course if you live in Bournemouth.

On site research

The golf course was established in 1905. It is a rural heaven in the middle of Bournemouth. Queen's park was the second golf course in Bournemouth, but it was quickly known to be a more severe test of golf. As well he established itself as one of the very first and the finest municipal golf courses in the country. Host to several european tour events over the years, the course has challenged renowned golfers such as Bobby Locker, Henry Cotton and Seve Ballesteros. The course is set in wavy mature parkland with picturesque tree-lined fairways. This 18 hole former championship course is set in a beautiful location. The golf course was formerly a regular feature on the PGA european tour, and was the venue for numerous high profile tournaments. Queen's park golf course is also a public open space and as such members of the public do have right access to the area.

Interview

This interview was done with Dominik's father.

How often do you play golf?

- *approximately 4 times a year.*

What's your handicap?

- *48 (max. 54, the lower the better)*

What's your best score?

- *10 points (stubblefort)*

Are there any special requirements on golf courses you go?

- *the course needs to allow players with a handicap 48, needs to be close to my stay, beautiful view, not too difficult.*

How do you think golf affects the environment?

- *golf needs a lot of room, space intensive, a lot of chemistry involved to get the greens and fairways as they are, needs a lot of energy for lawn mowers, watering. A lot of people travel a long distance to a golf course. And there's a lot of room for flora and fauna appart from the fairways and greens.*

Is it positive or negative?

- *it's neutral*

Since when have you been playing golf?

- *for 5 years, since 2013*

Glossary

handicap = Fähigkeitslevel des Spielers im Golf

requirements = Anforderungen / Voraussetzungen

affect = beeinflussen

stablefort = Tabelle welche im Golf verwendet

green = Gemähter bereich wo ein Ball nicht in die Luft geschlagen werden darf

fairway = Gemähter Bereich

fauna and flora = Fauna und Flora

Interview with Dave Stone (greenkeeper)

This summer was pretty rough... did you save water during this time or did you use about the same amount as usual?

- No we used more, we do not have a natural water source, all irrigation is off the mains.

How many times per week do you mow the course?

- At the height of the growing season the greens are cut 6 days a week and the fairways twice, this reduces in slower growing season.

Do you provide golf carts?

- Yes

If yes, do they have an electrical engine?

- They are all electric

Do you think your golf course is acting like a green lung for Bournemouth?

- Not sure on the wording of your question.

Do you have any fish or other animals in your ponds/park?

- Yes fish, nesting birds, frogs and normal healthy pond life

Are you doing tournaments on this course?

- Yes

Did the golf course help the wildlife in Bournemouth? how?

- Yes we manage the course with wildlife in mind, we have changed our cutting regimes, opened up vistas of vegetation, put up bird boxes, let areas go natural etc.

Is it an artificial lawn?

- No

If yes, why?

- n/a

Do you use any chemicals for your lawn?

- Yes if needed but prefer cultural methods

Do any animals get hit by the golf balls?

- not that we are aware of.

How does this golf course help the environment?

- Very similar answer to number 8 but the management of trees is a big part in managing the environment, we provide open space to the community also.

Glossary

irrigation = bewässern

regimes = Ordnung

vistas = Blick

Survey

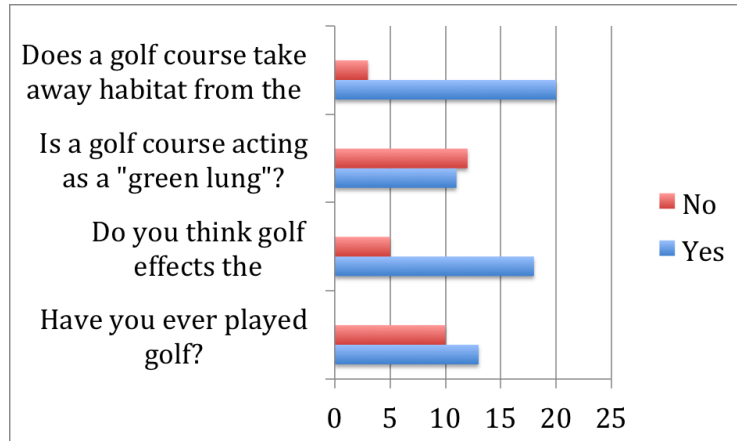
Does a golf course take away habitat for the animal?

Is a golf course acting as a "green lung"?

Do you think golf affects the environment?

Have you ever played golf?

Results



Summary/Finish

Overall we think our project was a success and all our research questions were answered. All of us didn't really think a golf course could do this much for the environment and it surprised us how well the park is kept.

But in general our opinion about golf and the environment only changed a bit. This is due to that golf courses still take away habitat and/or forests.

During the whole project we learned a lot about how a golf course is kept and golfing itself. Also that not all people appreciate it when you ask them if they have time for some questions for a school project.

There actually was only one thing we didn't really like doing, the survey. The survey cost a lot of time and energy asking random people about their opinion. Most of the times, they refused anyways. One elderly man started to scream at us which was really weird, because first of all the scream sounded like a velociraptor and secondly we just wanted his opinion about golfing and the environment.

Links used:

<https://queensparkgolfcourse.com/HomePage.aspx>

Further links:

[Golf in Bournemouth](#)

[The Club at Meyrick Park](#)

[Queens Park Gold Course](#)

[Playgolf Bournemouth](#)

[Golf and the Environment \(Audubon\)](#)

[Golf: Friend or Foe?](#)

[Golf & the Environment: World Golf Foundation](#)