

Kristianstads Golf Klubb I Åhus



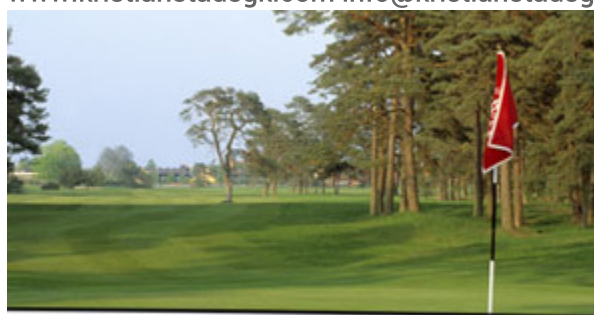
GEO Certified 04/2011 GEO Re-Certified 06/2014

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Övergripande sammanfattning (Engelska och modersmål)

The club has its two courses at the sandy grounds west of Åhus in Skåne, an area with a very exciting history. The area is, because of the limy soil and the traditional land-use, very rich in species and bears a very interesting flora and fauna. Both of the two courses is situated within the Kristianstads Vattenrike Biosphere Reserve, giving the club specific demands when it comes to sustainability work and relations to the community. The club has conducted sustainability work for more than a decade, not at least due to the location in a biosphere reserve, and was GEO-certified the first time in 2011, which makes this a re-certification. Much because of the fact that the club has its residence in a Biosphere Reserve, the nature and cultural surveys are quite thorough. Especially the surveys of the Solitary Bees and other insects are of great interest. Thus, the club has a thorough management plan for the nature areas of the course including the roughs and a lot of energy is put in to promote the Solitary Bees on the course. These and other nature and cultural heritage improving actions are one part of the ground philosophy of the club management. The other part is to manage the playing parts of the course in ways that they look as natural as they can. For example, the club thinks that the fairways are allowed to look brownish during the dry part of the year. This philosophy includes minimizing the use of pesticides and keeping the amount of water irrigated down, although the latter is hard because the extremely sandy soil makes it very difficult to keep the water in hand for the growing turf.

To be situated at a Biosphere reserve is connected with great responsibility and the club certainly lives up to that and has a great collaboration with, among others, the management of the Biosphere reserve, the municipality and the local environmental NGOs. A sign of this is that for a couple of years the club had a project called "Multifunctional golf course with unique nature- and cultural values" together with the Biosphere Reserve funded by STERF (Scandinavian Turfgrass and Environment Research Foundation). Some important near future plans contains a long term plan for trees and bushes, thorough surveys of the ponds together with actions to enhance the biodiversity in them and reinforced

efforts to reduce the amount of pesticides, fertilizers and water used on the courses.

Klubbens två banor ligger på sandjorden väster om Åhus i Skåne, ett område med mycket spännande historia. Området är på grund av den kalkrika jorden och den tidigare markanvändningen mycket rik på arter och har en mycket intressant flora och fauna. Båda banorna ligger i biosfärområdet Kristianstads Vattenrike, vilket sätter stora krav på klubben vad gäller miljö- och naturvårdsarbetet och klubbens relationer till det omgivande samhället. Klubben har bedrivit miljöarbete i mer än ett decennium, inte minst på grund av att den ligger i biosfärområdet, och blev GEO-certifierat första gången 2011 vilket gör att klubben nu fått sin re-certifiering. Mycket därför att klubben ligger i biosfärområdet är natur- och kulturinventeringarna många och utförliga, inte minst de som tar upp solitärbin och andra intressanta insekter. Klubben har således en utförlig skötselplan för naturen, inklusive ruffarna och mycket energi läggs på att underlätta för solitärbina på banan. Dessa och andra natur- och kulturvårdande åtgärder är en av grundbultarna i klubbens filosofi om hur banan ska skötas. Den andra delen är att sköta spelfälten på så sätt att de ser så naturliga ut som möjligt, exempelvis att fairways ska få se bruna ut under torra perioder. Den här filosofin inbegriper minimalt användande av pesticider, gödsling och bevattning även om det senaste är svårt då den extremt sandiga jorden har svårt att behålla vattnet och hålla det tillgängligt för gräset.

Att som klubb vara belägen i ett biosfärområde innebär ett stort ansvar vilket klubben absolut lever upp till. Den har även ett mycket bra samarbete med bl.a. ledningen för biosfärområdet, kommunen och lokala intresseföreningar. Ett tecken på detta är att klubben för några år sen tillsammans med biosfärområdet och STERF (Scandinavian Turfgrass and Environment Research Foundation) drev ett projekt kallat "Multifunktionell golfbana med unika natur- och kulturvärden". Några viktiga projekt för den närmaste framtiden är en långsiktig plan för träd och buskar, utförliga inventeringar av dammarna tillsammans med förslag på åtgärder för att utveckla biodiversiteten i dem samt ökade ansträngningar för att minska användandet av pesticider, gödsling och vatten på banorna.

Natur

The club has its two courses at the sandy grounds west of Åhus in Skåne, an area with a very exciting history. The area is, because of the limy soil and the traditional land-use, very rich in species and bears a very interesting flora and fauna. Early surveys have shown that the sandy cultivated land contains several threatened species in Skåne and Sweden as a whole. The course is situated within the Kristianstads Vattenrike Biosphere Reserve, giving the club specific demands when it comes to sustainability work and relations to the community.

Much because of the fact that the club has its residence in a Biosphere Reserve, the nature surveys is quite thorough. Especially the surveys of the Solitary Bees and other insects are of great interest. Since 2009 a number of areas has been digged, ploughed or harrowed with the intent of vitalize the turf of the roughs. At this moment it is hard to see any improvements of the flora but the open sand areas are for sure good for a number of insects.

UNESCO designated the Biosphere Reserve at 2005. Biosphere Reserves are areas designed to promote and demonstrate a balanced relationship between people and nature. This means that the club has strict rules of how to manage the course and the nature it contains. One of the most exciting habitats is the sandy soil, which is perfect for many species of Solitary Bees.

The main species on the West Course is Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*). The course was initially sown with Red Fescue together with Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) but after the discovery that the later created patches which disfavored the playing of golf the only sowing species is Red Fescue. The East Coast is dominated with *Poa annua* but the club is now sowing with Common Bent. The greenkeeper has a will of having the 3rd or 4th generation of *Poa annua* which has the characteristic of not producing any seeds.

The club has a thorough management plan for the nature areas of the course including the roughs. A lot of energy is put in to promote the Solitary Bees on the course. This is made e.g. by creating sandy habitats and food for the bees. Haymaking, harrowing and ploughing is the other main activities that the club performs together with leaving dead logs in the woodland.

Vatten

One important ambition for the club is to have a course that is dry and compact. This gives that the amount of irrigation water shall be so low that the grass survives without having the ambition of keeping it clear green. So, rather a brown than green grass, like the links courses of the British Islands, constructed on sandy soil similar to that in the Åhus area.

The club has its own wells to obtain water for irrigation. The extremely sandy soil makes it very difficult to keep the water in hand for the growing turf. This gives that much of the irrigated water runs through the soil and leaves a decreased amount for the roots. Because of this the amount of water needed for irrigation is fairly high, especially on the East Course.

A fully computerized irrigation system, which is continuously serviced and re-calibrated, gives the club an efficient irrigation. The irrigation is performed during evenings and nights.

A soil moisture device has been used since 2013. The device detects instantly how much irrigation that is needed on specific spots and is seen as a very, very useful tool by the greenkeeper.

Energi

The club is a very good example of how to use energy sources that in a large amount keep the amount of climate gases down. Since a few years back the club also have a climate diploma that shows that the club has an energy consumption moving towards the climate goals.

The club uses renewable energy from turbines in water and saves by that around 40 tons of CO₂-emissions each year.

A hybrid mower is used which has decreased the amount of diesel used by that mower from 2 l/h to 0.6 l/h.

Motion sensor lighting in some places and a low frequent pump are examples of activities undertaken to reduce energy use. The pump used to be a 30 KW one but is now a 11KW.

Försörjningskedjan

The club is doing a good job using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) when managing the course. Among the actions performed is rolling the greens, airification, measuring the soil moisture and thatch-away.

Since 2013 the club has a purchasing policy and the management showed by telling me during inspection that it uses it when purchasing certain goods.

The club is always trying to purchase from local traders but this is sometimes hard, especially when it comes to maintenance equipment.

The amount of pesticides is still limited and has in fact for some of the areas been reduced the last three years. The amount of fertilizers used is sometimes somewhat high but not exceptional. The explanation can to a large amount be that the fertilizers run through the sandy soil, which of course is not optimal due to course being situated on one of the largest water resources in Sweden. But, the club is now using a microbiological culture on some greens, situated in the forest, in order to strengthen the turf with a very good result.

Grass clips from greens and tees are used as fertilizer on different parts of the course. The club has a well-developed system for waste management for recycling including transporting the grass clips from the roughs to Kristianstad for biogas production.

Föroreningskontroll

The club has a detailed emergency action plan for the whole facility, which includes for example hazardous materials, pesticides and emergency routes. It also has, since a few years, a project plan for the environmental work. The plan clearly points out the goal with a specific action/project, the one who is responsible, the planned start and when it has been accomplished.

Each year the club carries out a water quality analysis on-site but not on the inflow or outflow. The analysis shows no signs of bad things.

The wastewater from the clubhouse and the maintenance facility is run through the mains sewer, which secures, as far as you can go, from leakages and that the water is being taken care of properly.

The handling of hazardous materials is carried out strictly according to Swedish law. As this law is quite tough the handling is done in a very secure way.

A new sink for taking care of the wastewater in the maintenance area has been constructed.

The hybrid mower reduces the risk of leakage on the course and a municipality sewer has been connected to the kiosk on the course.

Lokalsamhällen

The course is adjacent to the Sånarnas outdoor museum, a cultural landscape museum, containing a diverse flora and fauna connected to the old cultural landscape. For a couple of years the club had a project called "Multifunctional golf course with unique nature- and cultural values" together with the Biosphere Reserve funded by STERF (Scandinavian Turfgrass and Environment Research Foundation). The project ended in 2011 and one of the results is a public nature path on and around the course area.

The staff is continuously being educated and updated on things for example concerning the personal health, how to irrigate more effectively and how to manage the habitats and natural vegetation on the course.

The sustainability group is comprised of a perfect mix of people with different skills and responsibilities. It ranges from general manager and course manager to technical specialist and representatives from the local government and NGOs. The group is considered a committee which is a very good thing.

The club has very good collaborations with the local NGOs, the municipality and the Kristianstads Vattenrike Biosphere Reserve. Each year in the middle of June the club is part of a Nordic annual event called "The day of the wild flowers" and the club's arrangement is one of the best visited in Sweden that day.

A thorough archaeological and cultural historical survey has been carried out. It shows the history of the area from early geological formations, to the prehistoric age and ending up in the history from the Middle Ages until recent. In order to care of the heritage the club is continuously ploughing and haymaking parts of the course.

The club is not involved in any legal disputes.

The club arranges internal nature seminars with well renowned speakers, arrangements that gather around 70 members listening. Apart from this the club has produced a brochure called "More than a golf course, take care of environmental and cultural values" and the newsletter, issued every second week, often contains information about the sustainability work.

Apart from the external communications mentioned above the club has thorough information about its sustainability work on the website and has many times figured in the local and regional newspapers concerning this work.

Granskad dokumentation

Åtgärdsplaner och projektförslag

Material för medvetandegörande

Certifieringsrapport

EIA-deklaration

Plan i nödsituationer

Miljödata

Miljöplan

Miljöpolicy

Externa undersökningar och rapporter

Interna rapporter

Nyhetsbrev

Olycksregister

Slutsats

The location of this course and the spirit in the club when it comes to sustainability work is certainly quite special. To be situated at a Biosphere reserve is connected with great responsibility and the club certainly lives up to that. Especially is it very refreshing and inspiring to watch the collaboration between the club, the management of the Biosphere reserve, the municipality and the local environmental NGOs. Of course I guess they have their quarrels about how to manage the course and its fantastic nature from time to time, it's only natural, but as a whole there is a common goal for all parts: Take good care of the natural and cultural heritage together with shaping a great golf course which is as natural as it can. At the time for the inspection the club had just changed the course

manager and it is my dearly hope that the new management will keep this goal in mind and continuously try to improve the setting of the goal in practical terms. This club has a great responsibility and I'm sure they will continue to live up to it.

Certifieringens huvudpunkter

- The collaboration between the club, the municipality, the management of the Biosphere reserve and the local environmental NGOs was very refreshing and inspiring to watch.
- The clubs pure insight in creating a multifunctional golf facility in order to attract new people and by that also creating new potential financial gains.
- To walk on the sandy soil, which is perfect for many species of Solitary Bees.
- The pure joy the club showed when it came to show how it continuously tries to improve the management of this rare and fantastic area.

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