

What is a Biodiversity Champion?

Biodiversity Champions are tasked with being a voice for nature, inside and outside of their respective golf clubs, developing relationships with local wildlife groups and leading on biodiversity enhancements.

The R&A Golf and Nature study has supported the creation of these voluntary roles at participating clubs. There are different ways a club can establish this position:

- **Identifying an interested and keen member of staff**
- **Asking club office-bearers if they'd like to get involved**
- **Seeking volunteers from the membership.**

Biodiversity Champions include a mix of greenkeepers, other golf club staff and members. The aim is to build a community of like-minded people, to drive nature conservation in golf.

About the Role

The key attribute of a Biodiversity Champion in the club is to be passionate about the golf course being a great playing experience whilst also benefiting nature and biodiversity – ensuring these two things work in harmony.

The role of a Biodiversity Champion can be diverse, but typically include:

- **Engaging with internal stakeholders – staff, decision-makers and golfers – to help communicate the opportunities nature provides for the course and club**
- **Collaborating with external organisations, such as nature conservation groups and ecological experts, to invite them in to support the club's work in biodiversity**
- **Planning, overseeing and delivering nature and biodiversity projects**
- **Undertaking and supporting species counts and tracking important measurements of nature on the course**
- **Supporting the club in developing wider projects which have the potential to benefit the course, club and environment**
- **Connecting with other golf clubs and golf organisations to promote and share best practice**
- **Communicating the impact of their work through social media and the club's email newsletter.**

The Benefits of being Involved

There are several advantages to becoming a Biodiversity Champion, including:

- **Receiving more recognition for your work in golf and nature**
- **Learning from other Biodiversity Champions**
- **Professional development and improved career prospects**
- **Feeling a sense of achievement knowing you're making a positive difference**
- **Being an inspiration and role model to others who want to protect nature.**

How could appointing a Biodiversity Champion help your golf course flourish?

