

CHESHIRE GOLF DEVELOPMENT GROUP NEWSLETTER

April 2017

Your CSO's



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GIRLS GOLF ROCKS RETURNS TO CHESHIRE!

Girls Golf Rocks, the initiative which aims to attract more beginner girls to have fun, learn a new sport, get active and play alongside friends with no pressure, is set to rock Cheshire again this year.

After the success of last year's initiative which attracted over 80 new girls to the sport, 8 clubs across the county will be hosting Girls Golf Rocks again in 2017.

Teeing off this Spring with free taster sessions being held between 22nd April and 6th May, girls will be given the opportunity to sign up for 5 weeks of coaching plus a celebration event and will receive a 7 iron all for just £14.

This year's celebration event will be taking place at Woodside Golf Club on Sunday 9th July and girls from all 8 clubs will take part in a series of fun skills challenges including some of last years favourites e.g. Fruit Salad, which involves knocking a piece of fruit off a stick with a golf shot and Tower Tumble, knocking down a tower of baskets with a golf shot.

For details of free tasters and coaching sessions head over to www.getintogolf.org put your postcode into the search box and find the sessions closest to you.



DRIVING JUNIOR GOLF IN CHESHIRE

Earlier in the year golf clubs and driving ranges across Cheshire were invited to attend 2 special junior conferences to find out more about a new drive to raise the numbers of juniors playing the sport. Based on the successful Girls Golf Rocks model, clubs were asked to offer free taster sessions for juniors, a coaching programme to build on the interest and then a pathway into potential membership.

The conferences – held at Northenden GC, near Manchester, and Macdonald Portal Golf and Country Club - heard from Lee Dolby, England Golf's Young People Manager, who reminded clubs that they can help "inspire a love for golf that lasts a lifetime."

Birchwood Golf Club's Graham McCormack, who has been actively involved in junior golf at Club, County and England level for more than 30 years, offered a number of tips for running a successful junior section.

Andy Leigh, Regional Manager for the Golf Foundation, pinpointed the work that can be done in schools and community groups to encourage young people to get involved and how clubs can encourage them to start, learn and stay in the game of golf.

After the presentations the Cheshire CDO's outlined the plans for Driving Junior Golf and 20 clubs have since signed up to take part in the initiative which is set to tee off in April and will culminate in a celebration event sometime in the summer.

If your club hasn't signed up for this initiative, would like to take part and can hold a free taster session before the end of May please contact [Sean](#) or [Ali](#) as soon as possible.



LIVING WITH AND BEYOND CANCER

A partnership between the cancer care charity Macmillan, Merseyside Sport, Moreton Hills Golf Centre and England Golf has seen Get into golf lessons for those living with and beyond cancer get off to a start recently.

The lessons are being given by Daniel Adams, PGA Professional at Moreton Hills Golf Centre in Wirral and thanks to funding from Merseyside Sport and Macmillan, subsidies are available for the first 12 people to take part.



All equipment is provided by the Golf Centre and funding has also paid for some chairs so participants can have a break if they feel tired and need to sit down. The sessions take place on a Wednesday 1pm—2pm and are open to those living with and beyond cancer on the Wirral, places should be booked via Mike Clinton at Macmillan on 07825 431555.

Daniel Adams giving some putting instructions to participants Rosemary and John at their first session.

LADIES ACADEMY AWAY DAYS



As a follow on to the ladies recruitment initiatives that were held around the county last year, we are pleased to be introducing a series of Ladies Academy Away Days in Cheshire

Academy Away Days offer a fun and social way for ladies to grow their golfing confidence out on the golf course with lots of other women all doing the same thing!

These will take place throughout the year at a variety of short or 9-hole courses that are suited for beginners.

Each day will have a novel twist, rather than counting the number of shots taken we have devised a number of challenges for ladies to complete. These include hitting

the green in one, getting out of the bunker in one and shaking hands on the final green. There are prizes at each event and a nearest the pin competition.

Each event is a shotgun start (each group tees off on different holes at the same time) so that everyone finishes at the same time to enjoy a well deserved glass of fizz or juice and a prize giving in the clubhouse.

Volunteers will be on hand to help if the ladies need any advice and guidance when out on the course and they will be providing lots of encouragement and explaining some basic etiquette.

The Cheshire Away Days are being held at the following locations and places can be booked online at www.getintogolf.org

- ◆ 14th May, 2-5pm Styal Golf Club Station Rd, Wilmslow SK9 4JN
- ◆ 11th June, 3.30-6.30pm Macdonald Portal Arderne Course, Cobblers Cross Lane, Tarporley CW6 0DJ
- ◆ 16th July, 2-5pm Woodside Golf Club Knutsford Road, Holmes Chapel CW4 8HJ
- ◆ 23rd September, 10am-1pm Warren Golf Club Grove Rd, Wallasey CH45 0JA

2017 English Disability Open takes place in August

England Golf is again partnering BALASA Golf to co-sanction a championship for golfers of all impairments, creating one umbrella event for disabled golf in England.

The second English Disability Open will return to The Warwickshire Golf Club from 26-27 August, 2017. It will be played over both the Earls and Kings courses. Practice rounds are available on Friday 25 August.

Jamie Blair, Disability Manager for England Golf, commented: "This partnership aims to deliver a successful and memorable tournament for all and encourage golfers of all impairments to come together to compete using the handicap system and against the challenge of the course."

The championship will be open to all British disabled golfers who meet the definitions of impairment as set out in the conditions and who hold a CONGU handicap with competition status.

Although this is not a European Disabled Golf Association (EDGA) badged event, players holding an EDGA Medical Pass will be able to submit scores from this event to the EDGA Rankings.

Golfers, regardless of their impairment, will play in three handicap categories over 36 holes. Category One and Two golfers will compete in stroke play events and Category Three golfers will play a stableford competition.

Awards will be made to the winner of each handicap category. Prizes will also be awarded for highest placed junior and female players.

Conditions and entry forms for the English Disability Open 2017 can be viewed and downloaded from the England Golf website

Entries will be accepted on a first come, first served basis with a reserve list in operation. Following feedback from last year's event, entry will be solely for the competition at £80, with competitors free to choose their own accommodation and food arrangements.

BALASA is the charity promoting golf for all disabilities and nominates selections for the European Disabled Team and individual championships. For more information visit www.balasa.org



Prize winners at the 2016 Disability Open

CLUB FOCUS

INNOVATION CORNER

DIDSBURY GOLFERS UP TO SPEED

England Golf and the R&A are making great efforts to speed up the game of golf to make it more attractive and fun to play, particularly for people short of time and newcomers to the game.

Shorter competitions and proposed changes to the rules of golf figure high on the list.

Golf Express is being publicised as a means of speeding up the game and at Didsbury Golf Club they have devised a new speedy competition for their members.

It will take place on Thursdays during the golf season as a singles Stableford competition played over 13 holes with the aim of the rounds being completed in less than two and half hours.

Players can play at any time during the day convenient to them and is open to all 5, 6, 7-day and associate members with the men playing off yellow tees and the ladies off red tees.

There will be a weekly prize as well as an overall prize for the best ten scores added together over the summer.

Players will be encouraged to play 'Ready Golf' under the proposed new rules for the competition, as well as only three minutes to search for a ball and putting allowed with the pin in the hole.

The competition has been welcomed by many members who will be looking to enjoy their golf played at a faster rate and they hope that other clubs will be following their example in the future.



Peter 'Usain' Barber and friends speeding up their game

If your club wants to look at options for speedier rounds of golf give us a call and we'll sprint round for a Golf Express get together!



Sean - 07710 095030

Ali - 07710 095029



CLUB SUPPORT

SUPPORTING CLUBS IN 2017

The eagle eyed amongst you may have noticed that on page 1 of this newsletter the heading above our pictures has changed from 'Your CDO's' to 'Your CSO's'.

This is due to a change in our job title from County Development Officers to Club Support Officers to reflect the fact that we support clubs with a wide range of issues such as marketing, governance, GolfMark as well as with projects to recruit and retain more members.

If you'd like help with these or any other issues at your club please contact your CSO to arrange a meeting.

West Cheshire - a.lysons@englandgolf.org or 07710 095029

East Cheshire - s.hammill@englandgolf.org or 07710 095030

GET INTO GOLF PATHWAY CONTINUES TO DEVELOP REGULAR GOLFERS

It's always good to hear how participation projects are having an impact on people so we were pleased to receive the following quote from a lady who began her golfing journey at Ringway Golf Club.

Lorna said: "Bob (her husband) and I have taken the decision to move back to Edinburgh but, having lived somewhere for so long, there will be some regrets - for me, my introduction to Ringway Golf Club and golf with Nick and James, the Club Professionals, have played a huge part in my settling into my retirement with new challenges and interests. I have been exceptionally fortunate in benefitting from the Associate scheme - which is just such a wonderful offer to those in the early stages of golf - needing support and confidence - to improve to the stage where they feel they can manage at least 9 holes on the trot! I have read with interest and enthusiasm about the various new schemes you have been planning - to say nothing of the pilates (which I would have signed up for) and the Bridge lessons. I feel you are building an excellent community facility. As I write this I realise that there is a great deal you do for making life active for oldies. As being a lucky recipient I wish to express my sincere thanks to you and the various club members I have met and enjoyed the company of over these last four years".

We'd like to congratulate Ann, James and all the team at Ringway on their continued success with Get into golf projects for both adults and juniors.