

GOLF DEVELOPMENT REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

English Golf Union / English Women's Golf Association

Covering Cheshire, Cumbria, Isle of Man & Lancashire



ENGLISH
GOLF UNION



Driving women's golf

How can your officer help you?

- Best practice
- Child protection & equity
- County Golf Partnerships
- Education & Careers
- Funding opportunities
- GolfMark
- Junior specific issues
- Membership structures & fees
- Membership vacancies
- Recruitment & retention
- School club links
- Volunteer support

And much, much more.....

Inside this issue:

County Golf Development Conference	2
Workshops for club welfare officers	2
Golf Club Membership Questionnaire	3
Golf is booming at Silecroft	3
CRB Disclosures Golf Volunteers	3
Double award in record time for Heaton Park	4
RangeMark	4

Your Regional Development Officer

Welcome to my first Golf Development Regional Newsletter.

Since coming into post in November it has been a pleasure to get out into the region and work with so many proactive clubs and individuals – the majority of whom are volunteers. There is a great deal of fantastic development work going on in the North West and I am receiving calls and e-mails every day from clubs who are realising that the golfing landscape is changing and they must perhaps adapt the way they have traditionally done things to maintain a thriving club.

There are now 59 clubs in the region registered for GolfMark (incorporating Clubmark), 11 of whom have achieved the accreditation with many more not far behind. Clubs are now appreciating that GolfMark is becoming a 'need to have' rather than a 'nice to have' and as well as being a fantastic development tool for their junior section, it is a great way to promote the good work they do within their local community. For information on GolfMark visit www.golfmark.org

Clubs who achieve GolfMark can now access an extra £100 from the EGU/EWGA on top of both the £200 Free Golf Coaching and £150 Junior Club Coaching Grant. If you haven't already done so please make use of these grants to help develop your junior section and encourage new members into the club.

Cumbria has become the second county in the region following the Isle of Man to agree to form a County Golf Partnership. The exciting partnership will see the Union, Association and PGA working together with Cumbria Sport and the Golf



Foundation to support the development of golf within Cumbria. The partnership has been allocated £24,500 in EGU/EWGA funding over 3 years to produce and implement a county development plan, as well as up to £30,000 from the Sport England 'Club and Coach' Fund which will help educate and develop coaches in Cumbria and support the development of young players with talent to county level and beyond.

I look forward to working with more of you soon and helping drive the game forward in the North West.

If you have any questions on golf development (both adult and junior) or would like to arrange a meeting please do not hesitate to contact me via any of the means below.

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County Golf Development Conference— 25th & 26th February

The EGU and EWGA held their first County Golf Development Conference at the National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa on 25th & 26th February.



County Unions, Associations and Partnerships were invited to attend this exciting two-day conference, which included the England Golf Partnership's Volunteer of the Year Awards 2008 and on the second day presentations from first class speakers including Dr Frank Dick OBE.

The EGU/EWGA Conference aimed to give counties the opportunity to network and gain examples of best practice, whilst also benefiting from a variety of information designed to help support those involved in county golf development. There was also the opportunity for counties to challenge their current perceptions and procedures and think about longer term aspirations, as Frank Dick stated "If not you, who? If not now, when?"

Richard Flint, EGU/EWGA Development Manager commented "This is the first time the EGU/EWGA have got counties together to solely discuss county golf development. Networking and sharing best practice is key for all involved in golf to help develop and enhance the game to new levels".

In addition to the evening meal on the 25th, the England Golf Partnership hosted their first Volunteer Awards. Counties were asked to nominate two candidates that they felt had made an exceptional contribution to golf development, with the following individuals receiving awards in 2008:

- Ryan Lewis, Lancashire Young Volunteer
- June Poffley, Wiltshire Club Development
- Michael Hart, Essex County Development
- Joy Hunter, Yorkshire Services to Golf
- Joe Boyd, Isle of Man Services to Golf



The awards provided an ideal opportunity for the recognition of volunteers within golf at all levels, the important role they play and the hard work undertaken.

Following the second day of excellent presentations and informative discussions, the EGU/EWGA were delighted with how the Conference had progressed and are seeking feedback from all delegates to help further enhance the event in 2009. Judi Walker, Suffolk commented "What a brilliant couple of days. Notwithstanding the wealth of information available, the networking was invaluable."

Copies of presentations and discussion notes are available upon request from the EGU/EWGA Development Team at development@englishgolfunion.org

Workshops for club welfare officers

The CIG Partnership is working together with the Child Protection in Sport Unit to deliver the NSPCC "Time to Listen" workshop to Club Welfare Officers (CWO). The EGU /EWGA will be offering pilot workshops during the spring and summer of 2008 in a limited number of locations. The first confirmed workshops will be in the Surrey and West Midlands areas and we are interested in hearing from anyone who wishes to attend from these locations.

The Time to Listen programme provides the opportunity to consider the roles and responsibilities of CWOs and the action to be taken should any incident occur. It is a requirement of the workshop that delegates must have attended a Safeguarding and Protecting Children workshop already.

Any CWO is advised to register their contact details with Karen Cassidy, Compliance Administrator by emailing her at karen@englishwomensgolf.org or calling 0121 452 5975.

By registering, CWOs will then receive updates and invitations to workshops in their area.

Golf Club Membership Questionnaire

www.gcmq2008.org

The EGU and EWGA are urging all golf clubs to complete and return their Golf Club Membership Questionnaire 2008, which was distributed at the beginning of February.

The 2008 Questionnaire has been reduced to 4 pages and although completing the Membership Questionnaire may seem like a daunting task, the results are essential in helping to support golf clubs, to ensure that golf remains a healthy and successful sport. The Questionnaire can also be completed online at www.gcmq2008.org and any clubs completing this way have the opportunity to view their 06 responses.



As an incentive for golf clubs to promptly complete the Questionnaire by 30th April, the EGU/EWGA will be conducting a prize draw for a laptop (online returns only), funding for junior or beginner coaching (4 x £300) and a fourball on the Hotchkin Course, Woodhall Spa.

Golf is booming in Silecroft

Golf is booming in a quiet corner of South Cumbria as Maureen Goodrick from Silecroft Golf Club, a 9-hole links course near Millom explains:

“Our first Ladies' taster session took place on Saturday March 15th. 8 ladies and 4 girls attended a 40 minute session on our practice ground with Paul Rawlinson our recently acquired PGA Coach - a big step forward for a small club which has never had access to a Professional at the club before. After the session, everyone went into the clubhouse where practically all of our lady members were ready to meet them and serve refreshments. The atmosphere was great, something we, as a very small club are good at.



One lady who had been a member about 30 years ago rejoined the full membership and several others sounded positive about membership. We are also offering a 3 month temporary membership and there are 3 more ladies/girls taster sessions to be held in April, with 2 more ladies wanting to join the original group. We also have a junior session planned for the Easter holidays, which was only advertised this week and so far I have 7 boys aged from 5 to 14 years booked in, plus the 4 girls who are attending the ladies/girls sessions.

There has also been great progress on our links with schools. Millom School our nearest Comprehensive is putting golf on the curriculum for Year 7 during the Summer Term. Andy Leigh (Golf Foundation) is coming to do a Golf Extreme training session with staff and helpers and towards the end of the term school staff are hoping to bring the children out to Silecroft for weekly After School Clubs. Primary school children have not been forgotten and our local Schools Sports Co-ordinator is liaising with Andy to get Tri-Golf into schools for the Autumn term. Their training session with Andy is to take place in September and some of us from the golf club will attend.

On a personal note, I would like to thank both John Stoszkowski and Andy Leigh for their support and encouragement we have received. The fact that they have both kept in touch after our original meeting has meant a great deal to us.”



New Child Protection Guidelines

The Children in Golf Partnership has released new “Guidelines for Safeguarding Children in Golf” aimed at golf clubs, county unions, associations and others working with children. They contain information on how to approach the issue of safeguarding children in a golf context and have been developed in line with government guidance and best practice models, in association with the Child Protection in Sport Unit of the NSPCC.

Copies of the Guidelines have been sent to all affiliated golf clubs and past delegates at golf's SPC workshops. The Guidelines can be ordered through the EGU's online shop and can be viewed at www.childreningolf.org

Volunteer Strategy

The England Golf Partnership has developed a Volunteer Strategy that will focus on developing resources to support organisations in recruiting, retaining and recognising golfing volunteers.

For further info go to www.golfvolunteers.org or contact the EGU/EWGA Development Team for a copy of the strategy leaflet.

Double Award in Record Time for Heaton Park Tigers Junior Golf Club

Heaton Park Tigers Junior Golf Club is celebrating double success, having been awarded GolfMark (incorporating Clubmark) and £10,000 grant funding from Awards for All.

GolfMark was accredited in less than 2 months from the initial application, demonstrating the success of the club's junior golf programme, launched in 2007 and the diligent work of the Tiger's advisory team which included representatives from Heaton Park Golf Club, Mack Trading Amenity Management and the local council authorities.

The Heaton Park Tigers Junior Golf Club has also been awarded a £10,000 grant from Awards for All, a division of the National Lottery, to expand the life skills/golf skills programme to the community in 2008. Commenting Dawn Roberts, Junior Golf Development Manager for Mack Trading: "The life skills approach used in the Tigers teaching programme appeals to a wide audience including parents, educators and community groups. The aim is not just to develop good golfers but also great citizens. We are delighted to have been awarded the funding, which will be used to offer more taster sessions, increase the number of after-school, community group and holiday programmes and purchase more junior golfing equipment."



The junior club started in 2007 with the aim of introducing young people in Manchester to the game of golf. With an academy-based membership, it was created through the joint effort of the Heaton Park Golf Club and Heaton Park Golf Centre, under the direction of golf course operator and developer, Mack Trading Amenity Management.

Heaton Park Golf Complex, North Manchester, is operated by Mack Trading Amenity Management on behalf of Manchester City Council, and is one of the finest junior golfing facilities in the UK.

RangeMark Initiative

The role of driving ranges is fundamental to golf development in England and clearly they are the starting point for the majority of newcomers to this great game, providing a variety of coaching and practice opportunities.

The EGU/EWGA have been liaising with driving ranges in order to understand the requirements of these important golfing facilities and the role that they can play in encouraging more people into golf and onto experiencing the club environment.

As a result 'RangeMark' has been created to recognise those stand-alone ranges that are at the forefront of developing the game and this initiative has been developed and refined 'by golf ranges for golf ranges'.



RangeMark is a national scheme that helps driving ranges to promote their facilities and meet the national standard of quality ranges. Once registered, driving ranges will also have access to Golf Central, the EGU's powerful web marketing tool.

During March, the EGU/EWGA ran RangeMark workshops to promote this initiative to stand alone ranges.

Coaching Grant Aid 2008

Golf Clubs can claim up to £600 coaching grant aid in 2008 through the EGU/ EWGA Junior Club Coaching and Free Golf Coaching taster sessions:

Junior Club Coaching Grant—£150 available to support a golf club's junior coaching programme

Free Golf Coaching Grant—£200 grant to support beginners taster sessions (75% adults / 25% juniors)

£50 bonus for any golf clubs completing both of the above, plus an additional £100 per initiative if your golf club has achieved GolfMark/Clubmark accreditation upon completion of the coaching.

For further details see:

www.englishgolfunion.org

