

CHESHIRE COUNTY GOLF PARTNERSHIP

Press release

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For immediate use

CAPTION: Astbury Golf Club receive their GolfMark accreditation (left to right) Alan White (President), Craig Thomas (Cheshire County Golf Partnership Development Officer), Jerry Hayes (Junior Organiser), Alan Percival (Captain), Neil Dawson (Astbury Head Professional), Eileen Murphy (Lady Captain), and Iain Seath (Astbury Golf Club Professional and Cheshire County Academy Co-ordinator)

A CHESHIRE golf club which has received national recognition for its drive to encourage more people into the sport is to hold a special Open Day next month.

Astbury Golf Club, near Congleton, has been awarded GolfMark, a national seal of approval for junior and beginner friendly facilities which play an important role in the development of the game.

Now the club is to showcase what it has to offer with a series of special events on Sunday, April 15 (9.30am-3.00pm).

A round of golf will be available for just £10, including a brunch buffet, with 12 holes for £8 and juniors playing for just £5.

There will be target and putting competitions, free coaching for adults and juniors, discounts available in the professional's shop and £100 off the joining fee.

The event – and the GolfMark award – is all part of the 90 year-old club's proactive approach to encouraging more people into the sport.

PGA professional Iain Seath runs a Junior Academy on a Saturday afternoon which offers a pathway for beginners to develop their golfing skills and move into future club membership.

Says Iain, who is also a coach for the Cheshire County Academy and runs disability golfing sessions in schools and clubs across Cheshire: "Coaching takes place from 12 noon to 3pm on a Saturday, starting with those new to the game playing Tri Golf, a middle session for those using metal clubs and hitting real golf balls to a more advanced session, when the juniors are encouraged to become members of the club and get involved in playing in competitions.

"The members at the club are very supportive and welcoming and want to create a family environment, encouraging new members to get involved in the social side of the club as much as the playing.

"The Open Day is a chance for people to come along and see what the club has to offer. It is part of a proactive approach to giving more people the opportunity to get involved in golf and become a

future member of the club.”

As part of that initiative, the club offers a starting pack membership for just £120 – which includes six rounds of golf, use of the practice facilities and clubhouse and social membership – while the joining fee payment can also be paid over an extended period.

The club’s junior programme has seen the recruitment of five of its junior members to the Cheshire Union county set-up. Adam Cockerill, Max Rogers, Thomas Marsh, Jeremiah Hayes and Jack Machin have all received call-ups.

It is the highest number of players that the club has ever had reaching this level of county acknowledgement.

Says Craig Thomas, county development officer for the Cheshire County Golf Partnership:

“Astbury is a well-established Cheshire club with a distinguished history that is taking a positive approach and looking to build even further for the future, both in terms of its offering for juniors and newcomers to the game or those looking to return to playing golf.

“GolfMark means a parent dropping off their child knows they are in a positive environment with the emphasis on the right care and responsibilities while the success of the individual club members shows the quality of coaching on offer.”

GolfMark is a national scheme that incorporates ClubMark and recognises junior and beginner friendly golf facilities that focus on Coaching and Playing, Club Environment and Child Protection, and Duty of Care, all of which are extremely important to parents and children alike.

GolfMark is an initiative jointly provided by the EGU and EWGA via the England Golf Partnership’s ‘Whole Sport Plan’ for golf and is an integral part of the England Golf Partnership’s vision to ‘Grow the Game’.

The England Golf Partnership is a collaboration of a number of stakeholders in the sport including England Golf – the new organisation formed by the merger of the English Golf Union and The English Women’s Golf Association - the PGA, the Golf Foundation and Sport England.

In Cheshire the partnership is supported by the Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs, the Cheshire County Ladies Golf Association and the Cheshire and North Wales PGA.

For more details of the activities in Cheshire visit www.cheshiregolfpartnership.com

For more information on the work of the Cheshire Golf Partnership contact Craig Thomas, County Development Officer, Cheshire County Golf Partnership.

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