

CHESHIRE COUNTY GOLF PARTNERSHIP

Press release
22.03.2013

CAPTION: Bramall Park Golf Club, near Stockport, receives its GolfMark award (left to right) Welfare Officer Donna Macintosh, Junior Organiser Keith Daniels, Cheshire County Golf Partnership development officer Craig Thomas and Bramall Park Captain Roger Cookson

A CHESHIRE golf club is aiming to bring the sport to a younger audience after receiving national recognition for its child and beginner-friendly approach.

Bramall Park GC, which can be found in Manor Road, 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.

GolfMark is a national scheme that incorporates ClubMark and recognises initiatives 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.

Now the club plans to expand its work in local primary schools while also building links to community groups.

Junior organiser Keith Daniels says: "With so many other sports looking to recruit new young players it is important golf clubs offer a way into the sport through their junior sections by being proactive. Juniors are the lifeblood of any club."

The Stockport club is establishing a thriving junior section, with regular weekend coaching, while also helping the young players immerse themselves in life as a club member.

The roll-up junior coaching sessions are held every Saturday afternoon and are open to non-members. The cost is £5 per session with further details from PGA professional Liam Burgess on 0161 485 2205.

Adds Keith Daniels: "As the young players improve we also offer them the incentive of being able to compete in the non-junior competitions, too, which all goes to help integrate them into the club.

"GolfMark is only the beginning but gives the club a platform from which to develop the junior section further as well as improving existing standards.

"GolfMark shows we have a safe and fun environment in which to play golf."

Says Craig Thomas, county development officer for the Cheshire County Golf Partnership: "GolfMark is a positive signal that Bramall Park has the right duty of care policies in place.

"It means a parent dropping off their child knows they are in a positive environment with the emphasis on the right care and responsibilities.

"GolfMark is a fitting acknowledgement of their efforts in taking the sport out into the local community."

Says Melanie Flude, regional development officer for England Golf:
"Congratulations to Bramall Park for joining the 600 plus clubs across the country who have now achieved GolfMark.

"Clubs are offering the right advice to people of all ages who want to try golf while Bramall Park's work in trying to attract younger players can only bode well for the future of both their own club and the sport.

"GolfMark shows that anyone of any age who wants to try golf is assured of a warm welcome and expert coaching."

Further information about Bramall Park Golf Club can be found at www.bramallparkgolfclub.co.uk

Note to editors

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 (EGP) brings together the amateur governing body, England Golf and the PGA, to grow the game with the support of the Golf Foundation and Sport England.

County Golf Partnerships, involving the county men's women's and professional organisations, are part of the EGP's Whole Sport Plan for golf and an integral part of its vision to make England the world's leading golf nation by 2020.

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

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