

# CHESHIRE COUNTY GOLF PARTNERSHIP

**Press release**

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**For immediate release**

CAPTION: Paula Kingsley and Ann Bourne are delighted that they took up the chance to Get into golf with the help of Tytherington professional Anthony Haste

Golfing widows Paula Kingsley and Ann Bourne decided if you can't beat 'em, join 'em!

And now – thanks to the help of their local PGA professional – they have found out why their husbands enjoy their sporting hobby so much.

Both ladies have taken advantage of the Cheshire County Golf Partnership's drive to make it easier than ever to take up the sport as part of the nationwide campaign to encourage people to Get into golf.

Free taster sessions and discounted lessons are being offered by clubs across the county to help people of all ages and abilities to give golf a go.

The two ladies signed up for a scheme at Tytherington Golf Club, near Macclesfield, with head PGA professional Anthony Haste.

And Ann, from Macclesfield, now admits: "I have definitely been 'bitten by the bug' and am no longer a golf widow but a golf wife!

"My husband Bob has tried many times to encourage me to play, so that it would be something we could enjoy together during our retirement.

"After I completed the first course of lessons with Anthony's endless patience and guidance, I realised golf was a sport I could enjoy. I have only been playing golf for nine months but wish I had started earlier because of the pleasure I get from it."

Paula, from Lyme Green, added: "I saw a leaflet advertising golf lessons at Tytherington. A friend and I thought we would give it a go to see what we were missing. We joined group lessons for six weeks and enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and Anthony's fun way of teaching."

After developing her skills, first on the local municipal course's pitch and putt and then the main course, with the help of further lessons, Paula has now joined Tytherington as a member, as has Ann.

"I found the members of the golf club to be very friendly and supportive," she says. "Now nearly 12 months from starting our initial lessons and with great support from Anthony, I play golf three or four times a week with my husband David and friends.

"Golf has given me the opportunity of keeping fit and also offers social opportunities (particularly at the 19<sup>th</sup> hole!). I must admit I am totally hooked and would recommend golf to anyone looking for a fun, although frustrating at times, form of exercise with social opportunities thrown in."

Says Craig Thomas, county development officer for the Cheshire County Golf Partnership: "It is great to see the support we are receiving for the Get into golf campaign paying off both for those trying the sport and the clubs.

"PGA professionals like Anthony are offering their coaching skills as part of the campaign which means anyone new to the sport is given the perfect advice to set them off on the right track.

"As Ann and Paula have found, this expert support means newcomers can reach a level of play where they can enjoy the sport and go on to take up the benefits of membership, which means the clubs are also benefitting by new people coming into the sport."

Melanie Flude, regional development officer for England Golf, says: "It is never too late – or too early – to take up golf and thanks to the work going on across the region anyone interested in trying the sport can find the right introduction to suit them.

"It is a sport that can be enjoyed on many levels and by all ages – from taking part in competitions at national level to playing for club honours, or simply a sociable outing with friends."

Get into golf is a national campaign to inspire new golfers run by the England Golf Partnership through its network of County Golf Partnerships, which work to grow the game.

Get into golf opportunities include free or low-cost beginner courses with PGA professionals. They are a fun and sociable way to start golf – and a great way to make new friends.

Discounted lessons can cost as little as £25 for a five-week course.

To find your nearest centre visit [getintogolf.org](http://getintogolf.org) and look at the activity map or call 0800 118 2766

Further details of the golfing activities in Cheshire are available on the CGP website [www.cheshiregolfpartnership.com](http://www.cheshiregolfpartnership.com)

### **Note to editors**

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](http://www.cheshiregolfpartnership.com)

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