

CHESHIRE COUNTY GOLF PARTNERSHIP

Press release

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For immediate use

ONE OF England's brightest young golf stars is backing the drive to encourage more women and girls to take up the sport.

Melissa Reid is in action at this week's Ricoh Women's British Open at Royal Liverpool Golf Club on the Wirral.

The 25 year-old is a four-time winner on the Ladies European Tour and travelled to Hoylake hoping to follow in the footsteps of former British champions such as Laura Davies, Karen Stupples and Catriona Matthew.

As part of the nationwide Get into golf campaign, the Cheshire County Golf Partnership has organised a variety of initiatives around the Ricoh Women's British Open designed to make it as easy as possible for women and girls to give golf a go.

These range from golf in schools, taster sessions and discounted coaching for women and girls at clubs across Cheshire and Get into golf promotions at events like the Paralympics flame visit to Winsford and the Ricoh Women's British Open at Hoylake itself.

Melissa, a member of the winning Great Britain and Ireland Solheim Cup team, welcomed the moves to help women and girls into golf.

"The Ricoh Women's British Open is a great chance to enjoy a first-hand view of the world's best players - and show that golf isn't just a sport for the boys," she said.

"The Road to Hoylake campaign means there are plenty of opportunities for any women and girls who have been inspired by what they have seen to give the game a go for themselves.

"Free coaching and the loan of equipment means ladies of all ages and abilities can get into golf at their local club, driving range or through one of the schemes in the local schools.

"The Cheshire County Golf Partnership - and its partners, the Golf Foundation, Cheshire Sport, Merseyside Sport and Wirral Borough Council - are to be congratulated on this project which can only help encourage more women to enjoy the healthy lifestyle and social life that comes with playing golf.

"So why not take the chance to see the great players at Royal Liverpool and then try the sport for yourself. Go to <http://www.getintogolf.org/> today."

The world's best women golfers are making their first visit to Royal Liverpool Golf Club from September 13-16 to battle it out for the prestigious title.

Says Craig Thomas, county development officer for the Cheshire CGP: "There has never been a better time for women and girls to get into golf.

"As well as the chance to watch the world's best women players in action at Royal Liverpool, clubs across Cheshire are supporting the campaign with free taster sessions and discounted coaching for those who want to take their interest further.

"So whether it be trying golf for the first time or returning to the sport, the clubs have the right schemes in place to help you.

"Golf is not all about power but is a game that can be played by all ages and abilities while becoming a member of your local club not only offers the chance to take up a healthy pastime, but also to enjoy an active social life."

Further details of activities in Cheshire can be found at www.cheshiregolfpartnership.com

The Road to Hoylake brings together the Cheshire CGP, Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs, Cheshire County Ladies Golf Association, Cheshire and North Wales PGA, Golf Foundation, Wirral Borough Council and the Empowering Youth Foundation.

The Ricoh Women's British Open takes place at Royal Liverpool Golf Club at Hoylake from September 13-16, 2012.

Tickets can be purchased at the gates, under 16's get in free with an adult and car parking is free. This year the organisers are putting on a 'Best of British Day' on Saturday.

For further details please visit www.ricohwomensbritishopen.com

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.

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

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