

# **CHESHIRE COUNTY GOLF PARTNERSHIP**

**Press release**

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**For immediate use**

CAPTION: Melanie Flude, north west regional development officer for the English Golf Union and English Women's Golf Association, receives the National Governing Body award from Callum Irving of Sport England (centre) along with Ted Leather, chair of the Cheshire County Golf Partnership (right) at the Cheshire & Warrington Sports Partnership awards night

THE team behind a campaign to encourage more people in Cheshire to take up golf is celebrating a top award for its efforts.

The Cheshire County Golf Partnership was presented with one of the prizes up for grabs at the ninth annual Cheshire & Warrington Sports Partnership Awards, hosted by Sport Cheshire at Eaton Park, near Chester.

The evening was a celebration of those who go the extra mile for community sport across Cheshire and Warrington and was attended by more than 150 guests.

The Cheshire CGP had been nominated in the National Governing Body category after a year in which clubs across the county have held special taster sessions and coaching courses to make it as easy as possible to take up golf or return to the sport.

Under the stewardship of the Cheshire County Golf Partnership, PGA professionals have delivered the scheme which aims to make golf as accessible as possible to people of all abilities, while also highlighting the health benefits and social life to be gained from joining a club.

The awards night acknowledges organisations that have shown "a significant enhancement in its delivery to the residents of Chester and Warrington." Also nominated in the category were Badminton England and the Cheshire County Football FA.

More than 350 potential golfers have taken advantage of the schemes on offer.

The Cheshire County Golf Partnership was represented by Melanie Flude, north west regional development officer for the English Golf Union and the English Women's Golf Association, and Cheshire County Golf Partnership Chair Ted Leather.

The Cheshire CGP has launched a wide range of initiatives under the banners of 'Get into Golf' and 'Go4Green'.

As well as targeting junior players, special emphasis has been placed on the 16plus age group with free taster sessions and low-cost coaching sessions designed to appeal to beginners to the sport or those looking to return to golf.

Driving ranges and municipal golf courses have also supported the scheme, which has been tailored to have a wide appeal, including sessions for ladies only, couples and disability groups. Those taking part also received a free Wilson 7 iron golf club.

Says Melanie Flude: “Our success at these awards is down to the hard work of many people – ranging from those individuals who have volunteered to become involved in the county partnership, the PGA professionals who have delivered the projects, the clubs who have supported us and our county development officer Craig Thomas.

“Everyone who has supported the different schemes has shown a positive and proactive approach to ensuring that golf attracts a new generation of players for the future, which can only help safeguard the clubs in the years ahead.”

The England Golf Partnership (EGP) was established to co-ordinate one development plan for golf in England, known as 'The Whole Sport Plan', and attracted substantial funding from Sport England.

Its aim, through the implementation of its Whole Sport Plan, is to increase and widen the participation levels in golf and achieve a vision of being 'The Leading Golf Nation in the World by 2020' from grass roots right through to elite level.

A network of county golf partnerships was put in place across England to deliver a raft of schemes aimed at increasing participation in golf by people of all ages and abilities.

The EGP is a collaboration of a number of stakeholders in the sport including the English Golf Union, The English Women's Golf Association, the PGA, the Golf Foundation and Sport England.

In Cheshire, the County Golf Partnership is supported by the Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs, the Cheshire Ladies' County Golf Association and the Cheshire PGA.

For more details of the activities in Cheshire visit [www.cheshiregolfpartnership.com](http://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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