

CHESHIRE COUNTY GOLF PARTNERSHIP

Press release

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For immediate release

CAPTION: Upton-by-Chester junior organiser Jenny Turner (left) and club professional Steve Dewhurst with some of the club's juniors

A NEW drive to get teenagers onto the fairways has proved a success at a Chester golf club.

The Cheshire Golf Partnership's Go 4 Green 16 to 19 campaign offered eight free lessons from qualified PGA coaches at clubs throughout the county.

Upton-by-Chester golf club – which already caters for more than 75 junior golfers - was delighted to get a group of five girls and five boys signed up for the scheme from an age group that is often lost to the sport due to other commitments like exams, university and starting work.

Junior organiser Jenny Turner: “Everyone really enjoyed the course and now we are looking at how we can build on its success. It certainly makes a change from computer games for them.

“We are working on further strengthening our ties to the local schools, which include after school activities involving lessons at the school and at the club.”

The 16 – 19 sessions are just part of a wide range of activities at the club, in Upton Lane, aimed at attracting both new juniors to the game and adult beginners which include regular lessons, holiday golf schools and winter fun nights.

“Without the support and help of our professional Steve Dewhurst, all these events would not be possible,” added Jenny Turner.

The club, which has been awarded GolfMark/ClubMark for its child-friendly approach, is holding a family fun day on Saturday, July 30, which is open to non-members and will feature golf related games as well as a host of other stalls.

It also offers the chance for beginners to sample the course as part of their junior programme.

“Each week we offer juniors the chance to try playing golf out on a few holes of the course,” explained junior organiser Jenny Turner. “This is primarily for members but non-members are invited for a taster session. While we would advise a few lessons before going out on the course, it does give the juniors the opportunity to putt on a full green, for example. The sessions are fully supervised and we encourage the parents to come along as well.”

Other activities include a team of juniors taking part in the Longest Day challenge in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support on June 20 and a three-day junior trip to Wales to play Criccieth,

Porthmadog and Royal St David's golf courses in July.

Craig Thomas, the Cheshire County Golf Development Officer, added: "Upton-by-Chester is just one example of the work going on at clubs throughout Cheshire to encourage more people to participate in golf and shows how a proactive approach to building links in the local community can pay dividends."

The Go 4 Green 16-19 campaign is one of a number of initiatives undertaken by the Cheshire Golf Partnership, a collaboration of the major stakeholders in golf, including the English Golf Union, 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 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.

Website: <http://www.cheshiregolfpartnership.com/>

Mobile: 07973 798483

Email: cheshirecdo@googlemail.com

Issued on behalf of England Golf Partnership by Richard Williamson

Mob: 07810 636 455

Email: egpnorth@yahoo.co.uk