

Golf North

Your local golf magazine for grass roots golfers

Local golf news for golfers in Scotland, Northern England and North Wales

Golf North
Winter 2016



www.golfnorth.co.uk

Scotland's Golf Coast was the host of the 2015 Scottish Open at Gullane Golf Club and in August 2016, the Paul Lawrie Match Play and Scottish Senior Open both took place at Archerfield Links, one of the host courses for the 2016 Scotland's Golf Coast Festival.



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Welcome

What a summer of golf it has been so far! The Open gave us quite a rush. And then followed an epic Olympics. Rose really did give us something to panic about, but the conclusion we all wanted came through in the end. It also seems like all the criticism and missing big stars did little to dampen the enthusiasm of golf fans around the world. And well done again to Justin Rose and all his team for what was an epic clash and a brilliant result.

But, as an aging dance track suggests, it's not over yet! This is, of course, a Ryder Cup year and even though it is not the UK's turn to host it, the excitement is still at fever pitch. Westwood was always a favourite as a wild card pick and Kaymer feels like a safe pair of hands too. It is also great to see Pieters among the list of wildcards as well and it feels as though Daren Clarke has really gone for the big hitters. But don't count out the US team! With Dustin Johnson, Phil Mickleson and Zach Johnson on the team, Europe could face some pretty stiff opposition.

One thing is for sure, it will be a great end to what has been a fantastic season!

GolfNorth
Your local golf magazine for grass roots golfers



If it's a course you're trying to find, a short break, or just a general look at golf in your area, then take a look at our website.

www.golfnorth.co.uk





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Blane Dodds Appointed CEO of Scottish Golf

Scottish Golf has appointed Blane Dodds, a highly effective leader with a strong sports background, as Chief Executive Officer. With vast experience in the private and public sports sectors, the 49-year-old Scot started his new role with Scotland's governing body for amateur golf on Monday 15 August.

Eleanor Cannon, Chair of Scottish Golf, said: "We are delighted to have attracted somebody of Blane's talent and experience to Scottish Golf. The Board was excited at the vision and ambition articulated by Blane during the recruitment process and look forward to working with him and the team to better support our clubs and encourage more people into the game."

Dodds has held various senior management roles within sports management and marketing, the health and fitness industry and Charitable Trusts. He is a former Scotland international tennis player and is the current Chair of Tennis Scotland. He is also UK President of the European Capital of Sport Association.

The keen golfer, who plays off a seven handicap at Kilmacolm Golf Club in Renfrewshire, has a proven track record of delivering increased participation, combined with experience of transformational change, notably in his most recent role as CEO of North Lanarkshire Leisure.

Blane Dodds said: "Being asked to lead the governing body of amateur golf in Scotland is a great honour and I look forward to going

round the country to better understand the challenges faced by clubs and golfers. I want to ensure this great game continues to be at the heart of communities across Scotland and will work hard to build the partnerships needed to achieve that, putting down strong foundations for future generations of golfers."

Dodds' previous positions include Sales and Marketing Manager at David Lloyd Leisure, which included the creation of the first David Lloyd centre outside of London in Renfrew, before becoming founder and Managing Director of International Golf Network Limited, a web-based golf membership and tourism company.

He also worked at North Lanarkshire Council as Head of Cultural and Recreational Services and was Glasgow Club Manager for Glasgow City Council, leading their membership scheme following managing one of their flagship facilities. He joined North Lanarkshire Council in 2002, before becoming CEO of North Lanarkshire Leisure in 2006 where he held the position until recently, overseeing significant changes to the business which has become one of the leading Sports & Leisure Trusts in Scotland.



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Duncan Upsets Odds to Land Scottish Men's Amateur Crown

George Duncan drew on nerves of steel and a brilliant short game to achieve the biggest win of his golfing life, lifting the Scottish Men's Amateur title at Royal Aberdeen. The 21-year-old from Windyhill defeated Nairn's Andrew Burgess 3&1 in their 36-hole matchplay showdown after both players had produced impressive results to seal final spots.

With Burgess ending the hopes of hot favourite Connor Syme after firing a brilliant 66 for a one-hole victory in their semi-final, the Highlander was fancied to hold the edge in the final. But Duncan battled back from two down after 13 holes to achieve a two-hole lead after the opening 18 holes and showed both resilience and a lack of nerves to never let his advantage slip.

The Dunbartonshire player, who has climbed to eighth place on the Scottish Golf Men's Order of Merit and will now secure a world ranking by virtue of his success, consistently showed his skills around the greens after lunch before closing out the match when Burgess found trouble at the short 35th.

Duncan, who shares the same name as Scotland's 1920 Open champion and former Ryder Cup captain but is no relation, was lost for words after his stunning achievement over the 2014 Aberdeen Asset Management Scottish Open venue.

The college student at Lincoln Memorial in Tennessee said: "I'm speechless, it's the best feeling I've had in golf by a long shot. I just can't believe I've won the Scottish Amateur, considering I didn't even get past the second round last year in my first attempt. The final was the best I've struck it all this week and my short game really pulled it through for me. I just need to thank my putter, to be honest, which was brilliant."

Aided by his father, George, on the bag, Duncan emulates Windyhill's Andrew McArthur, who won the event in 2002, as well as other past winners like Colin Montgomerie and Stephen Gallacher. "Sometimes my downfall is my nerves, but I loved it," added George, who works with George Boswell and has won the last five Windyhill club championships. "I just told myself today to just enjoy it and don't get angry if I hit a bad shot. Everyone usually says I have a good poker face, but my heart was going, especially down the back nine."



For Burgess, 21, it was a case of what might have been having beaten South African Amateur champion Craig Ross and GB&I cap Syme, the reigning Australian Amateur winner. The Armstrong State student in Georgia in the US added: "I'm obviously disappointed. I did really well to reach this far, and it was a really good week. I can't really complain too much, the better man won on the day.

"George was very, very solid and didn't let me in at all and I was just waiting for something, some sort of slip, that didn't come. He is a really nice guy as well, a worthy winner this week."

Burgess, who will also gain a ranking in the world standings, added: "I didn't putt as well as I did on Friday, didn't get much going and wasn't really striking it as well as I was on Friday either. I don't know what it was, I didn't feel nervous out there, I just wasn't as hot as I was yesterday.

"I'll take a lot of confidence from this week, because I know I can compete with the best in Scotland. It just shows what matchplay does, after the round of my life yesterday."

Rules expert Desmond Duffy to be 2018 England Golf President



Rules expert Desmond Duffy has accepted the nomination to become President Elect of England Golf for 2017 with a view to becoming President in 2018. "I am proud and thrilled," said Desmond, who has refereed at all levels of the game, including at eight Open Championships. "I am looking forward to meeting a lot of old friends throughout the country, making new ones and visiting many clubs that, even after 24 years of refereeing, will be new to me. What joy!"

Desmond was a keen footballer in his teens but was prompted to try golf by the simultaneous arrival in his parish of a golf-playing priest and a new professional at Catterick Garrison Golf Club. He took lessons, joined the club and began a notable golfing career in which he held a single figure handicap for 52 years. Even now, approaching his 80th birthday, he plays off 11.

For the past 48 years Desmond has been a member at Bamburgh Castle in Northumberland, where he has been

Captain and club champion and is an honorary Vice-President. He deeply treasures the club and credits it with putting him on the path towards the national golfing stage. First he became involved with the Northumberland Golf Union – where he has been President – and then went on to represent his county on the English Golf Union (now England Golf).

He joined the Tournament Panel and, over the years, has refereed at eight Open Championships, at the Walker Cup, the Palmer Cup, on the European Tour, European Senior Tour and at English amateur events.

Alongside his refereeing duties he has been a member of the EGU Board, represented England on the Council of National Golf Unions and been a member of the R&A Rules and Championship Committees. He has been a member of the PGA Rules Panel since 2002. "I have had a wonderful career refereeing at every level and visiting not only most of the British Isles but Europe as well. All that I owe to Bamburgh, Northumberland and England, each has been an important step along the way," he said.

In his professional life Desmond trained as a quantity surveyor and worked in building contracting, eventually retiring as joint managing director of Tower Construction in Alnwick, Northumberland. His interests outside golf including sitting as an education appeals panel member for seven local authorities in the North East and supporting his church.

Great Britain and Ireland retains the St Andrews trophy against the Continent of Europe

Great Britain and Ireland retained the St Andrews Trophy after finishing level at 12 ½-12 ½ with the Continent of Europe at Prince's in Kent. Trailing their opponents 8-4 at the start of the second day, Craig Watson's side won three of the morning foursomes matches and halved the other to reduce the Continent of Europe's lead to a single point at 8½ -7½ going into the afternoon's singles.

Ireland's Stuart Grehan led from the first hole against Luca Cianchetti and was comfortable against the Italian for the entire duration, closing out the match with a birdie on the 15th hole for a 4&3 win to put GB&I back on level terms at 8½ -8½. The 2016 Amateur Champion Scott Gregory edged GB&I in front for the first time after beating Jereon Krietemeijer by two holes to make it 9½ -8½, only for the visitors to take the lead again after a 2&1 win for Sweden's Robin Petersson over Grant Forrest, followed by Stefano Mazzoli's victory by one hole against Irishman Jack Hume.

The Continent of Europe's lead was stretched to two points shortly after when Frenchman Victor Veyret picked up three holes in a row from the 14th to seal a 3&2 success against Jamie Bower. Connor Syme and Matthias Schwab halved their match for a share of

the spoils to leave the Continent of Europe needing only one point to win the match outright.

However, Alfie Plant pulled a point back for GB&I with a 4&3 win over Mario Galiano and, after Robert MacIntyre and Guido Migliozi halved their match, the destination of the trophy came down to the result between David Boote and Ivan Cantero Guterrez.

The Welshman retained his composure and secured a par on the 18th to beat the Spaniard by one hole, gaining the crucial point to secure a 12 ½-12 ½ final score and ensure that GB&I retained the St Andrews Trophy as holders following their victory at Barsebäck in 2014.

In the morning's foursomes, Grehan and Gregory convincingly beat Italians Cianchetti and Mazzoli 5&4 to gain a vital point in the first foursome, before Scottish duo Forrest and Syme notched up an additional point for the home side shortly after, defeating Schwab and Migliozi 4&3.

GB&I was victorious in the third match this morning after Hume and Boote won by one hole versus Veyret and Petersson. The final foursome, featuring English pair Plant and Bower against Spain's Galiano and Cantero Guterrez, was halved.



Work starts on Torvean Golf course

Work has started on the Highland council's new golf course in Inverness. Plans were released in 2015 for a re-designed Torvean Golf club in an area east of general Booth Road in a tender worth £5.5 million. The course is part of the building of Inverness West Link as part of plans to enhance sports facilities in the area and is being designed by accomplished architect Stuart Rennie.

Hamish Spence, president of Torvean Golf Club, said: "Torvean Golf Club has been working closely with the Council on this project. We are delighted that the project has reached this stage. As well as the obvious benefits to our members, the new clubhouse and course will be a major improvement to the existing sporting facilities available to the local community." The construction of the West Link required relocation of golf holes so that the road could be built. Additional enhancements to the golf course were agreed in a greater ambition for the City of Inverness, thus enabling further economic development in the area.

Existing holes to the east of General Booth Road will be the site of the proposed new sports hub. A practice area that will allow the club to expand it to SGU development standard status is included, along with a new clubhouse and junior room, maintenance buildings and new access roads.

Don't dig your clubs out just yet though! The clubhouse, course and road leading to it are not expected to be completed until 2017.



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5,721 yds
sss68

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www.cavendishgolfclub.com

1925

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www.visitbuxton.co.uk

6,310 yds
sss71

Hazel Grove Golf Club

14 miles from Buxton
www.hazeltrovegolfclub.com

1920

A parkland course with tree lined fairways and several challenging water hazards.
The greens have been re-laid to USGA standards.

6,214 yds
sss70

Bramall Park Golf Club

17 miles from Buxton
www.bramallparkgolfclub.co.uk

1921

A mature and well-presented parkland course, over gently undulating terrain.
A stream guards the 1st and 18th greens.

6,086 yds
sss70

Reddish Vale Golf Club

19 miles from Buxton
www.rvgc.co.uk

1912

A figure of 8, routing flowing across the valley of the River Tame. Fun and occasionally quirky.
Clubhouse with commanding views.

6,239 yds
sss70

Sirwell Park Golf Club

37 miles from Buxton
www.sirwellgolf.co.uk

1913

The holes are laid around a hillside with many changes of elevation. As designed the greens included severe undulations subsequently eased.

6,479 yds
sss72

Bolton Old Links Golf Club

42 miles from Buxton
www.boltonoldlinksgolfclub.co.uk

1921

A fine elevated moorland course with 2 loops of 9 holes exposing the golfer to any wind direction.

6,006 yds
sss70

Nelson Golf Club

60 miles from Buxton
www.nelsongolfclub.com

1920

A compact layout of 2 loops of 9 holes on a plateau with fine views of the Pennine Hills. Mackenzie's clever design results in easy walking.

6,259 yds
sss71

Walsall Golf Club

62 miles from Buxton
www.walsallgolfclub.co.uk

1928

A parkland course with level tree-lined fairways and well bunkered greens. Immaculately presented.

6,542 yds
sss72

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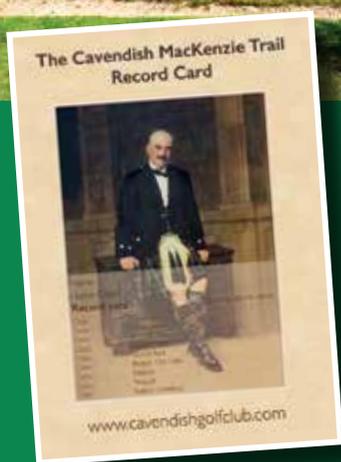
1921

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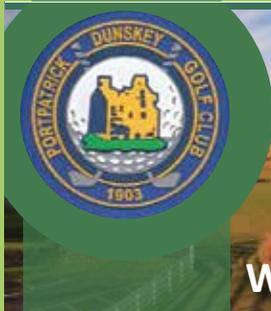
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Tel: 01776 810273 Web: www.portpatrickgolfclub.com Email: enquiries@portpatrickgolfclub.com

Oh deer!

19 year-old student Kyle Elgan had his game of golf interrupted by a slightly unusual obstacle when he played over the course at Lochgoilhead – a deer. Now it isn't unusual to get the odd bit of wildlife on the course and most golfers are highly respectful of the animal's right to be there. However, the deer presented an interesting rules debate when it nudged the ball around with its hoof and head. Then at one point the deer actually picked the ball up in its mouth and dropped it at another point on the course. Quite where he played his shot from after that, nobody knew!

Of course, Kyle's first reaction was to get his phone out and filmed the whole event. His short video got 5000 views within a few days. The video clearly shows the deer moving the ball at least 40 yards, which actually gave Kyle an easier shot. The group decided that he should take the shot from where the deer dropped the ball. However a later examination of the rules actually revealed that he should have replaced the ball to where the deer first picked it up. Well, at least Kyle will know for next time!



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A handicap certificate may be required.

Stranraer Golf Club

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Telephone: 01776 870245 Email: info@stranraergolfclub.net

www.stranraergolfclub.net

Golfers to benefit from £500,000 investment at the Westerwood

The Westerwood Hotel & Golf Resort is set to take its golfing experience to new heights after announcing a £500,000 renovation and expansion of its spa and leisure facilities. As part of the investment, the leading Glasgow resort – part of QHotels, the UK's largest golf resort operator – will undergo extensive redevelopment work to significantly improve the flow of the spa, while the experience for both leisure guests and golfers will be enhanced further by the recruitment of 10 new staff.

The refurbishment programme will include the installation of three new treatment rooms, expansion of the relaxation area from five up to 30 relaxation beds and, following popular demand, the addition of a new Rasul spa.

There will also be increased locker space, 24-hour access to changing facilities and a pop-up restaurant available exclusively for spa guests to enjoy lunch and refreshments.

The redevelopment work began this spring and, when completed – expected to be by the end of August – will enhance The Westerwood's position among the leading golf, leisure and spa destinations in Scotland.

Paul Bray, general manager at The Westerwood Hotel & Golf Resort, said: "It has been great to see the demand for spa increase over the years

and we feel it is the perfect time to expand the spa and really hone in on spa and wellness. This renovation will enhance the spa journey for our guests and provide high-quality facilities to match our high-quality service."

The Westerwood Hotel & Golf Resort, one of 10 QHotels golf resorts across England and Scotland, is situated in acres of spectacular grounds, with a golf course co-designed by one of the world's greatest golfers: Severiano Ballesteros.

Working with the equally revered golf designer Dave Thomas, the legendary Spaniard created a course that is as challenging as it is beautiful, as it meanders through silver birches, firs and heather, offering stunning views towards the picturesque Campsie Hills.

The signature hole, the par-three 15th – created by Ballesteros and known as the Waterfall hole – requires a tee-shot from an elevated tee to a green surrounded by a 60ft rock face. It's not for the faint hearted and nor are the undulating moorland greens which test one's mettle when standing over those nervy four-foot putts.

Named AA Hotel Group of the Year in 2014/15, QHotels features a host of prestigious venues in its portfolio including Slaye Hall, Forest Pines, Belton Woods and Mottram Hall.

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Western Gailes Golf Club

Marine Drive, Gailes, Irvine, Ayrshire, KA11 5AE

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Club Manager/Secretary: Douglas Zuill **Reservations:** Vicky O'Dowd



AYRSHIRE GOLF

SCOTLAND

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Telephone: 01355 248638

Email: golf@southlanarkshireleisure.co.uk

Course	Torrance
--------	----------

Length	6,476 yards
--------	-------------

Par	72 Parkland Course
-----	-----------------------

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Weekday rounds from	£17.60
------------------------	---------------

Weekend rounds from	£20.40
------------------------	---------------

Langlands Golf Club



Auldhouse Road, East Kilbride, G75 9DW

Telephone: 01355 224 685

Email: golf@southlanarkshireleisure.co.uk

Course	Langlands
--------	-----------

Length	6,201 yards
--------	-------------

Par	70 Parkland Course
-----	-----------------------

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------------------------	---------------

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------------------------	---------------

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Acretophead, Coalburn Road, Lesmahagow, ML11 0JS

Telephone: 01555 893646

Email: golf@southlanarkshireleisure.co.uk

Course	Hollandbush
--------	-------------

Length	6,262 yards
--------	-------------

Par	72 Moorland Course
-----	--------------------

GREEN FEES

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---------------------	--------

Weekend rounds from	£20.40
---------------------	--------

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Broughton Road, Biggar, ML12 6HA

Telephone: 01899 2203149

Email: golf@southlanarkshireleisure.co.uk

Course	Biggar
--------	--------

Length	5,447 yards
--------	-------------

Par	68 Parkland Course
-----	--------------------

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---------------------	--------

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---------------------	--------



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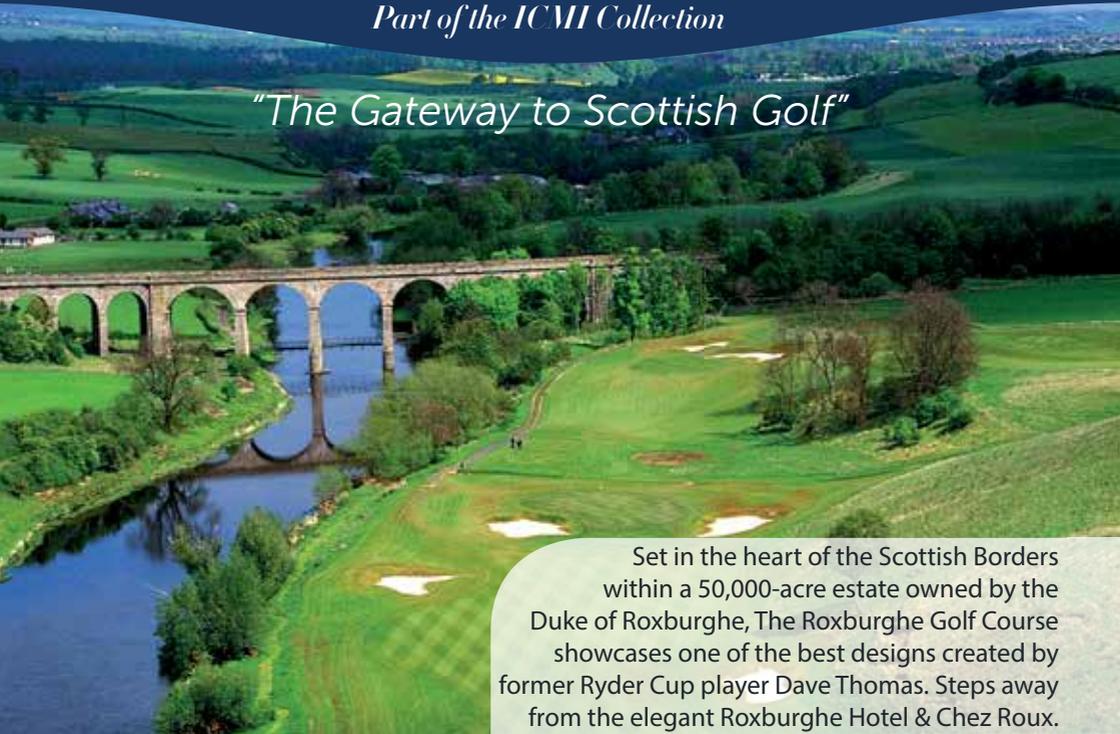


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Commencing on Monday 19th October, the event will see competitors battle it out over four rounds of golf:

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Dons Heroes help Murcar launch crowdfunding campaign

One of Scotland's classic links golf clubs, Murcar Links, has adopted a fundraising approach with a difference, after launching its Friends of Murcar crowdfunding campaign to drive the club forward while contributing towards young golfers in the region.

The Aberdeen-based club is looking to raise £250,000 to fund the first phase of a new irrigation system to further enhance its championship course and ensure it remains one of Scotland's best for generations to come. The continued development of Murcar as a venue is expected to have a positive effect on the wider golfing community and, in-keeping with Murcar's keen support for youth development, 10% of the final amount raised by the Friends of Murcar campaign will be donated to the Paul Lawrie Foundation which provides opportunities for juniors of any age and background to take part in golf.

Although common within the business world, crowdfunding campaigns are a relatively alien concept for sports clubs and Murcar is hoping the approach will cement its position as a progressive club at the heart of Scottish golf, where it supports the game's development at all levels, from local junior programmes through to full European Tour tournaments.

Launched by Aberdeen FC living legends, John Hewitt and Russell Anderson, at the club, the Friends of Murcar campaign offers numerous fundraising entry points and rewards and, as extra incentive for Dons fans, anyone donating a minimum £20 will be entered into a prize draw to win a fourball with a friend to play alongside the Pittodrie heroes.

Commenting at the launch, Murcar Links club captain, Malcolm Gunnyeon, said: "As a club, we are constantly looking at ways to innovate and improve on and off the course and,

following years of supporting local, national and European golf as a venue and partner, we felt this was an ideal time to try something a little bit different to support the next stage of the development of Murcar Links.

“We are proud of the role we have always played in supporting the development of golf within the North East and we hope the Friends of Murcar campaign will enable us to take the courses to another level for the benefit of not only members, but the range of visitors, competitors and partners who use it on a regular basis.

“The grassroots of the game are so important to a club like ours so it was an easy decision to donate 10% of the money raised to the Paul Lawrie Foundation. It does a fantastic job introducing youngsters to the game who, ultimately, will be the lifeblood of golf in the future. Support of the Foundation sits very well with our decision to make junior golf free at Murcar in 2016.”

1983 European Cup Winners’ Cup hero, and Murcar member, John Hewitt, added: “I’ve been a member at Murcar for nearly 20 years and have seen the course develop over that time. At its best, it’s right up there with the top Scottish courses and if the club is able to raise the necessary funds, it will be fantastic for both members and the wider golfing community.”

Former League Cup-winning captain, Russell Anderson, said: “The North East has great facilities across all sports and it is important those within the sporting community continue to offer opportunities for participation at all levels. Murcar Links is a fantastic golf club and the proposed works will help it continue supporting golf development in the region for many years to come.”

Full details of the Friends of Murcar campaign, including fundraising rewards and donations, can be found at murcarlinks.hubbub.net.

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Shaw takes top honours

Alistair Shaw from Port Bannatyne Golf Club has succeeded in following up his 2015 Under-16 title by winning the Argyll and Bute Boy's Championship. A pupil at Rothesay Academy, he secured the title this year at Inveraray Golf Club on a wet day where play was not always easy. His gross score of 77 was good enough by a single shot to take the title from a second place Alistair Harris from Millport, who should still be very happy with a score of 78. In third place was Lochgilphead's Rhuaridh Brown with a score of 79. In all, 12 boys played over the white tees. The under 16 title went to Alistair Harris, who returned a score of 78, while Rhuaridh Brown won the handicap competition.

Alistair also won the under-16 trophy last year when the championship was played at Taynult Golf Club. On that occasion his gross score of 69 left him the second over-all on the day, but the best under 16.

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This area of Scotland is a golfer's paradise, with easy accessibility to courses including Gleneagles, Carnoustie, Blairgowrie, Crieff and almost 100 more courses within an hour's drive. The hotel is only 40 minutes from St Andrews, host to the 2015 Open Golf Championship.

As well as golf, the area offers a wealth of activities to enjoy in very beautiful countryside, including many fabulous walks, fishing, boating, canoeing and gliding - all available around the stunning Loch Leven nature reserve and Heritage Trail, just a short walk from the hotel. Also nearby guests can enjoy falconry, clay pigeon shooting, motor sports at Knockhill and horse riding. Onsite the resort also has a super curling rink and even their very own Backstage Gig venue, truly offering something for every guest to enjoy during their stay with us.



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Accommodation comprises 29 en-suite bedrooms of which 24 are located in unique lodges adjacent to the main facilities.

Rooms are tastefully furnished and include freeview TV, and complimentary tea and coffee making facilities. Five further luxury rooms can be found on the upper level of the main building.

All bedrooms are en-suite and guarantee that you can relax and unwind after an exciting day on the golf course. Many rooms have balconies that provide residents with a spectacular view across the golf course, lochs and Fife countryside.

Drumoig Hotel Restaurant

The friendly and attentive staff complement the high standards you can expect from Fairways Restaurant. The range of menus offer exceptional dishes to suit both traditional and international palates.

The Bar has a good selection of beers, wines and spirits along with a range of Malt Whiskies. Enjoy the outstanding views of the course and beyond with a drink or meal on the terrace which overlooks the 18th Green and Lochs.

For further information visit the website drumoigolffhotel.com

After five highly successful years in Carnoustie Country, it has announced that 2016 will be the final time the World Hickory Open will be played there – at least for the next year or two! “Never say never,” said organiser and co-founder of the World Hickory Open, Lionel Freedman. “We’ve enjoyed a wonderful five years of competing Carnoustie Country’s wonderful links courses, which are in and around the county of Angus, and we’re leaving on a high, with the World Hickory Open 2016 being played at Panmure from 10th -14th October.

“Panmure, which is an Open qualifying course, is steeped in history and tradition.” Says Lionel. “It is the world’s 16th oldest golf club and the Medal course was the site of Ben Hogan’s legendary practice rounds before he won the 1953 Open at neighbouring Carnoustie Championship – and Panmure Medal was also where Sandy Lyle won the 2014 World Hickory Open.

“The 2016 World Hickory Open is a great opportunity for hickory golfers of all skill levels to experience the game on a top class links course, using hickory clubs similar to those used by golfers at Panmure over a century ago and, if so desired, wearing traditional clothing of the era.”

Lionel explained that The World Hickory Open, which is open to amateur and professional golfers, attracts many of the world’s top hickory golfers, including previous winners Paolo Quirici from Switzerland; Rick Valentine, who is the grandson of famous ladies golfer, Jessie Valentine; and last year’s winner, Andrew Marshall. “During our time in Carnoustie Country, our reputation has continued to grow and the World Hickory Open is now an unmissable event in the international hickory golf calendar,” continued Lionel. “Carnoustie Country is incredibly popular with hickory golfers, possibly on account of

the excellent links courses and rich golfing heritage of this area, where golf has been played for over 450 years,” said Lionel. “We will be sad to leave – but we’re really looking forward to our Carnoustie Country swansong in October.”

The 2016 World Hickory Open starts on October 10 with a warm-up team competition, followed by the tournament on October 11 and 12 and finishing with a special two-day International Triangular Match between teams from Europe, Scandinavia and The Americas, which will be played at Arbroath.

Entries to the World Hickory Open are £300, which includes a Gala Dinner and prize-giving reception, with an additional £150 charge for the International Triangular Match.

To find out more about the World Hickory Open 2016, or to download an entry form, visit www.worldhickoryopen.com.



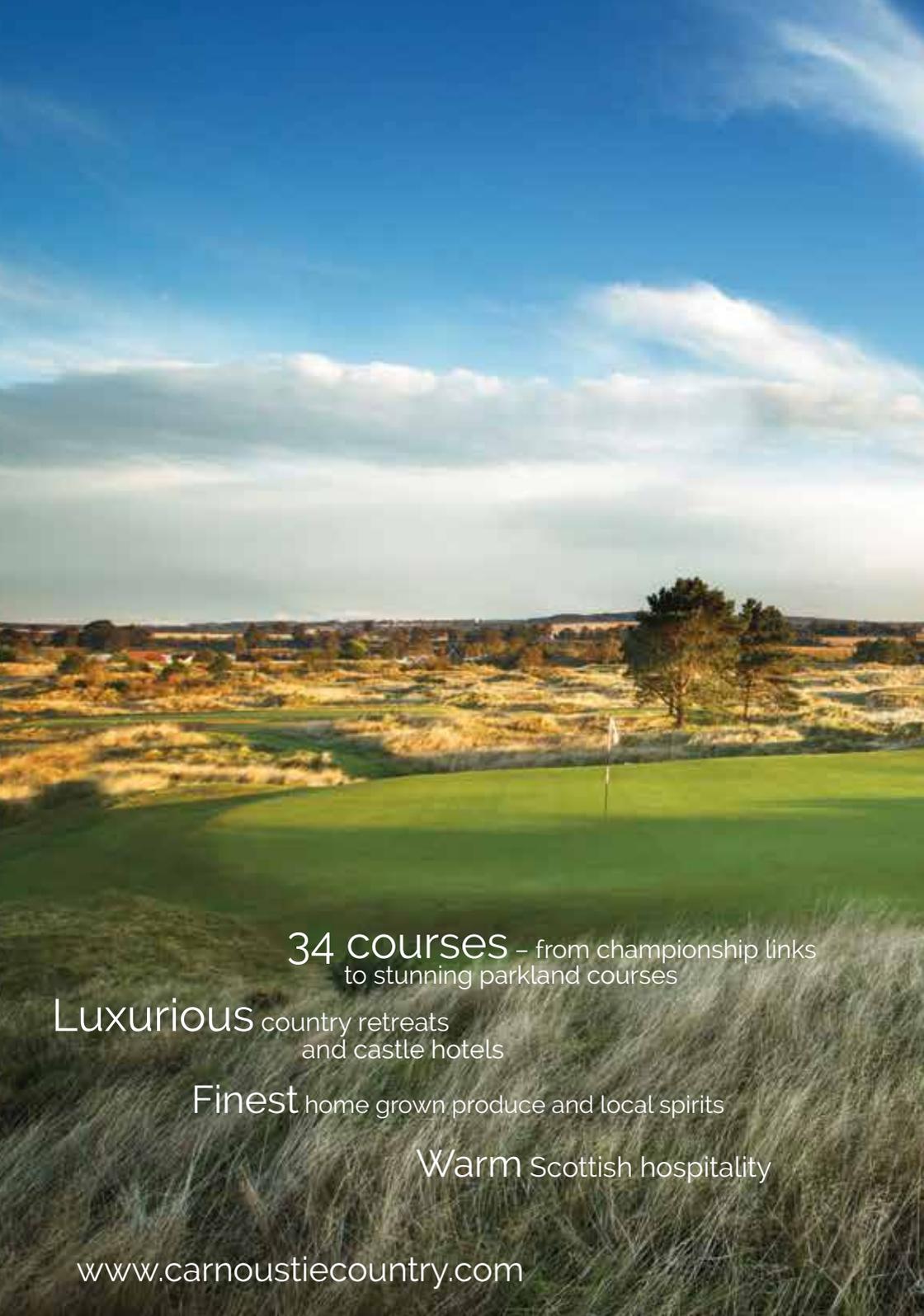
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Irish win at Nairn Golf Club

Ireland claimed a thrilling Fairstone Men's Home Internationals at The Nairn Golf Club, edging out England in their winner-takes-all tussle after the final putt on the final green for their third successive title. After a superb three day's golf over the stunning Highland links, the annual four-team home nations came down to the final match on the course, contested between Ireland's Colm Campbell and Adam Chapman from England.

Irish Amateur champion Campbell won the opening five holes of their singles joust, but Carus Green's Chapman staged a stirring comeback that saw him pull level with a 15 feet birdie putt on 17 to set up a tense, grandstand finish. With the overall score at 7 – 7, and England just needing a halved point to lift the Raymond Trophy on the basis of matches won throughout the week, Campbell knew he had to win the last for an historic Irish hat-trick of Men's Home Internationals crowns.

The Warrenpoint player duly delivered, making birdie after his two-and-a-half feet putt was generously conceded, while Chapman could only make par after finding the greenside bunker with his approach to the par-5. Campbell was mobbed by his jubilant team-mates on the 18th after Ireland came back from a 3 – 2 foursomes deficit to claim the title, notably winning the final three matches when they trailed 7 – 5.



Campbell, 29, said: “That’s as nervous as I’ve been on a golf course. I knew the point was required, knew what was on the line and we were trying to make a wee bit of history as well, winning three in a row for the first time. It wasn’t good for the heart, I can tell you. I’ve been a part of the last three so that is even sweeter again. As an amateur, this is definitely as good as anything I’ve done so far.

“I was five up through five, got off to a blistering start, but Adam came back at me. I made a bad bogey on 16, so that it was back to one, then he holed a lovely putt on 17 and we’re all square. I then probably hit one of the best tee shots of my life down 18 knowing we needed to win. I was lucky to be able to make two nice swings and have a straightforward chip and putt.”

Meantime, hosts Scotland dug deep to secure a narrow victory over Wales, also winning 8 – 7, to achieve third place overall.

After Matthew Clark and George Duncan battled to a halved match with Llewellyn Matthews and Zach Gallford to ensure the morning foursomes were shared, the hosts edged the singles. Liam Johnston and Graeme Robertson secured key one-hole wins, but it was home member Sandy Scott’s 6&4 win over Ben Chamberlain that proved equally as vital, with the local members cheering him on. Lee Jones and Patrick Mullins responded with victories for Wales, but Scotland’s experienced bottom order saw them home as Barry Hume and Matt Clark sealed 3&2 victories respectively.

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Moray Golf Club celebrates prime ministerial triple tippie

Moray Golf Club in Lossiemouth has launched the first of three whiskies to celebrate its association with an extraordinary trinity of the UK's most respected prime ministers. The first Speyside single malt to be released as part of the Founders' Legacy Collection pays homage to Ramsay MacDonald; the UK's first Labour premier.

The 127-year-old club, which has a life-long association with the malt whisky industry, instigated the initiative to coincide with the centenary of MacDonald's expulsion from its membership due to his opposition to World War I. His dignity intact, he later refused an invitation to re-join the club when he achieved the highest position in the land.

The 21-year-old whisky, of which only 100 have been produced, is aptly named Exclusion. "Ramsay MacDonald was one of the greatest politicians of his era and a famed son of Lossiemouth," explained

John Thomson, captain of Moray Golf Club, which hosted this year's Aberdeen Asset Management Scottish qualifier.

"In what is a special year for Moray Golf Club and politics generally, we thought it would be appropriate to mark his political contribution and his association with the club with a special whisky."

Ramsay MacDonald came from a working-class family, growing up in the idyllic Morayshire surroundings of Lossiemouth. A distinguished thinker, he was mercilessly attacked by the press for his opposition to the Great War, but went on to hold the top job on two occasions; the first in 1924 and again between 1929 and 1935. He was also an avid golfer and key figure in Moray Golf Club's venerated history.

Holidaying in nearby Grantown-on-Spey at the time of the expulsion, George Bernard Shaw wrote; "My business is to visit Lossiemouth... a place which has simultaneously produced the best

Prime Minister of my time and the most stupendous collection of golf snobs known to history. Both should have a monument there.”

MacDonald wasn't the only notable figure to leave his mark on the club which overlooks a beautiful stretch of the famed Moray Firth coastline. For instance, the club's Old Course was laid out by Old Tom Morris in 1889 while the tighter New Course was fashioned by three times Open Champion Henry Cotton.

On the political front, MacDonald was one of three prime ministers to develop ties with the club, which is placed number 34 in Golf World's Top 100 Scottish golf courses. Arthur Balfour (Conservative, 1902-1905) and Herbert Asquith (Liberal, 1908-1916) also held the premier's post, but equally regaled in playing the links at Moray. In fact, the club's records show that all three

played together on at least one occasion.

“It is unusual to have three noted prime ministers from the extremes of the political spectrum play such an important role in your club's history. It certainly adds to the mystique of the place,” says Thomson.

“It would be amiss of us to ignore our incredible past and we feel that by honouring our connection with 10 Downing Street with these very special whiskies, the club is marking that association in a unique and fitting way.”

Exclusion, which is a single Speyside malt aged for 21 years and described as having “hints of exotic fruits with defined citrus notes,” is available exclusively at Moray Golf Club. It will be joined by two further releases each dedicated to the legacy of the country's famed leaders who played golf overlooking the Moray coastline.

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Lancashire move to top of the league after defeating Cumbria

Cumbria came up against local rivals Lancashire and faced a stiff test from the very start.

After the morning foursomes Cumbria found themselves 4-2 down meaning they would need a strong performance in the afternoon singles to salvage anything from the match. Despite six of the 12 singles matches heading down the last hole, Cumbria could only pick up a further 2.5 points and fell to a crushing 13.5-4.5 defeat at the hands of the 2014 champions.

Cumbria got off to a flying start in the morning foursomes as the pairing of Will Bowe (Workington) & Rob Spence (Furness) picked up a 3&2 victory over Paul Kinnear & Richie Blundell. However, the home side would go on to lose their next four matches. Kieran Waters (Carlisle) & Luke Walker (Ulverston) fell to the heaviest defeat of the morning as they lost 7&6 to the Lancashire pairing of Luke Kelly and Ian Kenwright.

The following pair of Darren Whitfield (Penrith) & James Atkinson (Kendal) were defeated on the 16th hole as their opponents James Rooney & John Carroll saw out the match 3&2. Despite a spirited come back from William Postlethwaite

(Carlisle) & Nick Sowerby (Appleby), the Cumbria pairing would go on to lose the final hole against Reece Cranfield & Jack Clarkson to lose 1 down.

John Longcake (Silloth-on-Solway) & Nicky Bell (Eden) also fell to a 3&2 defeat against Joe Bryce & Ciaran Doherty. The final pairing of Chris Kendall (Royal Lytham & St Annes) & Chris Thurby (Carlisle) gave the home side some hope going into the singles, as they picked up a victory on the final hole against Thomas Winn & Paul McFerran. In the afternoon singles, Bowe remained unbeaten for the day as he picked up a 2&1 win.

However, there would be defeats for Waters (1 down), Walker (2 down), Spence (5&3), Whitfield (6&5), Postlethwaite (5&3), Sowerby (1 down), Kendall (2&1) and Thursby (3&2). Atkinson, Bell and Longcake all managed to secure half a point form each of their games, however this saw Cumbria pick up just 2.5 points in the afternoon.

The 13.5-4.5 win puts Lancashire top of the league after Durham sprung a shock victory over Cheshire.


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The R & A brought Regional Qualifying to Carlisle on 6 occasions commencing 1996, the first Club in

Cumbria to be so honoured. The English Golf Union also holds the Club in high esteem bringing the English Seniors Championship to Carlisle in 2010. Many other Championships, Amateur & Professional, have been held over the 100 years history of the Club.

Carlisle Golf Club warmly welcomes visitors throughout the year from individuals and smaller groups to large corporate events.

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Formby's part in the war revealed

Recently discovered information has shed more light on the role of Formby Golf Club during World War II. Due to its position on the coast, the course was considered a 'weak spot' and could be used to Hitler's advantage if he invaded via the Irish Sea. At the start of the war, the course was taken over by the Adjutant of King's Liverpool Regiment, led by Major Austin Cartmell. One of the first jobs he and his men were tasked with was to dig trenches all across the course. There were also large pole put in as tank traps. Both the ditches and the tank traps added an extra element of skill to competitions, but play did continue on and off throughout the war.

German reconnaissance images exist of the course, which shows that the Germans were almost certainly 'onto them' and knew what was going on at the club.

Despite this, diaries from the time show that several service members played on the course and enjoyed their round, despite the added obstacles that Willie Park and James Braid did not include!



After the war, the course was restored and play continued as normal. The course has since hosted some top competitions, including the Curtis Cup in 2004 and The Open in 1924, 1971 and 1996.



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Mum's the word when it comes to joining the drive to take up golf

A group of women from the Mums in the Know network in the North West enjoyed a free taster event at Alderley Edge Golf Club as part of England Golf's campaign to encourage more women to take up the game. Alderley Edge GC – which can be found in Brook Lane – rolled out the welcome mat for the newcomers from the Wilmslow, Alderley Edge and Knutsford MIK networks.

Like most of the others taking part Karen Faust, 42, who has two daughters aged eight and nine, had never played before but had always fancied giving golf a go. "I always wanted to try golf but just hadn't got round to it yet, so saw the taster day as a good opportunity to see if I liked it," says Karen, from Wilmslow. "In fact, I liked it even more than I expected! I lead a busy life with two young daughters so it was a welcome opportunity to completely switch off and take some time out for myself. I also loved the peace and quiet of the natural surroundings – the golf course was beautiful.

We learned the basics of how to hold the club and stand then we tried some putting. It's definitely whetted my appetite and hopefully I'll play more at some point in the future. It's definitely on my 'to do' list."

Many of the mums said they found the game less daunting than they had initially thought and felt encouraged to continue developing their newly-found golf skills.



For more details on Get into golf and Alderley Edge Golf Club's offer of a five-week beginners course for just £25, visit getintogolf.org or call 0800 118 2766.

Sean Hammill, county development officer for the Cheshire Golf Development Group, said: "This kind of event goes to show how easy it is to give golf a go – and how much fun it can be. A lot of people have entirely the wrong impression about the sport and the clubs. Once they take the plunge, they find that the clubs are more than welcoming, that expert coaching is available to help them get to grips with the skills required to play and that golf provides a healthy activity with a strong social side to it.

"It is a sport that can be played by all ages and abilities and there has never been a better time to take up the sport because the clubs are making it so easy with free taster sessions, discounted golf coaching and membership deals."

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.

To find your nearest centre visit getintogolf.org and look at the activity map or call 0800 118 2766.

For more details on the activities of the Mums in the Know network visit <https://www.familiesonline.co.uk/local/east-cheshire>



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Durham embraces express golf

Golf clubs in Durham are proving quick off the mark – by backing a national campaign to speed up the sport. Golf Express – which promotes 9-hole golf to inspire busy people to play more often – has been rolled out by England Golf. The launch follows a successful eight-month trial in Staffordshire when more than 4,600 9-hole rounds were played.

Now four clubs across the county have launched the new campaign, with others set to follow. Billingham GC, Birtley GC, Houghton-le-Springs GC and Sharpley Springs GC have all been promoting Golf Express this summer. Birtley GC, near Chester-le-Street, is offering an £8 green fee for nine holes, Monday to Friday. Billingham are throwing in a free drink at the bar as well as nine holes of evening golf on a Monday/Thursday/Saturday and Sunday for £12.50. Nine holes at Houghton-le-Spring will cost just £10 Monday to Friday and £12.50 at the weekends. Sharpley Springs, near Seaham, is offering nine holes golf each Tuesday and Thursday (3.30pm-7pm) for £12.50.

Phil Graham county officer for the Durham Golf Development Group commented: “Lack of time is often given as one of the reasons for people not taking up golf, but Golf Express is designed to encourage people to enjoy a shorter format of the game which may fit better into their busy lifestyles. Nine holes of golf can still provide all the health and social benefits associated with the sport, but may be more convenient for many people.

“Thanks to the support of clubs in Durham there is now an option for people with a busy lifestyle to enjoy golf and share the benefits of going on to become a regular player and potential club member.”

Clubs across the country are now promoting 9-hole green fees and offers to players on the GolfExpress9.org website.

Justin Rose, an England Golf ambassador, often plays 9 holes in practice and describes Golf Express as: “A great way to play all the game in half the time.” On average, a 9-hole round can be played in just two hours, which can fit into a busy lifestyle, and it offers all the health and social benefits of the full game. In a 9-hole round a player will walk two to three miles, take more than 5,000 steps and burn more than 450 calories.

The appeal of the 9-hole game, which is compatible with the Rules of Golf and the handicap system, has also prompted the R&A to launch a new 9-hole championship for amateurs and Scottish Golf is also promoting the shorter format. Golf Express offers places to play across the country through its online directory at www.golfexpress9.org which also features special offers.

Haider wins convincingly at Middlesbrough

The North of England Youth's Open was played at Middlesbrough Brass Castle this year and there was little question over the result when Haider Hussain completed a decisive victory to win the MacGill Challenge Trophy. Hussain ran away with the title from half way and ended up with a 9 short victory over nearest rival James Robinson. Haider made a great start with a round of 65, which he followed up with a 68 in the second. Meanwhile Robinson wasn't too far behind with a first round of 66 and 70. But Haider put the title further out of Robinson's reach with another round of 65 followed by a closing round of 68. Robinson's last two rounds, both of 69, were not enough to edge close to Haider, who took the title with a 9 stroke victory.

The Bates Trophy for the highest placed Middlesbrough player went to James Swash while the Fairweather Salver for junior competitors went to Barclay Brown, a talented player from Hallamshire who is a former winner of the North of England Under 14 Title.

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Herts win young masters at South Moor

It was the talented youngsters from Hertfordshire who turned out to be the masters when the dust had settled on the North of England Under-14 Open, played over three days at South Moor. Supported by the Stanley Area Action Partnership, the tournament attracted players from all four home countries as well as Dubai and South Africa.

The overall title goes to the boy or girl with the best gross score and it was shared on 11 over by Max Hopkins, from Bishop's Stortford Golf Club, and Ben Pierleoni (Berkhamsted). After taking a one-shot lead going into the final day, Lancashire's Matthew Jackman (Southport and Ainsdale) drifted four shots back as Herts' finest slugged it out toe to toe

The key moments of the last round started with a two-shot swing at the 14th, a long par three, where 14-year-old Ben, a pupil at Chesham Grammar School, overshot the green and Max landed a birdie to go one ahead. But 13-year-old Max, who goes to Hockerill Anglo-European College, dropped a shot when he found water from the 15th tee, 16 and 17 brought the rivals a bogey each and they parred the last to start a rush of silverware for Herts.

Zainab Jeppe (Mill Green) triumphed in the girls section, signing off the final round with a 30-foot putt, and George Durkan, another Bishop's Stortford club player, joined the two tournament champions to form a Hertfordshire County Boys side who claimed the team trophy. The runner-up in the girls' section was Whitley Bay's Rosie Belsham, at 14 already the Northumberland Under-21 champion.

In the second round, Rosie holed out from 166 yards to become the youngest player in the 93-year history of golf at South Moor to sign for an albatross – three under par – at the par five second hole. Rosie aced Whitley Bay's third hole, despite cutting her mother some slack by playing off the men's tees.

For more information and the tournament scoreboard, visit northofenglandu14golf.co.uk

What could happen if Carlsberg did golf days? TIM TAYLOR finds out

Slaley Hall has always enjoyed an enviable reputation and around the turn of the century the fashionable golf resort hosted seven straight years of European Tour events. After welcoming big names such as Seve Ballesteros and Colin Montgomerie to Northumberland, Slaley was short listed for the Ryder Cup.

Fond memories remain. A former County Durham golf captain John Kennedy qualified as an amateur for the 1998 Compaq European Grand Prix, as did Justin Rose. John recalls: "I had the good fortune of meeting Seve on the practice ground. He was amazing company, even taking the time to wish me luck in the tournament."

So I welcomed an invitation from the owners, QHotels, to be one of the media players joining movers and shakers from around the UK in a corporate golf day showcasing a £1m refurbishment. So many fun things happened, especially to me, this was a case of: "If Carlsberg did golf days . . ."

Although Slaley is only a 30-minute drive from Newcastle, you're deep in the heart of England's least densely populated county, where a long, stately drive leads to the tranquil splendour of an Edwardian mansion set in 1,000 acres of rolling countryside.

The lasting image from TV coverage of the European Tour years is of The Sleeping Giant, the signature ninth on the Hunting. This is a contender for both the most beautiful and most difficult hole in the North.

Flanked by rhododendrons, the lush fairway is bordered by a narrow brook on both sides as it cuts a narrow swathe through a forest of mature, towering pine trees up to a high, small roller-coaster green overlooked by a natural amphitheatre.

The other outstanding championship course, the Priestman, is noted for its water features and panoramic views of the Tyne Valley.

Other wow factors for me started with taking up the option of free tips at the academy from the PGA Teaching Professional, Steven Fawcitt. Steven offered such good advice in terms of starting to cure my out-to-in golf swing I deliberately missed half of "Tricky" Rob Brown's entertaining trick shot show to practice a six-iron drill before the tournament.





That set off a rewarding chain of events starting at the sixth on the Hunting, a long par three over water and the Beat The Pro hole. My long handicapper's swing improved to the extent I beat the very pro who had just been teaching me, earning a bottle of wine. I also won nearest the pin.

The prize for all the nearest the pin winners was free membership of Slaley, including the facility to use golf membership points for spa treatments.

By a happy coincidence, at around the same time as the golf day my daughter Jo, who lives in Western Australia, flew to my home in Chester-le-Street for a fortnight's visit. She subsequently made two free visits for treatments at the Slaley spa with my wife, Ann.

Jo has an expert's eye for detail. During her time in the North East, she was the first manager when the spa opened at the nearby Matfen Hall hotel.

She told me the swimming pool, the jacuzzi and the steam room at Slaley were at perfect temperatures. The top quality treatments Ann and Jo enjoyed resulted in some quality time together.

Incidentally, Slaley activities include quad biking, segways, a 4x4 off road driving course, archery, clay pigeon shooting and paint balling.

Anyway, back to the golf day and a cracking turn from Ian Irving, the very funny stand-up comic at the glitzy presentation dinner. Ian is a past captain of the Variety Club Golf Society.

At pre-dinner drinks, I chatted with Paul Butler, the CEO at the North East Automotive Alliance. I took the opportunity to seek a second opinion of Slaley, where Paul has been a corporate member for 14 years.

He said: "I like having access to the other wonderful hotels in the chain across the UK for meetings and to entertain clients on the QHotels courses and I have been impressed by Mottram Hall, Oulton Hall, Belton Woods and most recently Forest Pines – all of which are to a very high standard.

"Slaley holds a fond place in my heart and overall the package is unbeatable. I visit whenever I get the chance, be it with my children to use the leisure facilities, to play golf or to relax and unwind in the hotel."

My own summing up of the Slaley experience?
Burn my clothes mother, I'm in heaven.

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'Thanks boss', says champion Booth

Robert Booth landed his first major title when he won the PGA North Region Championship at Carus Green earlier in the season and then passed on the credit to his boss Richard Lambert, the head professional at Crosland Heath. "I was attached to the club for two years when he was my full-time coach promoting me to head assistant last season has provided a big boost to my career," he said. "I aim to win as many events as possible and hope to get to get into the PGA play-offs and a spot at Wentworth next year," he vowed. "I've also been playing well in Yorkshire and EuroPro events and they all add up."

Halifax-born Booth, 31, who drove to Leeds at the end of the first round to visit his mum, Hazel, who was unfortunately in hospital, added a 65 to his opening 67 for an

eight-under-par total to prevail by a shot from Carlisle's James Wilkinson. "I hit the ball in the water twice on the first day but managed to stay in contention," he added.

On a tightly-packed leaderboard Booth, who picked up £2300 for his efforts, pulled away from his rivals with two birdies on the last three holes to add to the four he'd already banked. And he made a crucial par at the last where he admitted he was a "bit nervous" on the tee. The only blemish on his card was a bogey at the eighth as Wilkinson matched his second round score without dropping a shot.

St Helens-based Barry Taylor finished third, two off the pace, as Pwllheli's Mark Pilkington and fellow Welshman Garry Houston, attached to Carden Park, who shared a three-way overnight lead, tied fourth.



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Karen gets England call-up

Fourteen-time Richmond (Yorks) Golf Club Champion Karen Jobling is topping off another great season by being chosen to play for England in the European Senior Ladies Team Championship. Held in Poland at the beginning of September, the completion sees 20 European Countries competing and Karen will be one of only 6 players from England to be selected.

Her fantastic season started at the end of April when she beat 130 other ladies to win the best gross in the YVGA Championship. She then won through to the final of the last 16 knock-out where sadly she was beaten 3 & 2 by Pat Wrightson of Huddersfield after a closely fought final.

Two weeks later and she was representing the Club at the English Seniors Amateur Championship at Ross on Wye. Again in dreadful weather, Karen finished 3rd at the end of the first days Stroke Play Competition. The second day's play had to be abandoned due to the course being flooded and so she was straight through to the 1st flight last 16 knock-out.

Karen beat some of England's finest senior amateur lady golfers to reach the final where she played Cheshire's Cath Rawthore, an England senior international from Sale Golf Club. Rawthore snatched a dramatic victory capturing the title on the 21st hole of the final.

Said Rawthore. "Karen had played tremendous golf, every time I thought I played a good shot she put it inside me. It was such hard work mentally, but very exciting and I am absolutely thrilled."

The high-quality match was played before a good crowd of spectators and Rawthore added: "I'm so glad we gave them a good final to watch."

She moved on to The NCVLGA Northern Division Championship which was played at Alnmouth Golf Club, Northumberland from 24 - 26 May 2016. Karen finished 5th in the stroke play part of the competition, the top 16 go through to match play the following day. She won her first match against Pat Wrightson, whom she beat 4 & 3 but sadly lost to eventual finalist Ally Hansen 2 & 1.

Lastly to the English Senior Women's Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship which was played at Burnham Beeches Golf Club between 14-16 June. The weather here was dreadful again and after the first two days Karen was lying 2nd. On the final day the players had to leave the course for almost 90 minutes in the early afternoon as thunder and lightning passed over. Sadly, Karen fell away during this round by was happy to finish 13th overall - she had set herself a target of finishing in the last 16!

She was also being picked to represent The North at the annual Jamboree at Panmure at the beginning of August. This is an annual competition played between The North, The South, Scotland and The Midlands. This year, The North won on countback against The south with Karen contributing 2 wins in singles matches and a halved Foursomes alongside Karen Lee.



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Ben Hutchinson is 2016 Yorkshire Amateur Champion

Competitors in the 2016 Yorkshire Amateur Championship might have been saved a soaking in the first two days of play, but that didn't stop the wind taking their ball into the rough on several occasions! Nevertheless, there was some good scoring in the early stages and the first day ended with only a spread of 7 shots between the top 46 players. The early leader was David Hague from Malton & Norton who shot a superb round of 71.

The filed spread out more on day 2 and Hague's early luck ran out as he struggled round to return a round of 77 and dropped right down the field. Nick Poppleton from Wath played a stunning round of 67 to take over the lead with a total of 142. One shot more on round two was Phil Tomkinson from Moortown who's total for the two rounds was 144.

Heavy rain fell overnight on day two which meant the start of day three was delayed and the decision was made to reduce the completion from four rounds to three. This left one more chance for players to reduce their overall score.

Phil Tomkinson and Kealan Lowe both slid down the order, each taking 42 for the front 9, and with 2 over 37's coming back, didn't make up enough ground. Will Whiteoak had a very mixed round; 3 birdies and 3 bogeys on the front half, followed by another bogey on the 12th, then birdies on 13 and 15, put him right into contention. However, more bogeys on 16 and 17 left him with a final round of 72, and a total of 217, good enough for second place.

Nick Poppleton meanwhile also dropped shots, and with bogeys at 3, 8, and a double bogey at 11, looked to have missed his chance. Two birdies helped, but more dropped shots on the way home meant he finished the round on 75, also ending with a total score of 217, and third place.

Ben Hutchinson also had problems on the front nine, and with two birdies, and 3 dropped shots, turned for home at one over. He picked the shot up straight away with a 2 on the par 3 10th hole, before playing very steadily in with pars on every hole for a level par score of 71, and a total of 216.

So the trophy winners were:- Ben Hutchinson (Howley Hall), Will Whiteoak (ShIPLEY) won the Sowden Salver and Nick Poppleton (Wath) won the Alvin Trophy, for the player returning the best score over 36 holes in the qualifying rounds. The Yorkshire Inter-District Union Plate, held for one year by the District Union with the lowest aggregate score over the first two rounds, from any two players from any Clubs within their Union, was won for the Sheffield Union, by Nick Poppleton (Wath) and Kealan Lowe (Wheatley).



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Three Key Skills To Play Better Golf

By PGA Professional Ryan Metcalfe

I see so many golfers working on swing positions at the driving range and very few working on the real important skills needed to play better golf. In this article I will show you how with just three simple drills you can be hitting your irons better than ever!

DRILL ONE - STRIKE LOCATION

This drill is an old one but a good one and will really help you concentrate on one of the most important steps to hitting your irons better than ever. Striking the ball from the centre of the clubface has often become lost in all the technical jargon with many club golfers becoming obsessed with things like swing plane etc.



Firstly you need to either raid the bathroom cabinet or visit your local Pharmacist and get you hands on some dry shampoo or athlete's foot powder. Now apply some to the hitting area of your club what this will do is allow the ball to leave an imprint on the powdered face highlighting where the ball was struck from.

Now go ahead and hit a few shots.



Now look at the face of the club and you should find that there has been some strike feedback left on the clubface. From this you can determine if strike is a problem and often just being aware of where your strikes are located can make it easier for you to find the centre of the club.



DRILL TWO - TURF INTERACTION

The ability to strike the ball from the centre of the club is crucial but arguably more important still is the ability of the golfer to control where the ball is in relation to the lowest point in the arc of their swing. So many golfers find that the ground is struck before the ball with irons due to the lowest point in the arc being behind the ball. This drill will help you move the lowest point in your swing forward so with some practice you will get that crisp turf then ball contact.



The great thing about this drill is that it is extremely simple to set up and it offers instant feedback. Simply place two or three tees that are approximately 2 inches tall directly in front of the ball around eight inches away. If you have a functional low point you will find that the tees come out of the ground. This might take a good few attempts but if you nail this skill you'll be glad you put the hard work in.



DRILL 3 - START POINT

Controlling the balls starting direction in relation to the target is very important whether your hitting the ball straight or with curvature. Many golfers blame the balls curvature for missed greens but if the ball starts in the right direction you can still hit target often. Placing two alignment sticks in the ground vertically at around 10-15 feet away and a distance apart that you feel comfortable with will focus your attention to your balls starting direction. The aim of the drill is to hit the ball through the sticks and hit close to your target.



If you are a fader you need the ball to start left of target so place sticks to the left of your target and the reverse for those with a draw tendency. This drill can also be used for those golfers wanting to work on shaping the ball in a different way to what they are used to. Faders place the sticks to the right and again the opposite for the players with a right to left ball flight.

If you concentrate on these three drills when you practice your irons and work hard you'll strike your irons better than ever and find more greens due to more consistent distance and direction.

As always I would love to hear about your experiences so if you have tried any or all of these drills let me know how you got on. Thanks and happy practicing!

Ryan Metcalfe
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Positive signs for Female Golf Participation

The future looks bright for women's and girls' golf across Wales with new data revealing a surge in the number of females becoming involved in the sport. In Wales, over half the participants in their 'New2Golf' beginner schemes are female (54%), with over 50% converting to club trial membership. Meantime, across the border in England, their initiatives in 2015 attracted over 1,200 women to coaching and over 360 became club members. Five counties reported an increase in women's membership, and 15 counties saw an increase in girls' memberships.

Fuelled by an exciting group of female professionals, national media campaigns and the efforts of golf's governing bodies, golf participation among women is on the increase, as the sport continues to work hard to attract new players to the game and convert them into membership.

Over the last decade, females have made up only approximately 14% of golf club membership in GB&I, lagging behind other European countries such as Germany, Austria and Sweden, but significant progress is being made according to new data from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

In recent years, all of the amateur golf bodies in GB&I have put a renewed focus on attracting more women and girls to play and the latest participation figures are encouraging. For example, Get into Golf, a national campaign supported by the amateur bodies, The European Tour, The Ladies European Tour, The PGA, The Golf Foundation, The R&A and recently backed by Sky Sports, appears to be having an effect.

As well as the continued work of the golfing bodies, national campaigns such as the #ThisGirlGolfs video and positive support from high-profile figures and avid golfers such as Denise van Outen and Naga Munchetty are helping to change perceptions of the game once dominated by men.

A group of leading female GB&I professionals including Charley Hull, Amy Boulden (Wales), Pamela Pretswell and Rebecca Codd are also inspiring girls to pick up a club.

Richard Dixon Wales Golf CEO said: "Our New2Golf scheme, which was development and rolled out in April 2012 has been a huge success for us here in Wales. It's proven to us how many women are eager to get involved in

golf and give it a try. "Over half the participants in the scheme have been female and they are going on to take up flexible trial memberships that the clubs are offering.

"I think the appeal of these sessions is that there is little or no cost, they run as a group so women feel less intimidated and there's a real social element which we know from research women and girls are motivated by.

"We want to see more women become part of their golfing community. Golf clubs can be a real hub in the community and somewhere women can learn a lifelong skill, improve their health and well-being and make lifelong friends," said Dixon.

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Second win for George comes at Lakeside

Mold golfer George Ledsham made it two from two in the Under 8's category on the new Welsh Junior Tour circuit, as Lakeside proved to be the ideal setting for the third event of 2016.

The nine hole course in Powys was in superb condition with the fast and undulating greens in particular providing a real challenge for the players. Golf Union of Wales Championship Manager David Wilson said, "We are very grateful to Lakeside for hosting this event. The club could not have been more helpful and the course was enjoyed by all of the competitors providing an ideal test without being too daunting for these young players."

Ledsham had already won the first event of the year at his home club, so he now has two wins from two starts in the Junior Tour. He was closely followed by Harry Edwards from Builth Wells whose second place followed his victory in the second Junior Tour event at Carmarthen. Third place went to Junior Tour newcomer Thomas Loynes from Glynneath.

Dion Regan from Cilgwyn registered his first Junior Tour win of the season in the U10s category having been placed second and fourth in the first two events. Charlie Mckinney from Abergele continued his good form with another second place finish to remain top of the Order of Merit table. Charlie Boys from Clays in Wrexham, playing in his second Junior Tour event of the season, came third to take him up to fourth place in the Order of Merit.

Llandrindod Wells' Zak Baker continued his dominance of the U12s category. With two wins and a second place under his belt already, Zak looks to be the player to beat in the end of season Tour Final. Harrison Guy made the long trip from Newport worthwhile with second place whilst Jack Mckinney, brother to Charlie, continued his consistent good form with a third place finish.

In the U14 boys category Aled Lewis from Llanidloes made it a successful debut on the Tour with 39 stableford points being sufficient to secure victory. Aled was closely pursued by Rhos-On-Sea's Charlie Simpson in second place whilst a third place position for Osian Jones from Caernarfon was enough to take him to the top of the Order of Merit table.



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World Alzheimer's Month

September is World Alzheimer's Month, an international campaign to raise awareness and challenge stigma. It's a time for action, a global movement united by its call for change, but also a time to reflect on the impact of dementia, a disease that will affect more and more people as the years pass.

The theme for this year's World Alzheimer's Month campaign is Remember Me. Alzheimer's Disease International are encouraging people all around the world to learn to spot the signs of dementia, but also not to forget about loved ones who are living with dementia, or who may have passed away. The impact of September's campaign is growing, but the stigmatisation and misinformation that surrounds dementia remains a global problem.

If you are living with dementia, remember that you are not alone. It is possible to live well with dementia by seeking help and

support from your family, friends, doctor, health and social workers and from the Alzheimer association in your country. You have a right to feel empowered and listened to, and to be treated as an individual.

If you are a caregiver, remember that caring for someone with dementia is a challenging task. However, it is easier to cope if you make sure you look after yourself too, taking care of your own physical and mental health needs. This will make a big difference to the wellbeing for both you and the person you are caring for.

As a society, remember that people living with dementia and their caregivers can often feel isolated, so we need to do more to tackle this stigma. Dementia Friendly Communities are being established all over the world to educate people about dementia and to provide stronger, community-based support networks for people living with dementia, caregivers and families.

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As an individual, remember that leading a healthy lifestyle may help to reduce your risk of developing dementia later in life. The general rule is what's good for the heart is good for the brain, so both should be well looked after with a balanced diet and regular physical and mental exercise. Much of what's needed are simple activities you can do in your day to day life.

As a government, remember that developing a national dementia plan will help your country to deal with the growing impact of dementia's rising prevalence and cost. These plans help to increase national awareness and education about dementia and can improve access to diagnosis, treatment and care, promoting a better quality of life for people living with dementia

To find out more, visit worldalzmonth.org



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