

## Sunday Coaching Sessions

I plan to 'put on' Sunday coaching sessions every Sunday for the remainder of September and the whole of October. I am aware that there are some scheduled events on the big course but I don't anticipate too much cross-over because we'll be utilising the wee course. If anything it could be a good PR exercise for visitors to see that there (hopefully) is a burgeoning Junior Section at Greenock again.

Here's a brief outline...

Start Date = Sunday 13th September 2020

When? = 2 sessions. 12 noon -> 2pm & 1:30pm -> 3:30pm. The boys and girls are encouraged to stay for both sessions but one is sufficient too.

Where? = Meet at Practice Bunker on 1st hole of wee course

Cost? = Each Junior should pay £3 every Sunday. This will cover the cost of lunch and there is no difference of cost between participating in 1 or 2 sessions.

What to bring? = Golf clubs, appropriate clothing (depending on the weather), a positive attitude

Admin = All Juniors need a representative to complete a registration form, outlining contact information/medical needs/ASN/dietary requirements etc.

Here are further details...

The sessions start at 12 noon for a 90 minutes. We then stop for lunch at half one for 30 mins and begin another 90 minute session at 2pm until 3:30pm. It is hoped that these times will suit the needs of as many young golfers and their families as possible. It will appeal to the less-keen players or the families who can't commit to such a long day as they could do only one of the two sessions. For players and families who can commit to both sessions, it would be great for us to support this. Due to current restrictions, coaches will be required to keep a Social Distance from young golfers and demonstrations will be more 'show and tell' than in normal times, as is the case in schools.

No matter whether the Juniors choose to do the early, later or both sessions, I expect all players to get together at 1:30pm for a quick bite to eat, a juice and a wee treat of some sort - the reason for charging a small fee. This, I feel, is incredibly important in relationship building, creating an ethos, conveying important messages and ultimately giving the section more of a 'club' feel to it. Having spoken to adults who've come through the Junior Section at GGC, some of their fondest memories are around going out to play, getting a feed in the clubhouse and going straight back out to play - all within a community of friends that invariably last for years beyond the Junior Section. In time and providing we get the numbers, I would be hoping this could eventually benefit our club caterers. However, in the short term, I will provide the lunches (I used to do the catering at the Club) and ensure we create this community feel. Please advise me of any dietary requirements your child/grandchild may have.

The emphasis within these Sunday sessions (I think) has to be on fun/enjoyment so we will always finish them off with a fun, golf-related activity - with a view to keeping as many of our Juniors onside for next year as possible. With this in mind, we will keep a close eye on weather conditions and not have the kids out playing in inclement weather, so not to put them off. Sufficient notice will be given to any changes to the above arrangements. Also, I'd like the Junior Section to be as inclusive as possible and welcome boys and girls of school age. Please advise of any Additional Support Needs (ASN) we should know about. The chances are I've supported kids before with similar needs during my teaching career.

If your child/grandchild is interested in participating, please call/text me on 07703101778 (preferred) or contact via email at [bodonnell73@googlemail.com](mailto:bodonnell73@googlemail.com). Please state whether the child is interested in the early, later or both sessions.

On the scrounge...

Finally, can I appeal to all members that if they have any unused/unwanted junior golf equipment, it would be greatfully received by the Junior Section - especially as I plan to expand the section beyond the confines of our own membership.

I am also looking for as many practice balls as I can get my hands on. Again, these will be greatfully received. Any other equipment that you think may be useful (Clikka tubes/bags etc) and can donate would be great to have.

The Executive Committee have thankfully 'ring-fenced' some money for me to get this project up and running but I figure that the less I have to spend on the essentials, the more I can spend on the extras to keep the youngsters engaged.

If anyone has any further questions/concerns then you can contact me via the contact info above.

Cheers,

Barry O'Donnell  
Junior Convenor