



Greenock Golf Club

Junior Section - update on coaching

I'd firstly like to thank you for the support I've been given to kick start the Junior Section. This has been immense at all levels; the 2 Committees have offered advice and financial backing when needed, club staff and the membership have given time (we have a good cohort of volunteers) and resources to support us.

To introduce the volunteer coaches, we have Steven Lapsley, Daniel Fitzpatrick, Michael Heron, Andy Brands, Gordon Cameron and Fraser Gray all agreeing to join me as part of our regular coaching team. Mark Bowie will also be helping out when he can but doesn't have the availability to commit to every week. I'm delighted with this group and I feel there's a good mix of abilities, expertise and experience. Others had volunteered to help out too and, although I really appreciate this, it's probably important that we don't have too many cooks at one time. No doubt I'll need to call upon more people at some point.

We have also been fortunate enough that we have the input of former junior champions Paul Dorrian, Chris McAulay and Robbie Wilkie all agreeing to come as 'visiting coaches'. Paul has agreed to come on 20th Sept & 11th Oct, Robbie the 4th Oct and Chris is doing the 27th Sept & 25th Oct. All involved with the Juniors have agreed that our ambition for next year is to get some form of competitive golf back for youngsters and having past champions (along with our very own Daniel) will hopefully inspire the boys and girls.

With the new COVID regulations, we need to be extra careful this week to ensure that we can continue this venture as long as possible. Because the weather is good this Sunday and there's a reduced risk outdoors, we will spend as little time indoors as possible. This will also help because the seating capacity upstairs has reduced from last week and I'm pleased to say that the junior numbers have increased.

Also, we've identified a group of 5 kids who we think are ready to play the wee course in some form. Michael Harkins, Patrick McCabe, Alistair Kerr, Lara Cameron and Emma McKirdy played a few holes last week and we were very impressed. Therefore, and because I want to keep the social/lunch element going, can I ask that the parents of these kids drop their kids off at the Lyle Hill? This will allow the kids to meet their coaches and begin their round at the 5th hole and work their way down in time for lunch. There will be at least 2 coaches there to meet the boys and girls and they will be giving pointers as the kids play their round. Could the other children (including those coming for the first time) please come to the Clubhouse as normal, where we will continue to work on the basics of ball striking, chipping and putting. I can foresee this model being successful in that when the boys and girls' abilities have been assessed and the coaches feel they are ready to play some holes, they will be challenged to do so. It will still allow us to come together as a group at 1:30 each week. The Lyle Hill will be the collection point for these kids too because they will play their way back up in the second session.

The final significant change from last week is that Richard and Alexis are going to be supplying the lunches. This suits me and makes sense considering they are already catering for Finals Day. With this in mind, please remember to bring your £3 per child so that I can then pass this onto the caterers.

Aside from that, we're just now hoping that the weather remains good and are looking forward to our second

week at it. A reminder of the times...

Session 1 = 12 noon - 1:30pm

Lunch = 1:30pm - 2pm

Session 2 = 2pm - 3:30pm

Most kids last week stayed the whole day and this is preferred but I understand that some families can't commit to as long a session and that there will be clashes with other activities (rugby/football etc). The lunch part is very much preferred, borderline compulsory, haha.

Kind regards,

Barry O'Donnell

Junior Convenor