



Greenock Golf Club

Update from the Junior Section

Dear Charles

As our junior coaching sessions draw to a close, I wanted to update you all on some important messages.

Important Safety Announcement

Further to the email that went out yesterday (15th October) about ensuring that all golfers have a booking before commencing play, there is a 'Junior facet' to this too. In recent weeks, there have been numerous games on the 9 hole course during our sessions even though Duncan has blocked-booked the wee course on Sundays (10:30am - 3:30pm, until 1st Nov) for Junior Golf. If golfers are playing the wee course on Sunday mornings, please ensure you have vacated the course in time for our coaching beginning at 12 noon. My understanding is that 9 hole members may play the Big Course at this time but you may wish to clarify this with the Starter.

Winding down for winter...but keep swinging!

With the temperature due to drop and the wee course being in use for Winter Leagues, junior coaching sessions will take something of a winter break - with our last session being 1st November 2020. I encourage junior golfers (those who are not going to be put off by playing in winter) to continue to practice/play over the off-season and I'm happy to offer any support you think the youngsters might need. I also sent an email recently to the junior members who I haven't yet seen and offered to take any juniors out to get them a handicap. I extend this offer to all juniors who are likely to be ready for competitive golf in 2021.

Over the winter, the volunteer coaches and I plan to gain some coaching qualifications and have discussed the idea of a trip/trips to 'touch base' with the kids to sustain interest. Coaching sessions will return in March and we (as a club) have plans to expand the junior section beyond the confines of our current membership. Thanks to the parents/carers for supporting us this season and we hope to see all the kids back in March.

Generosity from members - thank you!

In my last email update, I already thanked the club's staff and committees for their support in getting the Junior Section rejuvenated and I'm delighted to say their support has continued.

Since then, however, I've received very generous donations, acts and offers that are worthy of

mention...

Duncan Maitland, our Starter, has committed to buying the juniors a polo shirt each and will be looking for sizes when the kids return in March. Duncan is also looking to run something of a 'Tuck Shop' in the remaining Sundays if the boys and girls would like to use it? Denis McKelvie has been working hard behind the scenes to ensure our Junior Boys have a locker and key. Mo Neilson has already done likewise for our Junior girls. These contributions, I hope, will give the kids a sense of belonging and make them more likely to come back with us in 2021.

I've also received generous cash donations from the Seacat group (as a collective) and Al Roy (as an individual) and this will be put towards some of our equipment costs for next year. Members have also begun to look to other ways to support the Juniors. Jamie Gallacher has been looking into getting us a minibus (which would be great for future trips/team games). David Tolan has been looking into creative ways to do fundraise for the Juniors, including a potential Golf Marathon (I'll let him explain) and Mark Bowie is looking into getting us more goodies, courtesy of McDonald's. This help is/will be invaluable, particularly at a time when we will struggle to put on events or fundraise in a more traditional way (due to COVID).

Our volunteer coach 'rota' currently stands at 18 members and we've consistently been getting half of these giving up their time to help on a Sunday.

Thank you very much for all this help. If anyone else feels that they too are able to help (either with time or resources) then please don't hesitate to get in touch with me on bodonnell73@googlemail.com or 07703101778.

Other than that, I just hope that the weather stays favourable for the remaining three Sunday sessions.

Kind regards,

Barry O'Donnell

Junior Convenor, Greenock Golf Club