



Aboyne Golf Club
Formaston Park
Aboyne
Aberdeenshire
AB34 5HP

Media Release

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Aboyne Golf Club Junior wins Scottish Golf Award

Aboyne Golf Club is celebrating after one of its young female members secured the prestigious title of 'Ladies Order of Merit' winner at the Scottish Golf Awards held recently in Edinburgh. In front of a star studded sellout audience at the Edinburgh Corn Exchange, Shannon McWilliam, a 5th year pupil at Aboyne Academy, is pictured below receiving her award from St Johnstone football manager Callum Davidson.

Receiving her award Shannon said "I was delighted to win and was also pleased to come runner-up in the Girls Order of Merit. I really want to thank my coach Andrew Locke from Paul Lawrie Golf Centre and Scottish Golf Union for all their support".

Club President and Junior Convenor at Aboyne Golf Club Scott Mackie said "We are absolutely thrilled Shannon has won this national award and it is rightful recognition of all her abundant talent and dedication to her sport. It has been fantastic to watch her progress in recent years through Aboyne Golf Club junior section and follow in the footsteps of so many talented young players this Club has produced over the years."

Sandra Findlay, Lady Captain at Aboyne said "We are delighted for Shannon and her parents who have dedicated so much time and effort to support their daughter in her golfing ambitions. She no doubt has a fantastic career ahead of her in the game playing at national and international level. We continue to nurture young female talent at the Club and would encourage any girls to take up the sport through the 'Active Schools' programme at primary schools or the 'ClubGolf' initiative being run by our national body 'ScottishGolf'. We also welcome any ladies to our Club to try out the game through the 'Get in to Golf' initiative which is also being run by Scottish Golf".

Speaking of the award parents Steve and Julie McWilliam and big brother Lewis said "as a family we are extremely proud of Shannon's achievement at such a young age, she worked hard practicing last year and it paid off".

Head Teacher at Aboyne Academy Lorraine Scott said "As a fellow golfer I know how much hard work and dedication is required to play at the top level. It is wonderful to see a pupil from Aboyne Academy achieve such national sporting prowess and we congratulate Shannon and her parents. We want to continue our close ties with Aboyne Golf Club who have a fantastic junior section and treat our young people so well."

Contact

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Notes to Editors

Details of accompanying photo(s) to be added here.



Johnstone football manager Callum Davidson and Shannon McWilliam

Aboyne Golf started life as a nine-hole course on the village green as early as 1881. The current stretch of 6,033 yards was modernised and reconstructed some 100 years later and the present 18 holes was opened in August 1991. The course provides a fine test for golfers of all abilities and has a membership of just under 700 players. It presents a rich variety of memorable holes making the most of the natural variations in the terrain which is a mix of rolling parkland with inviting fairways and elevated links-like heathland with tighter targets.

Mature trees and water are in play on many holes. Aboyne Loch is a notable feature lending character and scenic beauty to the course as well as providing a hazard to be avoided on the last hole of the relatively flat outward lush tree-lined parkland nine. Thereafter, the course changes character to rugged heathland terrain and climbs gently providing magnificent views of some lovely Aberdeenshire countryside. Another small loch lurks at the 15th and the closing holes test the skill of the most seasoned campaigner. The home hole is a long par 3 and provides a worthy finish to a challenging round of golf.

Shannon won the title by playing only 3 events, compared to others whom played 5 events, so this was even more of an achievement because of this. She won the title by playing Helen Holm Scottish Open stroke play championships, where she finished 3rd, having amazingly never played the course before, as she had just finished her exams and we drove down that lunchtime, after she had just sat her exam. Scottish Ladies match play championships, when she qualified, and was beaten in the 2nd round of the match play stages and the St Rule were she finished 6th in a field of roughly 120 competitors. Shannon plays off a handicap of -1.4c