



Aboyne Golf Club  
Formaston Park  
Aboyne  
Aberdeenshire  
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## Press Release

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### DUNHILL DEBUT FOR SHANNON

Aboyne Golf Club is celebrating after their budding young GB&I star Shannon McWilliam received a sponsor's invitation to play in the European Tour's Alfred Dunhill Links Golf Championship down at St Andrews last weekend.

Recognised as one of the leading competitions on the European Tour with prize money of \$5million, the event attracts the leading professionals and celebrity golfers competing over the four-day event. This year the field was packed with Ryder Cup stars returning after their match in the USA including Martin Kaymer, Danny Willett, Lee Westwood and Thomas Pieters.

Last year's Scottish Golf's Ladies Order of Merit winner Shannon, a pupil at Aboyne Academy, was only handed a late invitation to the event when another amateur could not play. Shannon partnered Swedish professional Joakim Lagergren. The pair had successful rounds at Carnoustie and Kingsbarns before heading to St Andrews and making the cut to qualify for the final round on the Old Course last Sunday.

Playing alongside leading professionals did not seem to deter Shannon as a successful final round resulted in them finishing in tied ninth place with a team score of 31 under par. This achievement is even more noteworthy as due to the late call-up Shannon did not have time for any practice rounds before the tournament.

Shannon said "It was an amazing experience, learning from the different pros. It was the best week of my life. Staying in the St Andrews area, and having a caddy, it felt like I was a pro! It was Wednesday night when I got the phone call and my dad told me just to go for it, as I may never get the chance again."

Shannon went on "Joakim was really nice and supportive as well as I was quite nervous on the last day, but he said 'you'll be fine.' I've played in the Junior Vagliano Trophy for GB&I, but it was nothing compared to that. It was a great experience that I can take a lot from."

Aboyne Ladies Captain Sandra Findlay said "We are all immensely proud of Shannon and what she has achieved at such a prestigious tournament. With a global TV audience watching, it must have been daunting for her but what a fantastic opportunity and it is great to see she grasped it with both hands."

Sandra added "Shannon is a wonderful example of what young girls can achieve in competitive sport with support through the primary school 'ClubGolf' and ScottishGolf Development system. We encourage all females to come and try golf at Aboyne and receive some wonderful coaching and camaraderie along the way. This is where Shannon started out and it would be great to see her fulfill her dream of turning professional and playing on the Ladies European Tour. What a great ambassador she is becoming for our Club".

**ENDS**

**Contact**

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**PICTURE**

Shannon McWilliam in action at the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship 2016