

Southport Old Links Golf Club

Council Notice

Professional Shop – 2020 Set Up – Announcement

As mentioned in our concluding item from the 02-20 SOLGC Newsletter recently sent out, Old Links Golf are pleased to announce that the Professional Shop set up has been finalised and we are looking forward to working with the Southport Golf Academy (SGA).

The SGA are in the process of 'kitting out' the shop this week and will hopefully be functioning from this coming weekend - 14 March 2020 onwards.

The team will be around, in and out of the shop and are looking forward to meeting and getting to know all our members. So do feel free to introduce yourselves if you are at the club this week.

Richard Carpenter, the Marketing Director at SGA has said "We are looking forward to reintroducing the Professional Services to Old Links, for the coming 2020 season. Our coaching staff Richie Benyon and James Carpenter know many members already, of course, and our aim is to provide the whole range of Professional Golf Services - coaching, equipment sales, advice and fitting, repairs and regripping.

We also intend to create a specialist putting centre to be headed up by Professional Putting Coach Peter Allison. A comprehensive range of equipment from various manufacturers will be available, whilst extending our status as Wilson Ambassadors for the region."

For those SOL Members that do not know SGA, their background and business is about introducing people of all ages to the game and within their operation are full facilities — a floodlit and covered driving range; indoor performance centre used for coaching, club fitting and course simulation; a distance calibrated short game area, large putting green and handicap qualifying length Academy course.





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SGA also work closely with the Lancashire Ladies County Golf Association to develop and coach their girls programme. This alongside their regular junior coaching means that all coaches and key staff must have the necessary Safeguarding and DBS qualifications, along with the business having a dedicated and qualified Welfare Officer. The course is therefore proud to have been amongst the first in the County to have achieved the SafeGolf Award. These matters are vitally important to a teaching facility of course.

It is hoped that closer working relationships can be forged to help SOL develop and increase its memberships with "pathway" schemes for new members, provision of seminars and clinics and the development of new initiatives for Ladies. Already coaching support has been agreed to continue the fantastic work done by the Junior Committee in developing that section.

The opening hours for the Professional shop are going to be reasonably fluid over the first few weeks and some core hours will be advertised within the shop by the start of the season. Although initially the plan is to open every day besides Mondays unless there is an event on. All the main Competition days will be fully serviced and other days will receive a minimum of 3 hours of opening time.

We hope all members of Old Links Golf will give the SGA a warm welcome and will look to embrace this new partnership which both parties are sure will provide a superb provision for our members this season and beyond.

Andrew Kenyon General Manager On behalf of Council Southport Old Links Golf Club

